



East Lansing Board of Education

509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823

Regular Meeting
June 28, 2021 - 7:00 PM
Board Room
509 Burcham Drive
East Lansing, Michigan 48823



Agenda

I. Opening of Meeting

A. *Call to Order*

B. *Roll Call*

C. *Mission: Nurturing Each Child, Educating All Students, Building World Citizens*

D. *Approval of Agenda*

Motion: The Board of Education approve the agenda of the June 28, 2021 regular meeting as presented.

E. *Approval of Minutes*

June 14, 2021

Motion: The Board of Education approve the minutes of the June 14, 2021 regular meeting as presented.

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II. Recognition

III. Consent Agenda

Motion: The Board of Education approve the consent agenda items as follows:

A. hiring of LesleyAnn Newsted, 1.0 FTE Middle School Spanish Teacher at MA Step 9 level, effective August 23, 2021.

B. hiring of Sarah Beck, 1.0 FTE Red Cedar Elementary Resource/Intervention Teacher, pending receiving her teaching certificate at BA Step 2 level, effective August 23, 2021.

C. hiring of Chelsea Wheeler, 1.0 FTE Red Cedar Elementary ASD Focus Teacher at MA Step 7.5 level, effective August 23, 2021.

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. Presentations

A. Robert L. Green Commission - Ron Bacon, Elaine Hardy, Karen Hoene and Adam DeLay

B. Five-year review of Journalism at ELHS - Cody Harrell

VI. Board Discussion

VII. Action Items

A. At-Will Agreements for FY 2021-22

Motion: The Board of Education approve the FY 2021-22 employee agreements for the maintenance and ground At-Will positions pending receipt of the deactivating unit letter from AFSCME, as presented.

Motion: The Board of Education approve the FY 2021-22 employee agreement for the courier At-Will position, as presented.

B. Superintendent Evaluation Rating for 2021-22

Motion: The Board of Education approve the 2021-22 Superintendent Evaluation rating.

VIII. Committee Reports

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

IX. Announcements

X. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

***Dori Leyko
Superintendent***

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the
East Lansing Board of Education
501 Burcham Dr
East Lansing
Zoom Meeting ID: 836 0846 8920
June 14, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Opening of Meeting

Board President Terah Chambers called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Terah Chambers, Kath Edsall, Chris Martin, Kate Powers, Monica Fink, Elizabeth Lyons (virtually from East Lansing), Debbie Walton and Dori Leyko and

Absent: None

Approval of Agenda

Motion 20-21/130 Moved by Ms. Walton supported by Mr. Martin that the agenda for the June 14, 2021 regular meeting be approved as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays – None

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion 20-21/131 Moved by Ms. Fink and supported by Ms. Powers that the minutes of the May 24, 2021 regular meeting be approved as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays – None

The motion carried unanimously.

Recognition

2021 Retirees

- Jane Ventsias – 28 years of service
- Julie Cawood – 13 years of service
- Angela Keehn-Voss – 25 years of service
- Pam Smiadak – 28 years of service

Ms. Leyko recognized the four 2021 retirees as they just completed their final years with ELPS and are moving on to retirement. Only four individuals but who have collectively served the district for 94 years.

1. Julie Cawood – Julie began her tenure in East Lansing Public Schools in 2008 as a kindergarten teacher at Donley. She has served as a mentor for many teachers and as a grade-level curricular chair – she is a leader among her peers. For a couple years, Julie was an elementary instructional coach and most recently has been a teacher at Pinecrest School. Thank you Julie Cawood for your 13 years of dedication and service to the students and families of ELPS.
2. Angela Keehn-Voss – Angie began her tenure with East Lansing Public Schools in the fall of 1996 when she was hired to teach Spanish at Hannah Middle School. In 1998, Angie moved from teaching elementary Spanish to MacDonald Middle School. Angie has provided Spanish instruction to thousands of middle school students during her time in the district. Thank you Angie for 25 years of service and dedication to the students and families of ELPS.
3. Pam Smiadak – Pam began her career in East Lansing Public Schools in November 1993 as a substitute paraprofessional before becoming the Donley building paraprofessional in 1994 and serving in this role for 27 years. Pam has also served as a Title 1 para for Extended Learning Time. She has committed her life to serving the Donley Dolphin family, and after 27 years, will be hard to replace. Thank you Pam for being a constant face of kindness and support to the students, families and staff of Donley for the past 28 years.
4. Jane Ventsias – Jane may hold the record for being the most widely skilled individual in the district. Jane was hired in November 1993 as a substitute hall monitor. She worked in this role and as a food service substitute before being hired in August 1994 as a Payroll Clerk for the Business Office. Later that year, she worked as the Receptionist in Central Office and then as the Instructional Clerk at MacDonald Middle School for the 1995-96 school year. In fall 1996, she began as the Food Service Bookkeeper at East Lansing High School and then returned to MMS as the Instructional Clerk for the next several years. In 2006, Jane became the Administrative Assistant at Pinecrest Elementary School and then moved into her current position as ELHS Instructional Clerk in 2013. Jane is an advocate for our students and is regularly selected by students to hand them their diplomas at graduation. Thank you Jane for all of the support and service you've provided to the students, staff and families of ELPS for the past 28 years.

Mr. Martin recognized all of our spring athletic teams on their great season.

- Varsity baseball was invited to play in the Diamond Classic – this tournament is held each year and only the top 10 teams in the area are invited to play. They beat St Johns in the first round, and fell to DeWitt in the 2nd round. In MHSAA District play, they advanced to the District Finals, before falling to Grand Ledge.
- Softball finished their season up in the MHSAA District semifinals, falling to DeWitt
- Drew Miller (freshman) qualified for the State Finals in boys golf. He ended up 24th over all in Division I.
- Boys Lacrosse advanced through the MHSAA Regional tournament to play Forest Hills Central in the Regional Finals. This is the furthest our boys lacrosse team has advanced since 2006.
- Girls Lacrosse also had a good year and advanced to the Regional semifinals where they lost to DeWitt.
- Girls Soccer lost in the District tournament to Hartland
- Girls Tennis won the CAAC Blue Division and took 2nd in their Regional. They advanced to the MHSAA State Finals.
- Boys Track & Field took 2nd in their Regional and qualified many runners to the MHSAA State meet

- Girls Track & Field won their Regional and also qualified many runners to the MHSAA State meet.

Ms. Fink recognized Noah Hampton-Yarborough:

The Lansing Juneteenth Celebration's Education committee held its 14th Annual Juneteenth Education Essay Competition and Scholarship Program dedicated to the memory and leadership of Dr. Olivia Letts. Of the four writing categories, I am pleased to announce that one of our own Noah Hampton-Yarborough, a graduating senior, won first place in the Category IV bracket for grades 11 and 12. Noah's essay titled "What is Juneteenth and why is it important that we celebrate it?" earned him first place for the Juneteenth Bellamy-Taylor Academic Talent Scholarship in the amount of \$500, a pre-college pack with a new laptop for all of his college coursework, \$250 for books and supplies, a gift certificate to Rush Investments Unlimited for scholarship consulting, a Juneteenth gift bag and swag, Lansing Community College swag and a certificate of accomplishment. In the fall Noah will attend LCC to complete his college prerequisites and plans to follow up with a bachelor's degree in the technology, engineering, and design field from North Carolina State.

Noah's success is an example of how local external organizations are helping youth make college or post-secondary education possible through writing and research of culture and Heritage.

Congratulations Noah and the Hampton-Yarborough family!

Superintendent's Report

Congratulations to the Class of 2021!

What a perfect evening we had last Friday to celebrate the Class of 2021. We are so proud of our graduates and how they overcame the challenges of the past 15+ months. The ELHS athletic field served as a perfect setting for a great evening to recognize our graduates, their families and friends.

Summer Learning is Under Way!

Many of our in-person and remote summer learning programs have begun. We welcomed about 400 students to our in-person learning camp this week! We are evaluating our current class sizes and will notify folks who are on the wait list next week to let you know whether we have additional slots available.

Summer Food Distribution

ELPS is continuing meal distribution this summer. Meals are free for students and adults 18 & under and up to age 26 for individuals with special needs. Students participating in our in-person learning program can pick up take-home meal bags daily from their schools. Other meal distribution locations and times are as follows:

- East Lansing High School every Monday from 12:00pm to 1:00pm distributing breakfasts and lunches for 7 days until August 23.
- University Village Apartments every Monday from 11:30am to 12:30pm distributing breakfasts and lunches for 7 days until August 23.
- Spartan Village complex every Monday from 11:30am to 12:30pm distributing breakfasts and lunches for 7 days until August 23.

Summer Hours for Community Use of ELHS Track

ELPS will have our high school track open for community member use from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. through June and July. Please use the track only. We are happy to offer this opportunity to community members but also need to ensure our field is in good shape and safe for our fall student-athletes and band members when they utilize our field this summer and fall for camps, competitions and events. No animals are allowed on the field or track. Please note - there may be times we need to lock the gates for special events.

Instructional Plans for 2021-22 (always subject to change :))

ELPS is planning to offer full-time in-person instruction five days a week at all levels. Without the opportunity for students under 12 to receive the vaccine at this point, we may also offer remote sections at grades K - 6 until the vaccine is available to this age group. Our plan is to have all staff return to the classrooms and to hire additional teachers to provide remote instruction, possibly only through winter break, depending on the timing of vaccine availability for our younger ones. This plan, of course, is dependent on factors including community COVID data, vaccine availability, staff availability and family demand for remote learning. We'll be putting out a survey to these families in early July. We do not plan to offer remote learning sections in grades 7+. Mask requirements and other safety protocols will be communicated prior to the start of school.

Portrait Editorial Board's Open Letter to the School District

In response to last month's Open Letter to the School District and the request for a Town Hall meeting, district and building leaders, along with School Board President Chambers, have met with the Portrait's editor, with a few other members of the editorial board joining one of the meetings. We brainstormed and discussed ways we could structure opportunities for students to discuss concerns with small groups of adults who are connected to the topics of concern and additional opportunities to increase student voice to inform school and district decisions. We also discussed ways to increase communication with students, such as a regular column in the Portrait.

A couple next steps include inviting a couple student representatives to the Academic and Technology Board Committee meeting and convening a group to provide input to high school administration regarding its fall welcome and orientation plans.

Discussion followed.

Bond Update

Donley – Phase 2

- Asbestos abatement is in progress.
- Fencing around the entire site is going up.
- Demo is scheduled to begin this week.

Other Phase 2 Work

- Solar carport work has been started at Red Cedar.

Marble

- Installation of classroom casework is being completed.
- Snow guard is being installed on the roof.
- Metal panels are in progress.
- Lots of sitework is in progress.

Discussion followed.

Presentations

Mental Health Advisory Committee, Natalie Moser, Matthew Morales, Heather Findley

Discussion followed.

Elementary Recap, Tracey Barton, Lorraine Ware, Josh Robertson, Amy Webster, Shane Johnson, Rinard Pugh

Discussion followed.

Public Hearing

Opening of Public Hearing – Comments from Richard Pugh, Director of Finance

Discussion followed.

Public Comments – None

Closing of Public Hearing

Consent Agenda

Motion 20-21/132 Moved by Dr. Edsall and supported by Ms. Powers that the Board of Education approve the following items:

- MHSAA Resolution 2021-22
- hiring of Madelyn Zink, 1.0 FTE High School Math Teacher at BA Step 2 level, effective August 23, 2021.
- hiring of Brenna Christopoulos, 1.0 FTE Middle School French Teacher at BA Step 3 level, effective August 23, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays – None

The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Board Discussion

- Dr. Edsall spoke on behalf of the Robert L. Green commission. A historical marker has been approved to be placed at the former home of Robert and Lettie Green on Bessemaur. Dr. Green's name will be included on the historical marker, which is unprecedented. The commission included City of East Lansing's DEI Director, Elaine Hardy, former ELPS school board member, Karen Hoene, COEL City Council member, Ron Bacon and Adam DeLay. Dr. Edsall spoke about Dr. Green's legacy including his

work with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr as well as his schooling which led him to Michigan State University where he received his PhD in Educational Psychology. Dr. Green was denied home ownership in East Lansing and was the first Black person to successfully use the Housing Nondiscrimination order signed by President Kennedy to sue the Lansing Board of Realtors and win the right to purchase a home in East Lansing. Dr. Green continued to fight discrimination even after he moved into the house on Bessemaur. His children were the first Black children to integrate Pinecrest Elementary. The commission would like to rename Pinecrest to Robert and Lettie Green Elementary school. Dr. Edsall said the commission reports there is support from Parent Council, principal of Pinecrest as well as the Arts Commission. She asked that the BOE allow for a presentation at the next regular meeting and then allow for public comment. She would like this to be an action item in August.

- Dr. Chambers stated there is no policy and the Board should establish a process. She thinks a public hearing should be held.
- Dr. Edsall commented that research has been done and there are no land grant prohibitions to naming/renaming Pinecrest. She has touched base with legal and the cost will be minimal. The historical marker will be placed at the end of August.
- Mr. Martin thanked Dr. Edsall. He wanted to go back to his comments at a previous meeting regarding the attacks on right to vote. He would like to see the district make Juneteenth a day off for all district employees.

Board members took a break at 9:03 p.m.

Returned from break at 9:08 p.m.

Action Items

Purchase of Technology

Motion 20-21/133 Moved by Ms. Powers and supported by Mr. Martin that the Board of Education approve the purchase of 315 HP Chromebooks from SEHI for \$247.65 each for a total of \$78,009.75 as presented.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays – None

The motion passed unanimously.

MHSAA Hockey Cooperative Agreement

Motion 20-21/134 Moved by Dr. Edsall and supported by Dr. Lyons that the Board of Education approve the MHSAA Hockey Cooperative agreement with Okemos as presented.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

2021-22 Recommended Budget

Motion: 20-21/135 Moved by Dr. Edsall and supported by Ms. Powers that the Board of Education adopt the 2021-22 Recommended Budget resolution for the General Fund as presented.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays – None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: 20-21/136 Moved by Dr. Edsall and supported by Ms. Fink that the Board of Education adopt the 2021-22 Recommended Budget resolution for the Food Service Fund as presented.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays – None

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: 20-21/137 Moved by Dr. Edsall and supported by Ms. Walton that the Board of Education adopt the 2021-22 Recommended Budget resolution for the Student/School Activity Fund as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays – None

The motion passed unanimously.

Certification of form L-4029(2021 Tax Rate Request

Motion: 20-21/138 Moved by Dr. Edsall and supported by Ms. Fink that the Board of Education approve the 2021 millage rates to be levied on July 1, 2021 as calculated per the Michigan Department of Treasury from L-4029 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays – None

The motion passed unanimously.

Amendment to Jani-King Custodial Agreement

Motion: 20-21/139 Moved by Ms. Powers and supported by Mr. Martin that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent, or her designee, to execute the 9th Amendment to Jani-King Custodial, Courier and Grounds Utility Service Agreement as presented.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays – None

The motion passed unanimously.

Administrators, Supervisors, and At-Will Contracts/Agreements for FY 2021-22

Motion: 20-21/140 Moved by Ms. Powers and supported by Ms. Walton that the Board of Education approve the FY 2021-22 employees contracts/agreements for Administrators, Supervisors, and At-Wills as presented.

Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays – None

The motion passed unanimously.

Committees

Academic and Technology:

- Next meeting - June 21 @ 2:00 p.m.
- Summer programming.
- Planning for fall.
- Students to be advisors.

Facilities:

- Next meeting - June 21 @10:00 a.m.
- Will meet in-person to walk through the high school (possibly middle school) to look at improvement targets.

Finance:

- Next meeting - June 17 @ 2:00 p.m.

Intergovernmental:

- No report.
- Will reach out to the COEL to have a conversation on setting up a time to meet.

Personnel:

- No report and no meeting scheduled.
- Superintendent Evaluation next meeting.

Policy:

- Next meeting - June 16 @4:00 p.m. Will be in-person and virtual.

- Policy manual implementation – meeting with Thrun for Policy Implementation workshops Thursday and Friday.
- Racial Equity Policy will be on the agenda after the Policy Manual is complete.

Announcements

- There were a record number of applications for the vacant positions on the Sex Ed Advisory Board. There were three adult openings and two student openings. The recommendations were sent to the board and applicants will be notified soon. The information will be announced at the next board meeting.
- Dr. Chambers just wanted to once again thank all the teachers, students and staff for their diligence this past year. She appreciates everyone!
- Regarding the open letter to the board – Dr. Chambers is excited for students to sit on the Committee meetings and allow their voices to be heard.
- Dr. Edsall announced Norm Scott is the new ELEA president.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY



East Lansing
Public Schools

MEMORANDUM

TO: ELPS Board of Education, Dori Leyko, Superintendent

FROM: Richard Pugh, Director of Finance

SUBJECT: Action –At-Will Agreements for FY 2021-22

DATE: June 23, 2021

Recommendation:

1. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the FY 2021-22 employee agreements for the maintenance and ground At-Will positions pending receipt of the deactivating unit letter from AFSCME, as presented.
2. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the FY 2021-22 employee agreement for the courier At-Will position, as presented.

Background:

The AFSCME contract which covers the district's three maintenance employees and the two new grounds positions expires June 30, 2021. I have been in communication with Dan Hamilton, AFSCME representative, regarding a new agreement. Dan has informed me that AFSCME is deactivating the unit effective at the end of the current CBA (June 30, 2021). I believe this is due to a lack of dues paying members. The five individuals covered under the AFSCME CBA will become at-wills. Attached are the recommended at-will agreements for FY 2021-22. The total estimated cost increase for FY 2021-22 is \$5,900 for the three current employees. The agreements provide a 3.2% wage increase for the current employees, which was the proposal provided to AFSCME during negotiations. Each hourly rate, including the new grounds positions and courier position, was incorporated into the 2021-22 Recommended Budget that the Board adopted. As a reminder the grounds and courier positions were previously under the Jani-King contract but will now be employed directly by the district.

I have a separate action item for the courier position because it is not subject to the AFSCME deactivating unit letter.