

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Livonia Public Schools
15125 Farmington Road
Regular Meeting
January 23, 2017**

President Burton convened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. in the Board Room, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia.

**Members
Present**

Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson

**Members
Absent**

None

**Student Art
Gallery –
Stevenson High
School**

Mrs. Jenkins, administrator of communications, introduced Stevenson High School students who were present for the meeting and had their artwork on display in the Board Room. Students pointed out their artwork and were presented with a certificate. The following Stevenson students had artwork on display: Natalie Koelzer, Michelle Lin, Katrina Meusling, Alexa Pierzynski, and Laura Stevens.

**School Board
Recognition
Month**

Stacy Jenkins presented Board members with certificates of appreciation and recognized them for their service to Livonia Public Schools. She read a Recognition Resolution from Board members of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (Wayne RESA). Superintendent Oquist thanked the Board for their commitment to serve and their dedication to the students and staff of Livonia Public Schools.

**Recognition of
Sheila Alles,
Chief Academic
Officer**

Board Vice President Mark Johnson, on behalf of the Board, presented Sheila Alles with her official Retirement Resolution, congratulated her, and thanked her for her passion, enthusiasm, and her wealth of knowledge. Superintendent Oquist and other Board members addressed Sheila as well, to extend their appreciation for all she has done for the district and congratulate her on the new position with the Michigan Department of Education.

**District Update
from the
Superintendent**

Remarks from Superintendent Andrea Oquist:

- Thanked the talented artists from Stevenson High School.
- Extended her appreciation to staff who spend many early hours getting our schools ready during inclement weather.

- Recent activities in the district:
 - Two Livonia PTSA Council events—Reflections (recognition of students for visual arts, dance choreography, music composition, film making, photography, and literature) and Dad's Chili Cook-off at Franklin High School.
 - Middle school students from across the LPS and Clarenceville school districts will be recognized for their innovative design and development of a unique invention on January 24 during the Young Inventors' Showcase at Schoolcraft College, sponsored by Livonia Chamber of Commerce and other business partners.
- Following the decision to close Cass and Garfield, LPS formed a District Transition Team (DTT) to merge some of our elementary communities, in order to provide a successful, positive, and supportive transition for students staff and parents. DTT includes parent and staff representatives from all seven schools impacted, members of Student Services, and PTSA Council members.
- Administration will bring to the Board in March, a recommendation for the relocation of the Western Wayne Skill Center (WWSC). There was discussion about this over the past year. This topic will come to the Board during both Study Session and Committee meeting discussions prior to the Board's vote in March. All programs will remain intact and available to special need students ages 18-26.
- Michigan Department of Education (MDE) recently released score cards for each of our schools. That information will be discussed in detail at an upcoming meeting.
- Commended Churchill High School for their work and tireless efforts with their students, and for their success in being removed from MDE *Focus School* status.
- Acknowledged the efforts of Webster staff and students, as MDE designated Webster as a *Reward School*.
- Thanked staff for extra efforts in preparation for finals and wished the students good luck with their exams.

**Written
Communication**

Board Trustee Tammy Bonifield offered her apologies for the way she delivered her message at the previous regular Board meeting and for any hurt she caused. She explained that her intent was to relay that she believes every member of the LPS staff wishes to give their very best and that every child at each school is valued.

**Audience
Communication**

Students Emma Farhargson from Stevenson High School and Carolyn Mackenzie from Churchill High School, shared information regarding the robotics team, Livonia Warriors, and their most recent competition. Emma and Carolyn invited everyone to stop in

on February 1, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Dickinson, to see the progress they are making with their robot.

**Response to
Prior Audience
Communication**

Cindy Scott, Director of Elementary Programs and District Services, responded to an audience communication from a previous Board meeting, when a member of the community stated that students at Hoover Elementary School were sitting on gallon buckets because there were not enough chairs. Mrs. Scott relayed that every student does have a chair. She explained that Hoover and other schools are experimenting with flexible seating, which offers students a choice on what type of learning space works best for them.

**Consent
Agenda**

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mrs. Bonifield 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 December 19, 2016
- V.B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 5, 2016
- V.C. Minutes of the Closed Session of December 5, 2016
- VI.A. Bills for Payment—January 24, 2017

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis,
Johnson

Nays: None

**Approval of Bid
Results for
Multi-Function
Copiers and
Printers –
2013 Bond**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mr. Johnson that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the recommendation from the Owner's Representative, Plante Moran Cresa, to approve the purchase of multi-function copiers and printers throughout the District from Ricoh USA Incorporated, Novi, Michigan, for the total cost of \$1,169,697.50 and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate and execute the final contract and terms on behalf of Livonia Public Schools School District's Board of Education.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis,
Johnson

Nays: None

**Approval of Bid
Results for
Genie Scissor
Lift –
2013 Bond**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of a Genie 2632 Scissor Lift from MacAllister Rentals, Wixom, Michigan, for a total cost of \$14,107.00.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis,
Johnson
Nays: None

**Approval of Bid
Results for
Band Shells –
2013 Bond**

It was moved by Mrs. Frank and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of three Band Shells (one for each high school) from Wenger Corporation, Owantonna, Minnesota, for a total cost of \$354,849.00.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis,
Johnson
Nays: None

**Approval of Bid
Results for Ford
F-350 with Plow**

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mr. Johnson that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the purchase of a Ford F-350 pickup truck with plow from Gorno Ford, Woodhaven Michigan, for a total cost of \$33,862.00.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis,
Johnson
Nays: None

**Teachers for
Approval**

It was moved by Mr. Johnson 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 2016-17 school year to the following teachers:

Jordan Bauldry	.6 Teacher of Speech & Language, Student Services
Katherine Finkenbine	.55 Computer Teacher, Shared Time
Jane Goff	1.0 Grade 3 Teacher, Cass Elementary
Alaina Peerbolte	1.0 Grade 1 Teacher, Hayes Elementary
Haley Willman	1.0 Grade 4 Teacher, Roosevelt Elementary

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis,
Johnson
Nays: None

**Teachers for
Tenure**

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mrs. Bonifield that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the superintendent and grant tenure status to the following teachers effective on the respective dates:

Lindsay Gray	January 18, 2017
Kelly A. Thompson	December 7, 2016

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis,
Johnson
Nays: None

**Leaves of
Absence**

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

Judy Bowling	January 30, 2017
Kim DuSablon	December 19, 2016
Diane Gallup	January 9, 2017
Lindsay Obenour	December 19, 2016
Dawn Spinner	December 1, 2016

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis,
Johnson
Nays: None

Retirements

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mr. Johnson that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt resolutions of appreciation for the services rendered by:

Sheila Alles, who will retire from the district on January 31, 2017, and will have devoted 20.7 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students and staff of Roosevelt Elementary School as principal; and throughout the district as Director of Elementary Instruction, Director of Academic Services, and Chief Academic Officer.

Patricia Deacon, who will retire from the district on February 16, 2017, and will have devoted 26.6 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Roosevelt Elementary School and Buchanan Elementary School as a teacher.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis,
Johnson
Nays: None

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

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve that Board Trustees Karen Bradford and Crystal Frank take MASB class CBA 106 – Community Relations Leadership - in Troy, Michigan on February 10, 2017.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis,
Johnson
Nays: None

**Recess to
Closed Session**

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mr. Johnson that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District recess to closed session for: Consideration to Proceed Upon Tenure Charges.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis,
Johnson
Nays: None

**Consideration
to Proceed
Upon Tenure
Charges**

It was moved by Mr. Johnson and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District acknowledge that on January 13, 2017, Director of Human Resources Dana Whinnery filed signed tenure charges against Laura LaPorte with the Board, and further move that the Board proceed upon those tenure charges.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis,
Johnson

Nays: None

**Consideration
to Suspend an
Employee**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mr. Johnson that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve that, effective immediately Laura LaPorte be suspended from active performance of duty in accordance with Article IV, Section 3(1) of the Michigan Teacher Tenure Act.

Ayes: Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis,
Johnson

Nays: None

Adjournment

President Burton adjourned the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

Off/Supt/jw