

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Livonia Public Schools  
15125 Farmington Road  
Regular Meeting  
March 20, 2017**

President Burton convened the meeting at 7:00 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 – Emerson Middle School**

Mrs. Jenkins, administrator of communications, introduced Emerson Middle School students who had their artwork on display in the Board Room. Students pointed out their artwork and were presented with a certificate. The following Emerson students had artwork on display: Brandon Adamus, Madeline Johnson, Jackson Lewis, Katelyn Platek, and Jane Schwartz.

**Golden Apple Awards – Kathy Baldwin Cass & Heather Sullivan Roosevelt**

Tammy Bonifield presented the Golden Apple Award and pin to Kathy Baldwin, grandparent volunteer at Cass Elementary School and Board trustee Karen Bradford presented the Golden Apple Award plaque and pin to Heather Sullivan, parent volunteer at Roosevelt Elementary School. They shared some of the positive remarks that were made by staff, and congratulated and thanked the volunteers for their dedication to students and staff.

**Recognition of State Wrestling Champion Nathan Atienza, Franklin High School**

It was moved by Mr. Johnson and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt a resolution, recognizing Franklin High School wrestler Nathan Atienza for capturing the MHSAA Division 1 Wrestling State Championship in the 152-pound class.

**State Wrestling Champion  
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Trustees of the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District are desirous of publicly recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of students who distinguish themselves during the pursuit of their public education in the school district; and

WHEREAS, Nathan Atienza, a senior at Franklin High School, has distinguished himself by achieving the 2017 Michigan High School Athletic Association Division I State Championship in the 152-pound class, making him the first-ever two-time state champion wrestler in Franklin High School history;

WHEREAS, in achieving this honor, Nathan’s season record is 60-1 and he has accumulated 218 career wins;

WHEREAS, this adds to the outstanding accomplishments Nathan has achieved as a Franklin High School wrestler, including being the first four-time All State wrestler in Franklin history; a four-time scholar athlete; three-time KLAA champ; four-time All Area champ and serving three years as team captain;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Board of Education do hereby commend and congratulate Nathan Atienza for his outstanding accomplishments in athletics and wish him well in his future endeavors as he applies the discipline and perseverance needed to excel in sports to all areas of his life.

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

Nays: None

**Read Across America Resolution**

It was moved by Mrs. Frank and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt a resolution in recognition of Read Across America during the month of March 2017

**Read Across America RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, citizens of the Livonia Public Schools School District stand firmly committed to promoting reading as the catalyst for our students’ future academic success, their preparation for America’s jobs of the future, and their ability to compete in a global economy, and;

WHEREAS, “Read Across America,” a national celebration of Dr. Seuss’s 113th birthday, on March 2, 2017, is sponsored by the Livonia Education Association, in cooperation with the National Education Association, and promotes reading and adult involvement in the education of our community’s students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Trustees of the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District, call upon their citizens to ensure that every child is reading together, with a caring adult, throughout the month of March (celebrated today, March 20, 2017, with the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education), and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body recommits our community to engage in programs and activities to make America’s children the best readers in the world.

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

Nays: None

**District Update from the Superintendent**

Superintendent Oquist shared the following:

- Thanked and/or congratulated:
  - \* Emerson students for sharing their artwork
  - \* Golden Apple Award recipients Kathy Baldwin and

Heather Sullivan

- \* Nathan Atienza, State Wrestling Champion and Coach Chiola – Franklin High School
  - \* Volunteers who read to children during March, as well as PTAs and staff who coordinate the reading activities
  - \* Maintenance staff, who worked tirelessly after our most recent windstorm, power outages, and water main break, for the tremendous job they did
  - \* Livonia Warriors robotics team for taking first place at the Centerline competition and being awarded the very prestigious Chairman's Award for the impact they have on the community
  - \* Churchill and Stevenson musicians, who participated in the MSBOA festival, Choral Festival, and State Solo & Ensemble; many earned a *superior* rating
  - \* Tejas Maire, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Frost student, won first place in an essay contest sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Optimist Club
- Additional remarks:
    - \* During the recent State of the City address, Mayor Wright shared many positive developments, as well as challenges that the city faces. LPS is proud to be partners with our city leaders!
    - \* Teachers and administrators from Michigan recently participated in the *Leader in Me* Leadership symposium at VisTaTech Center. Four Emerson and two Randolph students were on the student panel.
    - \* Everyone should share their feedback with legislators regarding the portion of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) related to the use of A-F letter grades for school accountability purposes.
    - \* High school students will be performing March 23-26: Stevenson drama club – *Annie*; Franklin Players – *Beauty and the Beast*.

**Written  
Communication**

None

**Audience  
Communication**

Doug Coates addressed the Board regarding teachers packing for school closing preparations and requested that teachers be paid for their time.

Chris Flannigan expressed her appreciation to Board members and staff who came to read to students at Garfield Elementary and distributed thank you letters from the students.

Matthew Otto addressed the Board regarding the poor condition of ELA textbooks.

Cyndi and Bret Fowler shared that they are very grateful for the incredible support the special education staff has provided to them and their child.

Churchill students Malocz Krabbe and Miko Parkinson addressed the Board regarding the most recent activities and accomplishments of the Livonia Warriors robotics team, thanked the Board and Superintendent for their support, and announced their upcoming competition.

**Response to  
Prior Audience  
Communication**

None

**Consent  
Agenda**

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 following consent agenda items as recommended by the superintendent:

- V.A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 13, 2017
- V.B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 27, 2017
- V.C. Minutes of the Closed Session of February 27, 2017
- V.D. Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 6, 2017
- V.E. Minutes of the Closed Session of March 6, 2017
- VI.A. Bills for Payment—March 21, 2017

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

Nays: None

**Adoption of  
2016-2017  
Second Budget  
Amendment**

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt the attached amended budgets for the 2016-17 school year: General Fund, Funded Projects Fund, Athletic Fund, Food Service Fund, Special Education Fund, Debt Retirement Funds: 2013 Bond Series I, 2013 Bond Series II, 2014 Refunding Bond; Capital Project Funds: Sinking Fund, Technology Fund, Capital Projects Fund; 2013 Bond Funds: 2013 Bond Series I, 2013 Bond Series II; Scholarship Fund, Health and Welfare Fund.

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

Nays: None

**Approval of  
Audit Firm for  
2016-2017**

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mrs. Bonifield that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District appoint the firm of Plante Moran to audit and prepare the financial report for Livonia Public Schools for the 2016-2017 school year, at a total cost of \$44,600.00.

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

Nays: None

**Approval of Bid  
Results for  
Custodial  
Cleaning  
Equipment –  
2013 Bond**

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 purchase of six 26" rider auto scrubbers and ten 26" stand on auto scrubbers from HP Products in Belleville, Michigan for \$159,516.78 and ten 16" cleaning path carpet extractors from KSS Enterprises in Plymouth, Michigan for \$19,890.00; for a total of \$179,406.78.

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

Nays: None

**Approval of  
Agreement with  
Great Northern  
Consulting  
Company**

It was moved by Mrs. Frank and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the hiring of professional real estate services from Great Northern Consulting Group, Ann Arbor, Michigan, to market the Nankin Mills, Western Wayne Skill Center, Perrinville and Clay sites, and authorize the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate and execute the final contract with Great Northern.

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

Nays: None

**Teachers for  
Approval**

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mrs. Bonifield 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:

**Kristin Banter** 1.0 Grade 4 Teacher, Buchanan

**Kaitlin Fry** .5 Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, Jackson

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

Nays: None

**Retirements**

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District

adopt resolutions of appreciation for the services rendered by:

**Caryl Dazer**, who will retire from the district on April 28, 2017, and has devoted 27 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Taylor Elementary School, Hoover Elementary School, Cooper-at-Whittier Elementary School, Adams Elementary School, Hayes Elementary School, Grant Elementary School, Randolph Elementary School, Rosedale Elementary School, Roosevelt Elementary School, Cleveland Elementary School, and Cass Elementary School as a teacher.

**Julie Ericson** who will retire from the district on April 10, 2017, and has devoted 21.7 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Webster Elementary School, Riley Middle School, and Western Wayne Skill Center as a teacher.

**Theresa Simpson**, who retired from the district on March 3, 2017, and has devoted 13.2 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a transportation paraprofessional with the Transportation Department.

**Deborah Squirewell** who will retire from the district on March 31, 2017, and has devoted 24.7 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a Family Services and Parent Education Coordinator, Interim Director of Head Start, Director of Head Start, Preschool Coordinator, and Program Supervisor with the Head Start Program and Great Start Readiness Program;

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

Nays: None

**Sympathy Resolution – Richard Austin**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt a sympathy resolution for the family of Richard Austin:

**SYMPATHY RESOLUTION**  
**Richard Austin**

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Education was saddened to hear of the untimely death of Richard Austin; and,

**WHEREAS**, He was employed by the Livonia Public Schools School District as a physical education, business, and marketing teacher at Churchill High School and as an online learning teacher at the Livonia Career Center from August 1996 to March 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, he consistently demonstrated his outstanding dedication to students, parents, and staff; and,

**WHEREAS**, Richard Austin will be profoundly missed by his colleagues and the community;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** That the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District offers its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Richard Austin.

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

**Second Reading of Board Policy BCB – Procedures During Meetings**

It was moved by Mr. Johnson 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 PROCEDURES DURING MEETINGS** **BCB MARCH 20, 2017**

The order of business at regular meetings generally shall be as follows:

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Communications
- District Update from the Superintendent
- Audience Communications (limited to a total of fifteen (15) minutes, with remainder following Personnel Matters)
- Consent Agenda
- Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
- Instructional Matters
- Business Matters
- Personnel Matters
- Remainder of Audience Communications
- Hearing from Board Members
- Adjournment

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

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

It was moved by Mrs. Frank 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:

**BYLAWS OF THE BOARD BOARD OPERATIONS CODE OF ETHICS** **BHA MARCH 20, 2017**

**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 race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, height, weight, marital status, handicap or disability.
- 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, and will work to make desired changes so they will be current and relevant.
- 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 and follow established Board Operating Procedures for additional information prior to each Board meeting.
- I will give the Superintendent or 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 render all decisions based 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 decisions of the Board and support 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 via 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 respect the confidentiality of 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 take no private 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 employment 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 and 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.

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

Nays: None

**Adjournment**

President Burton adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

**Off/Supt/jw**