

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Livonia Public Schools
Regular Meeting
November 29, 2021**

President Burton convened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

**Members
Present**

Acosta, Bonifield, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson

**Members
Absent**

Bradford

**American
Education Week**

It was moved by Mrs. Acosta and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District designate November 15-19, 2021 as the 100th annual observance of American Education Week.

**American Education Week
November 15-19, 2021**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality; and

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and

WHEREAS, public education employees work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, schools unite entire communities, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District do hereby proclaim November 15 - 19, 2021 as the 100th annual observance of

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

And urge all citizens to make a commitment to public education and to the future of our children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education take this special occasion to thank Livonia Public Schools employees, parents and community volunteers for the work they do to educate and support the children of our school district.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson

Nays: None

**District Update
from the
Superintendent**

Superintendent Oquist shared highlights from across the district: The District and community contribute in many ways during the *Giving Season*; LPS Education Foundation presented grants to LPS staff totaling \$29,585; Be Kind Campaign for LPS and Clarenceville staff and students; Livonia Transition Program partnership with the community; FHS football team is Regional Champ; SHS student McKenzie Siroky is two-time State Champion Swimmer and holds a new school and state record in the 100 breaststroke; SHS hockey coach David Mitchell was inducted into Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association Hall of Fame; Sasha Ujkaj received a Vocation Service Award from Rotary Club of America for her work in the Criminal Justice program at LCTC; and the Transportation Department received a Certificate of Excellence from the Michigan State Police, following a perfect safety inspection of our bus fleet (LPS is one of just three in Michigan to score 100% on this annual safety inspection). LPS students will participate in the City of Livonia's Merry & Bright holiday parade on December 5.

Mrs. Oquist also relayed: The District recently hired three new bus drivers, which will reduce the number of routes that are paused; the District is hiring in the Food Service and Transportation Departments, as well as our School Aged Childcare program; the District's Social-Emotional Hotline is always open and has been in place since March 16, 2020; a reminder email was sent to parents and staff regarding the survey for ESSER funds.

**Written
Communication**

None

**Response to
Prior Audience
Communication**

Dan Centers commented regarding the Regular School Board meeting of October 18, 2021. He stated that there was some miscommunication about that meeting and clarified that there was no screaming and the Board was not overrun. However, it is true that the business of the Board was paused and police were involved when an individual would not follow Wayne County Health Department mask requirements. Mr. Centers stated that as a whole District stakeholders have followed health and safety measures and that is to be applauded, especially now when we see a spike in the number of cases.

President Burton relayed that there have been repeated requests from the community for the relaxation of mask policies. She reiterated that the mask policy is that of the WCHD and will be in effect until there are 14 consecutive days of COVID-19 cases in

Wayne County being in the moderate or low category or until the WCHD changes the emergency order.

Mrs. Burton shared that recently the MHSAA issued guidance which states that students in active participation in their sport would be permitted to do so without a mask, if doing so would not be out of compliance with their county health department. LPS has requested permission from the WCHD to follow the guidance of MHSAA and the WCHD has recently granted permission for students not to wear a mask while in active competition. Masks must still be worn by players when they are not actively participating in a competition.

President Burton reiterated that the District recently hired additional bus drivers, continues to actively seek bus drivers, and is doing their best to keep the number of paused routes to a minimum.

**Audience
Communication**

Individuals addressed the Board regarding the following: the former Jefferson School site being used as a staging site for various construction projects for several years; questioning students about their vaccine status; mask requirements during Board meetings and at school; the October 18, 2021 Board meeting and remarks that were made after that meeting; the District's attendance policy and disability resources; a letter sent by the NSBA to Attorney General Merrick Garland and the AG's direction to the FBI to intervene with state and local officials to investigate claims of threats by parents to School Boards.

President Burton reiterated what was stated at a previous Board meeting regarding masks at Board meetings: After numerous attempts to gain clarification from multiple agencies following the August 27th emergency order from the WCHD regarding masks, a definitive response was received on November 12 from the chief health officer of the WCHD. The health officer stated that because this building does not house students we are not mandated to require individuals to wear masks during School Board meetings.

**Consent
Agenda**

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the following consent agenda items, as recommended by the superintendent:

- V.A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 18, 2021
- V.B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 8, 2021
- V.C. Minutes of the Closed Session of November 8, 2021
- V.D. Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 15, 2021

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

**Purchase of
Maintenance
Equipment –
2021 Bond**

It was moved by Mr. Johnson and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District authorize the purchase of the following maintenance equipment: one 930M Wheel Loader from Michigan CAT, Novi, Michigan in the amount of \$201,492.68, one Toro Groundsmaster from Spartan Distributors, Auburn Hills, Michigan in the amount of \$134,482.92, and four Grasshopper 990D Zero-Turn Lawn Cutters from J&R Tractor, Monroe, Michigan in the amount of \$76,600.00 for a grand total of \$412,575.60.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

**Bid Results for
Radio Tower
Equipment**

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mr. Johnson that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District authorize the purchase, demolition, and re-installation of a Radio Tower for the Transportation Department from C3Communications, Oxford, Michigan for a cost of \$59,950.00, plus a contingency amount of \$5,500.00, for a total approved amount of \$65,450.00.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

**Bid Results for
Grant Roof
Replacement**

It was moved by Mr. Johnson and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the recommendation of the Owner's Representative, Plante Moran CRESA, to award the contract for roofing replacement at Grant Elementary to Royal Roofing Company, Inc., Lake Orion, Michigan, in the amount of \$1,472,200.00, plus 6% contingency in the amount of \$88,332.00, for a total approved project amount of \$1,560,532.00 and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate and execute final contracts.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

**Site Work for
Garfield
Greenhouse**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mrs. Acosta that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District authorize the purchase of the required site work necessary for the Garfield Greenhouse to Universal Consolidated Enterprises, Inc., Roseville, Michigan, in the amount of \$149,369.73, plus a contingency of \$25,000.00 for a total project cost of \$174,369.73.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

**HED Change
Order Approval**

It was moved by Mrs. Acosta and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve funds to pay a change order for architectural services at the Central Office Complex's administration building to HED, Southfield, Michigan, in the amount of \$9,511.00.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

**Teachers for
Approval**

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the superintendent and offer employment for the 2021-22 school year to the following teachers:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Casper, Aimee | 1.0 Math Teacher | .6 Churchill; .4 Churchill |
| Floyd, Lisa | 1.0 Visually Impaired TC | Student Services |
| Lenard, Alexandra | 1.0 Kindergarten Teacher | Grant |
| Stanton, Jane | 1.0 Social Worker | .5 Niji-Iro; .5 Roosevelt |

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

**Teacher for
Tenure**

It was moved by Mr. Johnson and supported by Mrs. Acosta that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the superintendent and acknowledge that tenure status has been granted to the following teachers, effective on the respective date:

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Michelle Hosler | 11/10/2021 |
| Rebecca Parise | 11/4/2021 |

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Resignations

The Board was informed of the following resignations³

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Jeffrey Backus | 11/19/2021 |
| Spencer Riley | 11/5/2021 |
| Amy Saurborn | 11/8/2021 |
| Casey Voisin | 11/12/2021 |

Retirements

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt a resolution of appreciation for services rendered by:

Ralph Chrysler, who will retire from the district on December 1, 2021, and has devoted 33.3 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia

Public Schools as a paraprofessional at Cooper Elementary, Taylor Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Western Wayne Skill Center, Kennedy Elementary, Hayes Elementary, and Coolidge Elementary.

Rochelle Noel, who will retire from the district on November 30, 2021, and has devoted 20.3 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Emerson Middle School, Frost Middle School, Stevenson High School, Holmes Middle School, and Churchill High School as a counselor.

Sally Roque who will retire from the district on December 31, 2021, and has devoted 12.6 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of the Great Start Readiness Program at Perrinville Early Childhood Center and Garfield Community Schools.

David Russo, who will retire from the district on November 30, 2021, and has devoted 24.3 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Washington Elementary and Frost Middle School as a teacher

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson

Nays: None

**Second
Reading and
Adoption of
Board Policy
JCAB –
Investigations
and Searches
of Individual
Students,
Lockers, and
Other Personal
Property**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee and adopt Board Policy language for:

**BOARD POLICY
STUDENTS**

**INVESTIGATIONS AND SEARCHES OF INDIVIDUAL
STUDENTS, LOCKERS, AND OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Administrators and other school officials shall have the right to detain, question, and search students and their personal belongings based upon reasonable suspicion that a prohibited or illegal act has occurred.

All lockers are school property of which students must have no expectation of privacy. Locker searches may be conducted at any time and may include sniffer dogs. Students are solely responsible for the contents of their lockers and are not to share their lockers or divulge their locker combinations to other students. Students are prohibited from placing locks on any locker without the advanced approval of school administration.

Administrators and other school officials may conduct a search based upon reasonable suspicion, of any vehicle driven onto school property by a student, regardless of actual vehicle ownership.

In the course of a search conducted pursuant to this policy, the privacy rights of the student shall be respected regarding any items that are not illegal or against school rules. Illegal drugs, alcohol, weapons and other dangerous instruments, unauthorized items, items in violation of Board policy or school/district rules, and other items reasonably determined to be a potential threat to the safety or security of others, which are found during a search shall be seized by school personnel and may be used as evidence in a suspension or disciplinary hearing, and in addition, these items may be turned over to the proper legal authority.

**JCAB
NOVEMBER 29, 2021**

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Burton, Centers, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Adjournment

President Burton adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Off/Supt/jw