

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Livonia Public Schools  
Regular Meeting  
May 1, 2023**

President Johnson convened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

**Members Present** Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson

**Members Absent** Jarvis

**Sympathy Resolution – Joshua Redding** It was moved by Mrs. Acosta and supported by Mrs. Frank that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt a sympathy resolution for the family of Joshua Redding, who was an eighth grade student at Holmes Middle School.

**SYMPATHY RESOLUTION  
Joshua Redding**

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Education was deeply saddened to hear of the untimely death of a special member of our school community, Joshua Redding, on March 26, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Joshua Redding, cherished son of Breanna and Michael Flowers, was an eighth grader at Holmes Middle School, where he enjoyed learning, track & field, and spending time with his friends and was admired by staff and students; and

**WHEREAS**, Joshua will be remembered with great fondness by his family, friends, and many others who knew him; and

**WHEREAS**, Joshua epitomized true strength, determination, and an indomitable spirit throughout his short life; and

**WHEREAS**, Joshua enjoyed playing video games, going to the movies, and facetimeing with family and friends. He was known to have a passion for clothes, shoes, and foreign cars, as well as a smile that could light up any room;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** That the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District offers its heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Joshua Redding for the great loss of their beloved son, brother, and friend.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson

Nays: None

**Points of Pride –  
School Library  
Month  
Recognition**

Stacy Jenkins, Administrator of Communications, relayed that the State of Michigan designated April as School Library Month. Paul Cassatta, Media & Technology Coordinator, shared information about the various engaging and innovative activities taking place in our media centers.

**District Update  
from the  
Superintendent**

Superintendent Oquist presented highlights of recent activities taking place across the District, as well as upcoming events.

**Written  
Communications**

None

**Response to Prior  
Audience  
Communications**

None

**Audience  
Communications**

An individual addressed the Board regarding Growth Works and suicide prevention. Another individual addressed the Board regarding diversity and equity in the District.

**Consent Agenda**

It was moved by Mrs. Burton and supported by Mrs. Bradford 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 March 20, 2023

V.B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 24, 2023

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson

Nays: None

**Purchase of LPS  
Merchandise**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mrs. Burton that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of Livonia Public Schools merchandise from MBS Incorporated, South Lyon, Michigan for an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson

Nays: None

**Ratify the Sale of  
Second Series  
2021 Bonds**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mrs. Frank that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve a resolution to ratify the sale of the second series of the 2021 voter approved bonds.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson

Nays: None

**Early Childhood  
Center Roofing  
Rebid**

It was moved by Mrs. Frank and supported by Mrs. Bonifield 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 at the Early Childhood Center to A Wynn Roofing, LLC, Milan, Michigan for a total approved project amount of \$1,667,819 and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate and execute final contracts.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson  
Nays: None

**Asbestos  
Abatement at  
Frost**

It was moved by Mrs. Burton and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the recommendation of Arch Environmental Group, Inc., to award the contract for asbestos abatement at Frost Middle School to Environmental Maintenance Engineers, Inc., Inkster, Michigan, for a total approved project amount of \$51,200 and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate and execute final contracts.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson  
Nays: None

**Ricoh Copier  
Purchase  
Agreement – 2021  
Bond**

It was moved by Mrs. Acosta and supported by Mrs. Bonifield that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of 22 Ricoh copy machines from Ricoh USA, Inc., Exton, Pennsylvania, in the amount not to exceed \$263,764.20.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson  
Nays: None

**Purchase of  
Chromebooks**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mrs. Burton that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of up to 1,500 Chromebooks from Presidio Networked Solutions Group, LLC, Ferndale, Michigan, in an amount not to exceed \$502,950.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson  
Nays: None

**Boiler Projects at  
Cass, Kennedy,  
and Niji-Iro**

It was moved by Mrs. Frank and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve Engineered Comfort Systems, Taylor, Michigan, and SysTemp Corporation, Rochester Hills, Michigan, for summer 2023 boiler

projects at Cass Elementary, Niji-Iro Elementary, and Kennedy Elementary Schools for a total project amount of \$524,625.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Frank, Johnson

Nays: None

Abstain: Burton (family's company bid to a company who is included on the documents)

**Purchase of  
Microphones for  
Franklin PAC**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mrs. Acosta that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of a wireless microphone system for the Franklin High School Performing Arts Center from B & H Photo, New York, New York, in an amount of \$41,858.98.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson

Nays: None

**Recommend  
Expulsion of Two  
Secondary  
Students**

It was moved by Mrs. Burton and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District expel two secondary students for violations of the Livonia Public Schools' Board of Education policies.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson

Nays: None

**Teacher for  
Approval**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mrs. Acosta that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the superintendent and offer employment for the 2022-23 school year to the following teacher:

Lindsey Toohey      1.0 Occupational Therapist      Student Services

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson

Nays: None

**Leaves of  
Absence**

It was moved by Mrs. Acosta and supported by Mrs. Frank that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the request for leaves of absence as listed:

Chelsea English	2023-24 school year
Emily Newton	2023-24 school year
Laura Stevens	2023-24 school year

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson

Nays: None

**Resignations**

The Board was informed of the following resignations:

<b>Elizabeth Cadotte</b>	<b>June 15, 2023</b>
<b>Melissa Marget</b>	<b>June 15, 2023</b>
<b>Shonteqa Spencer</b>	<b>April 21, 2023</b>

## Retirements

It was moved by Mrs. Frank and supported by Mrs. Burton that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt a resolution of appreciation for:

**Tracee Altman**, who will retire from the District on June 15, 2023, and has devoted 24 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Franklin High School, McKinley Elementary, Churchill High School, Frost Middle School, Emerson Middle School and Holmes Middle School as a teacher.

**Julie Clark**, who will retire from the District on June 13, 2023, and has devoted 26 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a paraprofessional in the McKinley Preschool Program, Perrinville Early Childhood Center and Jackson Early Childhood Center.

**Reid Friedrichs**, who will retire from the District on June 16, 2023, and has devoted 25 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Churchill High School as a teacher.

**Angela Jenkins**, who will retire from the District on June 30, 2023, and has devoted 25 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Franklin High School, Emerson Middle School and Churchill High School as a teacher.

**Kimberly Kozan**, who will retire from the District on June 30, 2023, and has devoted 25 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Garfield Elementary, Adams Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary as a teacher.

**Darci Licata**, who will retire from the District on June 20, 2023, and has devoted 13.4 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Cooper Upper Elementary as a teacher.

**Gerard Lukas**, who will retire from the District on June 20, 2023, and has devoted 25 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Nankin Mills Elementary and Hayes Elementary as a teacher.

**Valarie Mailloux**, who will retire from the District on June 16, 2023, and has devoted 34 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students serviced by the Shared Time Program as a teacher.

**Danielle McDonagh**, who will retire from the District on June 23, 2023, and has devoted 21 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Frost Middle School and Franklin High School as a teacher.

**Colleen Nault**, who will retire from the District on June 23, 2023, and has devoted 24.5 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a clerk, bookkeeper and secretary at Adams Elementary, Kennedy Elementary, Nankin Mills Elementary, Hoover Elementary, McKinley Elementary, Hayes Elementary, the Shared Time Program, Grant Elementary, Livonia Career Technical Center and Cooper Upper Elementary.

**Lori Nikolopoulos-Johnson**, who will retire from the District on June 15, 2023, and has devoted 11 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Churchill High School and Franklin High School as a teacher.

**Kim Quint**, who will retire from the District on June 30, 2023, and has devoted 25 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a paraprofessional at Grant Elementary, Johnson Elementary and Kennedy Elementary.

**Erika Rebbe**, who will retire from the District on June 16, 2023, and has devoted 21 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Kennedy Elementary, Riley Upper Elementary and Johnson Upper Elementary as a teacher.

**Pamela Regulski**, who will retire from the District on June 23, 2023, and has devoted 29 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a clerk and secretary at McKinley Elementary, Hull Elementary and Cooper Upper Elementary.

**Kimberly Ross**, who will retire from the District on June 15, 2023, and has devoted 25 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Emerson Middle School as a teacher.

**Elizabeth Sartori**, who will retire from the District on June 30, 2023, and has devoted 26.8 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a custodian and assistant building supervisor at Roosevelt Elementary, Cooper Elementary, Hayes Elementary, and Churchill High School.

**Michelle Schnurstein**, who will retire from the District on June 30, 2023, and has devoted 26 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Stevenson High School and Churchill High School as a teacher.

**Alan Schober**, who will retire from the District on July 31, 2023, and has devoted 38 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as an audio/visual repair technician and systems analyst in the IT Department.

**Suzanne Stromberg**, who will retire from the District on June 30, 2023, and has devoted 35 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Grant Elementary, Hayes Elementary, Cass Elementary and Buchanan Elementary as a teacher.

**Amy Tartaglia**, who will retire from the District on June 14, 2023, and has devoted 16.5 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a paraprofessional at Perrinville Early Childhood Center, Emerson Middle School and Frost Middle School.

**Stephen Taylor**, who will retire from the District on June 26, 2023, and has devoted 26 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students serviced by the Student Services Department as a School Psychologist and Student Services Coordinator.

**Carol Wheeler**, who will retire from the District on July 14, 2023, and has devoted 24 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a secretary in the Student Services Department, and at Franklin High School and Stevenson High School.

**Claudia Zimmer**, who will retire from the District on June 30, 2023, and has devoted 25 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Coolidge Elementary and Riley Upper Elementary as a teacher.

**Patricia Zytowski**, who will retire from the District on June 20, 2023, and has devoted 21 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Churchill High School as a teacher.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson  
Nays: None

**First Reading of  
Board Policy IDF  
– Interscholastic  
Activities and  
Athletics  
and  
Removal of Board  
Policy IDFA**

The proposed new language for Board Policy IDF and the removal of Board Policy IDFA, as listed below, was reviewed by the Board and will be brought to the next Regular meeting for a second reading and potential approval:

**BOARD POLICY  
INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM  
INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS**

**IDF  
OCTOBER 20, 2014**

The Board of Education recognizes the need for **extracurricular and interscholastic activities and athletics** and encourages student participation ~~in extracurricular and interscholastic activities~~. The Board further recognizes that participating in these activities **and athletics** carries with it the responsibility of good behavior in and out of ~~the school~~ **and being in good academic standing**. Failure on the part of any student to meet this responsibility is cause for suspension or removal from participation.

A program of interscholastic athletics shall be encouraged as an integral part of the total program of physical education. The interscholastic athletics program is designed for those students who have a particular interest, ability, and the desire to invest the time and energy required to participate in a Livonia Public Schools' athletic program.

The Board shall review and approve by resolution the **School District's** participation and membership in the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). In conjunction with this review, the Board delegates to the Superintendent or designee the responsibility for adherence to MHSAA's Constitution and **Bylaws By-Laws**, as well as the supervision of MHSAA related activities in accordance with the Code of Conduct in the school's Student Handbook.

All interscholastic athletic activities shall be conducted in accordance with law.

**~~BOARD POLICY  
INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM  
INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS~~**

**~~IDFA  
APRIL 16, 2018~~**

~~A program of interscholastic athletics shall be encouraged as an integral part of the total program of physical education. The interscholastic athletics program is designed for those students who have a particular interest, ability, and the desire to invest the time and energy required to participate in a Livonia Public Schools' athletic program.~~

~~The Board shall review and approve by resolution the school district's participation and membership in the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). In conjunction with this review, the Board delegates to the superintendent or designee the responsibility for adherence to MHSAA's Constitution and By-Laws, as well as the supervision of MHSAA related activities in accordance with the Code of Conduct in the school's Student Handbook.~~

**First Reading of  
Board Policy IFD  
– Library Media  
Centers &  
Classroom  
Libraries**

The proposed new language for Board Policy IFD – Library Media Centers & Classroom Libraries, as listed below, was reviewed by the Board and will be brought to the next Regular meeting for a second reading and potential approval:

**BOARD POLICY  
INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM****IFD  
~~JANUARY 12, 2015~~****LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS & CLASSROOM LIBRARIES**

The Livonia Public Schools School District ~~has established~~ **establishes** library media centers to provide and promote the intellectual, cultural, social, and ethical development of students and to provide resources which extend and deepen the experiences encompassed in the curriculum. **Library Media Center materials are determined through a process based on the American Libraries Association (ALA) guidance for selection of books and other materials of learning which contribute to the growth of individual students. Selection for classroom libraries follows the same guidance criteria.**

**Second Reading  
of Board Bylaw  
BHA – Code of  
Ethics**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mrs. Bonifield 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:

**BYLAWS OF THE BOARD  
BOARD OPERATIONS  
CODE OF ETHICS****BHA  
MAY 1, 2023**

**As members of the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, we shall promote the best interests of the school district as a whole, and will make decisions that place student learning and the success of all students first by adhering to the following educational and ethical standards:**

As a Board member,

- I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children, and will seek to develop and maintain schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, height, weight, marital status, handicap, ~~or~~ disability, sexual orientation, sexual identity, or transgender status.
- I will be a personal advocate for the good work of the District.
- I will focus Board action on policy making, strategic planning, and designating and evaluating the Superintendent.
- I will recognize that the role of the Board is to govern and oversee the management of the District. I will delegate authority to the Superintendent for the day-to-day operations of the District and will not seek to participate in the day-to-day operations.
- I will review and evaluate all policies, bylaws, procedures, and processes of the Board, and will work to make desired changes so they will be current, relevant, and in accordance with state and/or federal laws.
- I will follow established Board Operating Procedures.
- I will come to Board meetings prepared to discuss and take action on all agenda items. I will study the material in the Board packet seeking clarification, if needed, prior to each Board meeting.



- I will give the Superintendent and Board President notification of my concerns prior to the Board meetings, so that the concerns can be properly addressed.
- I will understand that I have not only the right, but the duty, to express my views and opinions and ask questions at the Board table; and will make a good faith effort to understand the views of others.
- I will recognize that the Board must make decisions as a whole in public. I will base all decisions on the available facts and my independent judgment, and I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to individuals or special interest groups.
- I will avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and, if such a conflict is unavoidable, I will disclose such interest and abstain from voting on such matters.
- I will respect the consensus and support the decisions of the Board and their implementation.
- I will recognize that while I am free to express my personal views, the Board President is the spokesperson for the Board and the Superintendent is the spokesperson for the District.
- I will be respectful and listen to all ideas presented to the Board, be it from parents, staff, students, community members, other Board members, or other stakeholders. I will listen and then refer any person to appropriate personnel.
- I will communicate to other Board members and the Superintendent expression of public reaction to Board policies and school programs.
- I will exercise caution when communicating between and among Board members, including electronic communication, and will abide by the Open Meetings Act.
- I will hold confidential all matters that, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals, schools, or the district. I will keep confidential all information that is privileged under applicable law, including closed session discussions.
- I will stay informed about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information; for example, those sponsored by my state and national school board associations. I will share what I have learned with my Livonia Public Schools' colleagues, formally or informally, so as to keep our Board apprised of current issues and topics.
- I will take no private or public action that will compromise the Board, the Administration, or the District.
- I will refrain from using my Board position for personal or partisan gain.
- I will support the hiring of those persons best qualified to serve as District staff.
- I will support and protect District personnel in the proper performance of their duties.
- I will, along with my fellow Board members, review, revise and sign this Code of Ethics annually at the beginning of each year.

As Board President,

- I will ensure that persons addressing the Board follow established guidelines as outlined in Board policy.

- I will advise persons addressing the Board to do so in a respectful manner and not allow rude or indecent behavior, profane or indecent discourse, to be directed to the Board, Superintendent, or others during Board meetings.
- I will ensure that all Board members are given an opportunity to express their views. I will work toward building consensus among all Board members.

I will follow parliamentary procedure, to the extent that it does not conflict with Board policy or state law.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson

Nays: None

**Second Reading  
of Board Policy  
IHFB – High  
School  
Graduation  
Ceremonies**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mrs. Bradford 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  
INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES**

**IHFB  
MAY 1, 2023**

The School District shall plan appropriate graduation ceremonies for those students who have successfully completed their program of study in accordance with requirements established by the State of Michigan and the Board of Education.

Students may participate in graduation ceremonies if they have accrued the number of credits required to graduate, which may include taking up to 1.0 credits after graduation but prior to August 31 of the same year. They do not have to pass the classes in order to participate, but they must remain enrolled. Diplomas will be issued with completion of required credits. Disciplinary action may prevent participation in graduation ceremonies and/or activities.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson

Nays: None

**Approval for  
Board Members  
to Take MASB  
Classes**

It was moved by Mrs. Burton and supported by Mrs. Frank that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve that Board Trustees Madeline Acosta, Colleen Burton, Crystal Frank, and Mark Johnson take MASB classes, for a total cost of approximately \$594.

Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Johnson

Nays: None

**Adjournment**

President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

**Off/Supt/jw**