



East Lansing Board of Education

509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823

Regular Meeting
February 8, 2021 - 7:00 PM
Zoom meeting

Agenda



I. Opening of Meeting

- A. *Call to Order*
- B. *Roll Call*
- C. *Mission: Nurturing Each Child, Educating All Students, Empowering Citizens*
- D. *Approval of Agenda*

Motion: The Board of Education approve the agenda for the February 8, 2021 regular meeting held via Zoom pursuant to the Open Meetings Act as presented.

E. Approval of Minutes

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- 1. January 25, 2021 regular meeting minutes
- 2. January 29, 2021 special meeting minutes

Motion: The Board of Education approve the minutes of the January 25, 2021 regular meeting and January 29, 2021 special meeting as presented.

II. Superintendent's Report

III. Bond Update

IV. Public Comment: This is the opportunity to address the Board. Speakers are to confine their remarks to five minutes. If a speaker requires more than five minutes, after all other persons who have requested to speak during this part of the meeting have spoken, that speaker will be allowed additional time. The Superintendent or other district staff may comment to clear up or avoid significant misunderstandings.

V. Board Discussion

VI. Action Items

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A. Budget Calendar

Motion: The Board of Education adopt the budget calendar for the development of East Lansing Public Schools 2021-22 budget as presented.

VII. Committee Reports

- A. Academic and Technology Committee
- B. Facilities Committee
- C. Finance Committee
- D. Intergovernmental Relations
- E. Personnel Committee
- F. Policy Committee

VIII. Announcements

IX. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

***Dori Leyko
Superintendent***

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the
East Lansing Board of Education
Via Zoom
Meeting ID: 870 6477 4726
January 25, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Opening of Meeting

Board President Terah Chambers called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Terah Chambers, Kath Edsall, Chris Martin, Kate Powers, Monica Fink, Elizabeth Lyons, Debbie Walton and Dori Leyko

Absent: None

Approval of Agenda

Motion 20-21/065 Moved by Dr. Edsall and supported by Ms. Powers that the agenda for the regular meeting via Zoom of January 25, 2021 be approved as presented.

Amendment to Agenda

Motion: 20-21/066 Moved by Mr. Martin and supported by Dr. Edsall that the agenda be amended to switch the order of item VIII and item VII. Presentations will become Item VII and Public Comment will become Item VIII.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – Chambers, Edsall, Martin, Powers, Fink, Lyons, Walton

Nays – None

The motion carried unanimously.

Revised Agenda Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – Chambers, Edsall, Martin, Powers, Fink, Lyons, Walton

Nays – None

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion 20-21/067 Moved by Mr. Martin and supported by Ms. Powers that the minutes of the January 11, 2021 regular meeting be approved as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – Chambers, Edsall, Martin, Powers, Fink, Lyons, Walton

Nays – None

The motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Motion: 20-21/068 Moved by Dr. Edsall and supported by Dr. Lyons that the Board of Education meet in closed session pursuant to Section 8 (c) of the Michigan Open Meeting Act for discussion related to collective bargaining strategy.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – Chambers, Edsall, Martin, Powers, Fink, Lyons, Walton

Nays – None

The motion carried unanimously.

Return to Open Session

The Board of Education returned to Open Session at 7:27 p.m.

Motion: 20-21/069 Moved by Ms. Powers and supported by Ms. Walton that the Board of Education meet in closed session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meeting Act.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – Chambers, Edsall, Martin, Powers, Fink, Lyons, Walton

Nays – None

The motion carried unanimously.

Return to Open Session

The Board of Education returned to open session at 7:47 p.m.

**Superintendent’s Report
School Board Appreciation Month**

Superintendent Leyko’s comments and acknowledgment of past and present Board members who have served the staff, students and families of the East Lansing Public Schools community

Student Attendance Data through 1/15/21

	East Lansing High School	MacDonald Middle School	Donley	Glencairn	Marble	Pinecrest	Red Cedar	Whitehills
9/21 - 9/25	98%	97%	97%	100%	97%	100%	96%	99%
9/28 - 10/2	98%	98%	96%	99%	98%	99%	93%	98%
10/7 - 10/13	97%	97%	100%	99%	98%	100%	97%	100%

10/14								
-								
10/20	98%	97%	99%	99%	98%	100%	99%	98%
10/21								
-								
10/27	98%	98%	99%	99%	98%	100%	99%	99%
10/28								
- 11/3	98%	96%	99%	100%	97%	99%	99%	99%
11/4 -								
11/10	98%	96%	97%	96%	98%	100%	98%	99%
11/11								
-								
11/17	97%	94%	98%	99%	98%	99%	97%	96%
11/18								
-								
11/24	95%	94%	98%	99%	99%	98%	97%	97%
11/30								
- 12/4	96%	94%	98%	99%	96%	99%	98%	97%
12/7 -								
12/11	96%	94%	98%	98%	97%	99%	98%	98%
12/14								
-								
12/18	95%	93%	97%	98%	98%	99%	99%	98%
1/4 -								
1/8	96%	95%	97%	99%	97%	99%	97%	99%
1/11 -								
1/15	97%	92%	95%	99%	98%	99%	97%	98%
1/19 -								
1/22								

Discussion followed.

Bond Update

- Tonight’s agenda includes a presentation from professionals from GMB Architecture and Engineering regarding a solar energy project at the elementary buildings.
- Donley Phase 2 -
 - Requests for Proposals (RFPs) were released last week Phase 2 work at Donley and a few additional projects, including the completion of snow melt at each of the buildings’ entrances, the addition of a solar package, and the addition of reusable lunch trays and dishwashers at the new buildings. The Board will be asked to take action on recommended contracts in February.

Discussion followed.

Consent Agenda

Motion 20-21/069 Moved by Ms. Fink and supported by Dr. Lyons that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda to include the following items:

- Hiring of **Alexander Smith**, 1.0 FTE High School and MacDonald Middle School Theater/English Teacher at MA Step 3 level, effective February 1, 2021.
- Hiring pending teacher certificate of **Catrice Ferguson**, 1.0 Donley FTE Elementary Teacher at BA Step 1 level.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – Chambers, Edsall, Martin, Powers, Fink, Lyons, Walton

Nays – None

The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

- Nichole Biber, 1037 Blanchette – Outdoor learning options.
- Erin Hansen, 1135 Sunset Ln – Teacher survey data results.
- Norm Scott, ELEA Vice President – Statement from union members.
- Sara Kalt, 648 Rosewood – Concerns with proposed plan for return to in-person.
- Khloe Smith, 1128 Bensch St – Possible alternate way to return to in-person.
- Mark Pontoni, 3809 Watchel Dr – Slow down on decision to return face to face.
- Jeff Burgess, 800 Northgate Dr – Showing support for in-person offerings.
- Kevin Mayes, 763 Pebblebrook – Plan allows for choice for families.
- Sarah Reckhow, 1001 Glenhaven Ave – Gratitude for teachers, state and local leadership for prioritizing vaccines for teachers.
- Paul Donahue, 6063 Porter Ave – Concerned with new plan – plot course based on data.
- Anne Dorrance, 511 Bailey – Concerned for secondary teachers having to do both in-person and online instruction and quality of instruction to be provided.
- Mark Becker, 925 Rosewood – Fluidity of pandemic, new variant more transmissible, what point if too many returns to in-person then decide to go back to virtual, urges Board Members to not make teachers return if not ready.
- Antonio Gomez, 1324 Wolf Ct – Shocked this is happening so soon, concerned for teachers/families, mental health of students must be considered.
- Chadwick Noellert, MMS teacher – Concerned with sudden rush to bring students back.
- Paty James, 2210 Stonehedge Dr – Concerned with virtual students possibly losing their Special Area classes, frustrated that district doesn't acknowledge Special Education families in district wide communication.
- Audrey Underhill, MMS teacher – Concerned with plan and timing of the return to in-person, concerned for teachers who are expected to teach both in-person and virtual at the same time.
- Eric Berling, 1130 Daisy Ln – Would like to see a choice for teachers, community will have to make due with the decision made, survey felt rushed and less detail, too many what-ifs.

- Kayla Yingling, 514 Appleset Dr – Will not return to in-person because is doing much better at home with less distraction, online has been a good learning experience.
- Izzy Churchill, 2116 Clifton Ave – still debating with returning in-person, graduation/prom is more valuable than returning to in-person for a couple months.
- Taylor Mitchell, 516 Buteo Dr – Supports returning to in-person learning, motivation to learn.

Presentations

- ELPS Solar Project for Elementary Buildings, GMB Architecture & Engineering

Discussion followed.

- Plans for Offering In-Person Instruction, Dori Leyko, Superintendent

Discussion followed.

Board Discussion

Statement from Ms. Walton:

First, I'd like to thank Superintendent Leyko and our entire district Administration for the work that they have been putting in to create this new return to school plan. I'm grateful for your time and effort to try to make a comprehensive and safe plan for our district, and I appreciate what a Herculean task this is.

I just want to take a minute to explain my concerns about the plan in its current form. To be honest, I think that the elementary school plan is solid, and if I could vote for that separately tonight, I would. (At this point I included a comment regarding my concern for the possibility that the elementary plan may not include specials for remote learners). However, the secondary plan has me concerned about the safety of our students, teachers, and staff, and by extension, the entire community. On top of that, the proposed teaching plan, under which our teachers will teach both in-person and online simultaneously, will dilute the quality of the education we can provide, and it goes back on the assurance that we made to our teachers that they would never have to teach in this simultaneous format.

My first concern is the lack of effective contact tracing at the secondary level:

To learn more about how to reopen schools safely, I reached out to MSU pediatrician, Dr. Rebecca Schein. She is an expert in pediatric infectious diseases and she has been participating in nationwide calls about the best practices in reopening schools. She stressed that she is strongly in favor of reopening schools and that it's been done successfully all across the country. She said that the key to a successful plan is keeping students together in groups so that we can conduct effective contact tracing. This is known as cohorting and is also recommended in the School Guidance document provided by the State of Michigan. Dr. Schein said that the best way to know if a plan will be effective is to figure out what happens when a student tests positive, because, as she said, a student WILL test positive. So, that's what I did. At the elementary level, students are kept in their individual classes all day and contact tracing will be effective and easy.

However, at the secondary level, every time a student tests positive, we will have to quarantine up to 25 students. This is based on our health department guidelines and the proposed spacing in our plan. At that rate, it will not take very many exposures before we are forced to close our

schools again, and I worry about the effect that closing and reopening schools will have on the community.

My second concern is the proposed instructional model:

I have to say that I was extremely proud that our district had ruled out simultaneous in-person and online instruction. I'm concerned that that stance has changed. I understand that we make the best choices we can with the information we have available at the time and that our information has changed since the fall, however I firmly believe that going back on our assurances to our teachers does not instill a culture of trust and cooperation between our administration and our teachers, and I worry about the long-term implications of eroding this trust.

I also think that when families envision in-person teaching, they imagine what life looked like before the pandemic. And when families envision online teaching, they imagine what their children are currently doing. Instead, I'd ask people to envision a different experience: a teacher, with a mask and face shield, at the front of a classroom behind their computer and potentially behind a plexiglass divider. This teacher will be attempting to meet the needs of two very different groups of students simultaneously. Writing on a board at the front of a classroom will be difficult for remote students, and checking on a chat feed or waiting for a student's video to buffer will frustrate in-person students. And now, online students won't even be able to see their teachers' faces. Communication in online classrooms is difficult enough without teachers' faces being covered. In particular, I worry about the effects this will have on our online language and ELL students. Meanwhile, students who are in-person will still be conducting their work on their computers so as to minimize passing of papers and sharing of supplies. I believe that simultaneous in-person and online teaching is the worst of both possible worlds, and I don't see how our students will benefit from this model - whether they are in-person OR online.

Look, we all know that we need to find a way to offer in-person instruction because of the toll that the pandemic is taking on our community's mental and emotional health. Several high school families have stated that they are sending their child back to in-person school for social reasons. This is absolutely a valid reason, but if we are truly following the CDC guidelines for masking and social distancing, attending school in-person is not going to be enough to support students' needs for social interaction. I would much rather see a plan that acknowledges the weaknesses of simultaneous instruction and instead provides creative opportunities to truly support our students' social and emotional needs outside of the classrooms.

In summary, I believe that the elementary plan would do an excellent job of supporting the goals of our district, and, as I said before, if I could vote in favor of it separately from the secondary plan, I would. However due to the choice of instructional model and the lack of cohorting, I think that the secondary plan will be unsafe and will provide a lower quality of education than we are currently offering. Therefore, I cannot support the return-to-school plan in its current form. Furthermore, this stance and my vote accurately reflect the feedback I have received from numerous constituents over the past week.

At the same time, I want to make it clear that I agree that we should get our students back to in-person school. I just feel very strongly that we must follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC and the state of Michigan or we will ultimately hurt our students, teachers, and community. I would very much like to see a plan at the secondary level that allows us to return to school safely and allows our teachers to choose between in-person or remote instruction, but not both simultaneously, as we have assured them. I would support that in a heartbeat.

Thank you.

Dr. Chambers – Began by stating she still hasn't figured out the role of a school board member. At times it feels there have been months of discussion and other times not so much. She has been reading/listening to experts and community members. She asks administration questions and struggles at how to engage at the school board table. It is appropriate to have questions during the school board meetings. She is not interested in creating an adversary relationship with administration and teachers. One of the roles of a school board member is to act in the best interest of students. She has respect for Superintendent Leyko for having the pulse on the entire district. Another important role is the hiring of the Superintendent. She is aware that while we may not be able to meet the needs of all students, she listens to the rationale of Superintendent Leyko's recommendations. A reminder being a school board member, although an elected position, is voluntary. She understands the frustrations are not being directed at each board member. She is proud of the team in East Lansing administration. Without each of them, we would not be able to support teachers/students effectively.

Dr. Edsall – thanked Dr. Chambers for her statement and agrees with all of her comments.

Dr. Lyons – When she ran for school board, she knew what she was getting into. It is a rough time trying to come to a decision. There is no 100% perfect plan. She appreciates Superintendent Leyko and team for all of their hard work. The vaccines have ramped up the timeline for beginning to offer in-person instruction. She understands her role as a school board member along with also being an ELPS parent. She would like the district administration to get as much information to families so informed decisions can be made to send their child(ren) back to in-person or remain online. She appreciates the plan for giving families options. This provides a marker to best support families/teachers/staff. However, she would like to see the framework add more detail and allow flexibility within the plan. This plan will help the district begin to move forward. We need to take a marketing approach regarding safety protocols so families are aware of everything being done to keep students safe while in person. She also asked that there continues to be focus on the mental health and wellness of our students.

Mr. Martin – Offered his support for the plan. They have been with the process for the past 10 months. He has listened to public comment during the board meetings through this time and it is really split 50%-50%. There is definitely the need for two options for the community. This plan accomplishes it. There are good reasons to do it now as metrics are favorable, support from the Governor and President, administration is promising resources to get students back safely. It will take time to put the plan together so the return dates are doable. Teachers are much safer as they have started receiving the vaccines. He acknowledges there are still risks but if they don't start now it will be too late. If things become worse, the district has an off-ramp to return to virtual instruction.

Action Items

ELEA – TA for FY 2021-22

Motion: 20-21/071 Moved by Ms. Powers and supported by Dr. Edsall that the Board of Education approve the changes to the agreement between the East Lansing Board of Education and the East Lansing Education Association, Ingham Clinton Education Association, MEA/NEA covering the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – Chambers, Edsall, Martin, Powers, Fink, Lyons, Walton

Nays - None

The motion carried unanimously.

2020-21 First Budget Revision

Motion 20-21/072 Moved by Dr. Edsall and supported by Ms. Powers that the Board of Education adopt the 2020-21 First Budget Revision resolution for the General Fund as presented.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – Chambers, Edsall, Martin, Powers, Fink, Lyons, Walton

Nays – None

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion 20-21/073 Moved by Ms. Powers and supported by Dr. Edsall that the Board of Education adopt the 2020-21 First Budget Revision resolution for the Food Service as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – Chambers, Edsall, Martin, Powers, Fink, Lyons, Walton

Nays – None

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion 20-21/074 Moved by Ms. Fink and supported by Mr. Martin that the Board of Education adopt the 2020-21 First Budget Revision resolution for the Student/Schools Activity Fund as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – Chambers, Edsall, Martin, Powers, Fink, Lyons, Walton

Nays – None

The motions carried unanimously.

Comerica Bank Authorized Signers

Motion 20-21/075 Moved by Ms. Walton and supported by Mr. Martin that the Board of Education authorize the execution of the following documents:

1. Declaration for Deposit Accounts and Treasury Management Services.
2. Business Deposit Account Signature Document – Michigan.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – Chambers, Edsall, Martin, Powers, Fink, Lyons, Walton

Nays – None

The motions carried unanimously.

IRS Closing Agreement and Form 2848

Motion: 20-21/076 Moved by Dr. Edsall and supported by Ms. Powers that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent or her designee to sign Form 2848 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – Chambers, Edsall, Martin, Powers, Fink, Lyons, Walton

Nays – None

The motions carried unanimously.

Recertification of Extended Continuity of Learning Plan

Motion: 20-21/077 Moved by Mr. Martin and supported by Dr. Edall that the Board of Education approve the Extended Continuity of Learning Plan as presented.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – Chambers, Edsall, Martin, Powers, Fink, Lyons

Nays – Walton

The motion passed 6 – 1.

Committees

Academic and Technology: Meeting scheduled February 9, 2021.

Facilities: Mr. Martin will be reaching out to members to schedule a meeting within the next 3 – 4 weeks.

Finance: Met last Thursday and all the action items on tonight’s agenda were discussed.

Intergovernmental: No report

Personnel: No report

Policy: Meeting TBD

Announcements

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:23 a.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

Minutes of the Special Meeting
Of the
East Lansing Board of Education
Zoom Meeting
January 29, 2021
Meeting number: 830 0608 1893

Opening of Meeting

Board President Terah Chambers called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: Terah Chambers, Kath Edsall, Chris Martin, Kate Powers, Elizabeth Lyons, Debbie Walton, Dori Leyko

Absent: Monica Fink

Approval of Agenda

Motion 20-21/078 Moved by Ms. Powers and supported by Dr. Lyons that the agenda for the special meeting of January 29, 2021 be approved as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – Chambers, Edsall, Martin, Powers, Lyons, Walton

Nays – None

Absent - Fink

The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Action Items

Motion: 20-21/079 Moved by Ms. Walton and supported by Mr. Martin that the Board of Education approve the purchase of 3500 desk/table partitions from Cleveland Menu in the amount of \$57,700 as presented.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – Chambers, Edsall, Martin, Powers, Lyons, Walton

Nays – None

Absent - Fink

The motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 a.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY



East Lansing
Public Schools

MEMORANDUM

TO: ELPS Board of Education, Dori Leyko, Superintendent

FROM: Richard Pugh, Director of Finance

SUBJECT: Action Item – Budget Calendar

DATE: February 1, 2021

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board of Education adopt the budget calendar for the development of East Lansing Public Schools 2021-22 budget as presented.

Background:

From the 1-25-2021 BOE packet:

Section 141.434 of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act states “The chief administrative officer shall transmit the recommended budget to the legislative body according to an appropriate time schedule developed by the local unit”. In addition, Board policy 3100 states “In order for the District’s budget preparation to proceed in an orderly fashion, the Board shall establish deadlines and time schedules”. It has been the District’s practice to adopt a budget calendar to comply with these requirements. The Finance Committee will review the attached budget calendar at its meeting on January 21, 2021. Anticipated Board action on February 8, 2021.

EAST LANSING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2021-22 Budget Calendar

updated 1-21-2021

January 15, 2021	January Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference
January 21, 2021	Finance Committee Meeting - review 2020-21 First Budget Revision
January 25, 2021	Board Meeting - action on 2020-21 First Budget Revision
January 27, 2021	Governor's State of State Address (budget priorities)
early to mid February 2021	Governor's State budget proposal
February 10, 2021	Supplemental Count Day
February 18, 2021	Finance Committee Meeting - early budget forecast
March 18, 2021	Finance Committee Meeting - review budget development
late March 2021	Buildings to confirm to business office number of returning students and kindergarten numbers (develop SOC slots)
April 12, 2021	Board Meeting - info. on administrative recommendation on SOC slots
April 15, 2021	Finance Committee Meeting - review budget development
April 26, 2021	Board Meeting - action on SOC slots
May 10, 2021	Board Meeting - presentation of the 2021-22 budget development/scenarios
mid May 2021	May Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference
May 20, 2021	Finance Committee Meeting - review budget recommendations
May 24, 2021	Board Meeting - action on 2020-21 Final Budget Revision and presentation of 2021-22 budget recommendations
June 6, 2021	Notice of Public Hearing Published in local newspaper (Truth in Taxation, at least 6 calendar days prior to hearing)
June 14, 2021	Board Meeting - Public Hearing on the 2021-22 Budget followed by adoption (by law Board must adopt budget by June 30)