

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Lake Orion Community Schools, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, was called to order on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: D. Bresett, S. Flaherty, B. McQuiston, H. Sinawi, J. Singer

Board Members Absent: J. Faber, S. Taylor

Administrators Present: H. Mercer, A. Curtis, D. Towlerton, A. Weldon

Others Present: J. Olko, M. Snyder, K. Day, A. Noyes, T. VanDeGriend, W. Goodman, M. Gagnon, S. Leggett, K. Spatafore, C. Bell, R. Key, S. Giles, A. Green, A. Giardina, T. West, K. Benton, K. Kogut, L. Logsdon, J. Goral

Moved by McQuiston, seconded by Flaherty, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes - all; Motion carried

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CERTIFIED STAFF CANDIDATE

Adam Weldon introduced Alexa Noyes.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL CANDIDATE

Sara Leggett introduced Kari Spatafore and provided information on the PAC process.

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Mark Snyder shared learning highlights from various programs throughout the district.

PRESENTATION

New LOHS Course Proposals - Kelly Day recommended four new high school ELA courses: Senior Composition, Literature and the Modern Mind, Literature and the Power of Voice and Literature and the Human Legacy. Each course would be .5 credits and would give students a lot of scheduling flexibility as well as modernizing the curriculum. The proposed courses would begin in Fall 2026.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION RELATED TO ACTION ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No participation from the public.

STRATEGIC AREA DISCUSSION ITEMS

Governance

Superintendent's Update: Heidi Mercer discussed the following:

- Legislative Update: An update was provided on 31aa funding below.
- Section 31aa Funding: Due to the pending court case, the State is allowing districts to opt in with the option to rescind by December 31 if the privilege waiver requirements are not lifted. The district did opt in and will monitor the court decision. If the waivers remain unchanged, the district will opt out.

2018 Bond Completion Discussion: Heidi Mercer, Wes Goodman and Tom VanDeGriend provided an update on the 2018 bond completion, highlighting the remaining priority projects and the need for sequencing. The Board discussed the importance of completing work at CERC, including the demolition of the gym and locker rooms, improving traffic flow and parking, adding a temporary secure entry and renovating the multi-purpose room. They have concerns about replacing the team room and prefer to look at that in the future.

Policy Committee Report: Heather Sinawi reported on the following NEOLA updates:

- First Reading: NEOLA Update 40-1 - Policies 2210, 2266, 2412, 4162, 5120, 5460, 5517.01, 7540.02, 7541, 8300, 8305: No questions or concerns were raised.
- First Reading: NEOLA Update 40-1 Non-discrimination - Policies 1422, 1422.02, 1623, 1662, 2260, 2260.01, 3122, 3122.02, 3123, 3362, 4122, 4122.02, 4123, 4362: No questions or concerns were raised.

OCSBA Proposed 2026 Resolutions: The Board discussed resolutions for non-partisan Board elections and Early On funding. Ballots are due by January 9.

Student Achievement

Assistant Superintendent Update: Drew Towlerton discussed professional development and thanked staff for being student-centered. He also discussed:

- Special Education Parent Advisory Council Representative: The Board reviewed the recommendation for Kari Spatafore.

Human Resources

Assistant Superintendent Update: Adam Weldon discussed the following:

- Certified New Hire Recommendation: A recommendation to hire a certified teacher was reviewed.
- Emergency Operation Plan Renewals: The Board reviewed and discussed updates to the EOPs for schools. Board approval is required every two years by the State.

2025 Superintendent Evaluation Summary: Danielle Bresett reported that the Board rated the Superintendent "Effective" for the current cycle and shared a summary statement for the public.

Finance and Operations

Assistant Superintendent Update: Andrea Curtis provided updates on the federal award supplement report and the amended budget. She also discussed:

- Sale of Pine Tree Elementary: The Board reviewed and discussed a purchase agreement from Orion Township in the amount of \$200,000.
- LOHS Team Room and CERC Partial Demo Bid Award: The Board reviewed and discussed a bid totaling \$2,648,069.00.

ACTION ITEMS

Moved by McQuiston, seconded by Sinawi, to approve the consent agenda items as presented:

- a. Approve Payment of the November Bills in the Amount of \$9,430,700.91
- b. Approve Minutes from the November 19 Regular Meeting and Closed Session, November 19 Special Meeting and Closed Session and November 19, 2025 Policy Committee Meeting

Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by McQuiston, seconded by Sinawi, to adopt the resolution to opt-in for 31aa Funding with the ability to rescind if the privilege-waiver requirement remains in effect, as presented.

Roll call: Ayes-5 (Bresett, Flaherty, McQuiston, Sinawi, Singer); Nays-0; Motion carried

Moved by Sinawi, seconded by Flaherty, to authorize the ballot submission to approve the OCSBA Proposed Resolutions as presented.

Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by Sinawi, seconded by McQuiston, to approve Kari Spatafore as a Special Education Parent Advisory Council Representative for the district effective January 2026 through June 2029 as presented.

Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by Flaherty, seconded by McQuiston, to approve a certified new hire as presented.

Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by Singer, seconded by Sinawi, to approve the Emergency Operation Plans for Blanche Sims Elementary, Carpenter Elementary, Orion Oaks Elementary, Paint Creek Elementary, Stadium Drive Elementary, Webber Elementary, Oakview Middle School, Scripps Middle School, Waldon Middle School, Lake Orion High School, Early Childhood Center and the Community Education Resource Center (CERC), as presented.

Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by Flaherty, seconded by Sinawi, to accept and file the 2025 Evaluation for Superintendent, Heidi Mercer, as presented.

Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by McQuiston, seconded by Sinawi, to authorize administration, on behalf of the district, to finalize and execute all documents related to the sale of the Pine Tree Elementary, located at 590 Pine Tree Road, Lake Orion, Michigan.

Ayes - all; Motion carried

No motion was made or seconded to authorize the LOHS Team Room and CERC Partial Demo Bid Award, therefore no vote was taken.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR OTHER NON-ACTION ITEMS/TOPICS:

No participation from the public.

RECAP/NEXT STEPS:

- Administration will continue to update the Board regarding 31aa funding.
- An alternate CERC project will be rebid for future Board approval.
- Board members should submit their organizational interest form to Julie by December 19.

CLOSING COMMENTS: Administrator and Board member items were provided for and so noted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Board Secretary