

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Livonia Public Schools
Regular Meeting
March 20, 2023**

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

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

Members Absent None

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

Read Across America Resolution It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield 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 2023.

**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 119th birthday on March 2, 2023, 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, and;

WHEREAS, motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers, and;

WHEREAS, research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading, do better in school.

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 assure that every child is reading, together with a caring adult, throughout the month of March, designated as March is Reading Month (celebrated today, March 20, 2023, 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: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

**Recognition of
Franklin State
Champion
Gymnast –
Morgan Ruffing**

It was moved by Mrs. Acosta and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt a resolution recognizing Franklin High School gymnast, Morgan Ruffing, for capturing the Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 1 Floor Exercise title at the MHSAA Gymnastics State Championship.

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

**Recognition of
Franklin State
Champion
Wrestler –
Owen Hawley**

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mrs. Acosta that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt a resolution recognizing Franklin High School Wrestler Owen Hawley for achieving the Michigan High School Athletic Association Division 1 Individual State Championship title.

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

**Written
Communications**

None

**Response to Prior
Audience
Communications**

None

**Audience
Communications**

None

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 February 27, 2023
- V.B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 6, 2023
- V.C. Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 13, 2023
- VII.A. Livonia Career Technical Center Cooperative Agreements 2023-24
- VII.B. Livonia Transition Program Cooperative Agreements 2023-24

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

Purchase of Administrator Furniture

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 purchase of administrator furniture from Interior Environments, Novi, Michigan in an amount not to exceed \$460,000.

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

French Associates' Amendment

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 recommendation from the Owner's Representative, Plante Moran Cresa, to approve a contract amendment for French Associates, Inc., Rochester, Michigan for reimbursable expenses in an amount not-to-exceed \$75,000.

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

Teachers for Approval

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield 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 teachers:

Devin Jaworowicz	1.0 ASD Teacher	Coolidge Elementary School
Adriel Lechner	.4 School Social Worker	Student Services
Ronnie Severin	1.0 Secondary Math Teacher	Stevenson High School

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

Recall of a Teacher

It was moved by Mrs. Frank and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the superintendent and recall to District employment as a teacher for the 2022-23 school year:

Aimee Price	1.0 Science Teacher	Stevenson High School
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Ayes: Acosta, Bonifield, Bradford, Burton, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Teachers for Tenure

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mrs. Frank 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 dates:

Melanie Rose	March 23, 2023
Denise Barry	March 15, 2023

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

Kay Campbell	April 23, 2023
Lisa Kaiser	Extension of Personal Leave 2023-24

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

Resignations

The Board was informed of the following resignations:

Sarah Koch	March 2, 2023
Rebecca Piasentin	June 16, 2023
Alexandra Starr	March 31, 2023

Retirement

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 resolution of appreciation for:

Laura Smith, who will retire from the District on June 16, 2023, and will have devoted 24 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the students of Grant Elementary and Johnson Upper Elementary as a teacher.

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

Sympathy Resolution

It was moved by Mrs. Burton and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt a sympathy resolution for the family of James Herrod, electrician in the Maintenance Department.

**SYMPATHY RESOLUTION
James Herrod**

WHEREAS, The Board of Education was very saddened to hear of the untimely death and great loss of James (Jim) Herrod; and,

WHEREAS, He was a part of our Livonia Public Schools staff family for 27 years as a master electrician in the Maintenance Department and was relied upon for his extensive knowledge and expertise; and,

WHEREAS, He consistently demonstrated his outstanding dedication and commitment to students, parents, staff, and our schools; and,

WHEREAS, James will always be remembered with great fondness and with a profound sense of gratitude for the immeasurable contributions he made to our School District and the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District offers its deepest sympathy and heartfelt compassion to the family and friends of James Herrod.

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

First Reading of Board Bylaw BHA – Code of Ethics

The proposed revisions to Board Bylaw BHA – Code of Ethics were reviewed by the Board at a previous Study Session and presented for a first reading:

BYLAWS OF THE BOARD BOARD OPERATIONS CODE OF ETHICS

BHA
MARCH 25, 2019

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 their **sex**, race, color, ~~religion, sex~~, 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 the Board meeting.
- I will give the Superintendent ~~or~~ **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 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, 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 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 and/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.

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

The proposed revisions to Board Policy IHFB – High School Graduation Ceremonies were reviewed by the Board at a previous Study Session and presented for a first reading:

BOARD POLICY **IHFB**
INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS **JUNE 20, 1988**
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION EXERCISES CEREMONIES'

The superintendent or designee and staff **School District** shall plan appropriate graduation exercises **ceremonies** for those students who have successfully completed

their ~~course~~ **program** of study in accordance with requirements established by the **State of Michigan and the** Board of Education ~~and law~~.

~~Twelfth grade students not fulfilling all credit requirements are allowed to participate in the graduation exercise if they remain in enough classes on the last day of school to ensure that 1.0 credits in summer school would earn a diploma.~~ **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.**

Board Member Attendance at MASB Spring Institute

It was moved by Mrs. Bonifield and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve that Board Trustee Madeline Acosta attend the MASB Spring Institute in Lansing on April 28-29, 2023, and take MASB classes, for a total cost of approximately \$400.

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

Adjournment

President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Off/Supt/jw