



# East Lansing Board of Education

509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823

Regular Meeting  
August 9, 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 for the August 9, 2021 regular meeting, as presented.*

E. *Approval of Minutes*

*Motion: The Board of Education approve the minutes of the July 26, 2021 regular meeting, as presented.*

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### **II. Recognition**

### **III. Superintendent's Report**

### **IV. Bond Update**

### **V. Public Hearing** A. Opening of Public Hearing - Renaming of Pinecrest

B. Public Comments

C. Conclude Public Hearing

### **VI. Consent Agenda**

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*Motion: The Board of Education approve the consent agenda to include the following:*

A. hiring of Allison Schaub, 1.0 FTE Marble Elementary Special Education Teacher/Interventionist, at BA Step 3 level, effective August 23, 2021.

B. hiring of Douglas Damery, 1.0 FTE High School Science Teacher, at MA Step 11.5 level, effective August 23, 2021.

C. hiring of Emily Zann, .80 FTE High School Social Studies Teacher, at BA Step 2 level, effective August 23, 2021.

**VII. 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.

### **VIII. Board Discussion**

### **IX. Action Items**

### **A. Renaming of Pinecrest Elementary to Dr. Robert L. Green Elementary**

*Motion: The Board of Education approve changing the name of Pinecrest Elementary, to honor the civil rights, social justice and educational equity work of Dr. Robert L. Green, to Robert L. Green Elementary.*

**X. Committee Reports**

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

**XI. Announcements**

**XII. 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: 864 2944 0459  
July 26, 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, Kate Powers, Monica Fink, Debbie Walton, and Dori Leyko

Present Virtually: Chris Martin

I, Chris Martin, am attending this July 26, 2021 regular Board meeting remotely. I am physically located in Chippewa County, in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. I am able to have two-way communication for this Board meeting. Please record this public announcement in the meeting minutes.

Absent: Elizabeth Lyons

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion 21-22/001 Moved by Ms. Fink supported by Ms. Walton that the agenda for the July 26, 2021 regular meeting be approved as presented.

Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion 21-22/002 Moved by Ms. Powers and supported by Dr. Edsall that the minutes of the June 28, 2021 regular meeting be approved as presented.

Ayes – 6  
Nays – 0

The motion carried unanimously.

**Recognition**

None

## **Superintendent Report**

### **Summer Learning is Winding Down**

We have two weeks left for most of our summer learning programs, with the exception for our High School 101 course that is scheduled for August.

We had 1048 ELPS students participate in at least one summer school program, with a total of nearly 1400 summer program slots filled.

### **Free Meals for all in 2021-22 School Year**

Breakfast and lunch will continue to be offered at no cost to all ELPS students for the 2021-22 school year.

### **Update on Remote Learning Applications for Fall 2021**

Thirty-nine applications were received for K-6 remote learning for this fall. We will review the applications and grade-level counts to determine staffing. Information will be shared with families who applied for a remote learning spot no later than August 9.

### **Vaccination Event for all Child Vaccines (and COVID) at ELHS August 9**

ELPS will be partnering with the Ingham County Health Department to offer a Back-to-School Vaccination Event. They will offer the COVID vaccine for all eligible individuals and will provide all school-required immunizations to children. The flyer for this vaccination clinic will be posted on the district website and will be distributed via eblast and other social media this week. ELPS will also mail a paper copy of the flyer to all district families. All are welcome!

### **District Weekly Updates to Resume this Weekend**

ELPS will resume its weekly communication this Sunday, August 1. Building communication will be coming throughout the month of August as well.

## **Bond Update**

Superintendent Leyko shared pictures of:

- Donley Phase 2 – snowmelt boiler, west parking lot, dumpster pad, playground area and parent pick-up/drop-off loop.
- Glencairn, Pinecrest, Red Cedar and Whitehills – solar platform structures for the carports are in progress.
- Marble –
  - Obtained temporary Certificate of Occupancy on Friday;
  - Movers are scheduled to begin moving in contents August 2;
  - Most of the furniture will be delivered and put together the weekend of August 7;
  - First dishwasher for the reusable trays installed at Marble;
  - Great photos and article in the July 16 Lansing State Journal by Mark Johnson

Photos can be found on the website at <https://elps.us/our-district/bond-updates/>.

## **Public Hearing**

Opening of Public Hearing on the renaming of Pinecrest Elementary to Robert L. Green Elementary:

Comments from Dr. Edsall included at the end of the minutes report.

Public Comments

- Dr. Doug Nordhaus, 1539 Sherwood Ave – consider other options
- Colleen Tupper, 1000 Blanchette – consider other options
- Nichole Biber, 1037 Blanchette – in support for renaming
- Abbie Tykocki, 1131 Blanchette – in support for renaming
- Vince Green, Robert L. Green’s eldest son – in support for renaming
- Adam Delay, 215 Bessemaur – in support for renaming
- Cheryl Dudley, 822 Tarleton Ave – in support for renaming
- Ron Bacon, 533 Avocet Dr – in support for renaming

Conclude Public Hearing

**Public Comment**

- Dr. Doug Nordhaus, 1539 Sherwood – Vaccines being used during vaccination clinic, are they using the expired vaccines?

Superintendent Leyko commented that the Ingham County Health Department is in charge of the vaccination clinic and she cannot comment on the vaccines being used.

- Gwen Petrie, East Lansing High School senior – Vaccines/mask mandates – uncomfortable with no masks being required.
- Seila Gonzalez Estrecha, 531 Durand St – Concerned about no masking at lunchtime and areas where students are all together as well as ventilation in the buildings.
- Patrick Levine Rose, 310 Oxford Rd – Superintendent to reconsider mask not required for vaccinated individuals and consider universal masking.
- Marie Adele Grosso, 661 Beech St – concerned about masking and Delta Variant – would like everyone masked when school returns.

**Consent Agenda**

Motion 21-22/003 Moved by Ms. Powers and supported by Ms. Walton that the Board of Education approve the following items:

- Hiring of **Julia Christopher**, 1.0 FTE Donley Elementary Kindergarten Teacher at BA Step 2 level, effective August 23, 2021.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

The motion carried unanimously.

## Board Discussion

- Dr. Edsall clarified that all the new buildings have the highest ventilation systems in them. She asked Superintendent Leyko if it is correct that there was no in-school transmission of COVID outside of sports. She also spoke to the renaming of Pinecrest and stated that is not about the story but who tells the story of Robert L. Green.
- Superintendent Leyko clarified that all cafeterias still have the barriers and they will remain in place.
- Mr. Martin stated that it isn't just the elementary schools that have the upgrades. The middle and high school were also retrofitted windows that didn't open. There have been steps taken to make the buildings safer. We are addressing concerns around COVID and Delta Variant.
- Dr. Chambers echoed her colleagues' sentiments. Not one is taking this lightly and there is a lot of road until the first day of school.

## Action Items

### **At-Will Agreements First Amendment for FY 2021-22**

Motion 21-22/004 Moved by Ms. Powers and supported by Dr. Edsall that the Board of Education approve the First Amendment to At-Will Wage, Benefits, and Conditions for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Director of Equity and Social Justice Contract for FY 2021-22**

Motion: 21-22/005 Moved by Ms. Fink and supported by Ms. Walton that the Board of Education approve the FY 2021-22 contract for Klaudia Burton, Director of Equity and Social Justice, as presented.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

The motion passed unanimously.

## Committees

### **Academic and Technology:**

- Next meeting, August 16, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.
- Ramp up for 2021-22 school year.

### **Facilities:**

- Next meeting will be in September.
- A lot going on with facilities.

**Finance:**

- Has not met and no meeting is scheduled.

**Intergovernmental:**

- Has not met. Probably won't meet due to transitions with the City. However, there has been communication with City folks.

**Personnel:**

- Has not met.

**Policy:**

- Continue meeting – Policy Implementation meeting with Thrun.
- Hopes to have new Policy Manual to board in advance for action at the August 23 meeting.
- Racial Equity policy work – looking to work with Ms. Burton.
- Goal-setting work with DEI.
- Next meeting Wednesday at 4:30.

**Announcements**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

*Comments by Dr. Kath Edsall regarding Robert L. Green for Public Hearing:*

East Lansing, by comparison to many other major university towns, is small. And yet, from this small town came many amazing firsts in the civil rights/social justice history of our nation.

Martin Luther King Jr. came to MSU in 1965 seeking someone to build bridges to university communities. He knew of MSU President John Hannah's commitment to these issues, President Hannah was the first chairman of the United States Commission on Civil Rights under President Eisenhower, and MLK sought someone from his faculty. That someone was Dr. Robert L Green.

Dr. Green's story began long before that moment, his parents moved to Detroit to raise their nine children out from under the overt racism in our country's southern states. As a young adult, he attended college in Berkley California and met his future wife. While there, he needed a job and along with Willie Brown, who later became the first African American mayor of San Francisco, fought and won the opportunity integrate the taxi companies.

Following graduation, Dr. Green and his wife left California and came to East Lansing in the early 60's so he could pursue his masters and eventually his doctorate. He was hired by President Hannah as an educational psychology professor and later lead the newly created Department of Urban Development. His body of work at MSU and the lives he touched through his teaching (Ervin Johnson, Ernest Green (one of the Little Rock Nine that John Hannah brought here on an anonymous scholarship), to name a few) are all chronicled in his book [At the Crossroads of Fear and Freedom](#).

During his early years in East Lansing, he sought to purchase a home for his young, growing family. He understood the wealth accumulation that home ownership allowed and he wanted to live close to his place of employment. Disappointingly, East Lansing prevented Black people from purchasing homes through a combination of restrictive covenants, red lining and racism. President Hannah offered to buy a house for Dr. Green, but Dr. Green wanted to challenge the systems that kept him out of East Lansing, not work around them.

In 1963, President Kennedy signed an executive order preventing discrimination in housing. Dr. Green reached out to then Governor Romney, who supported his desire to own a home in East Lansing and directed him to the newly created Michigan Civil Rights commission. With the presidential order and the support of the commission, Dr. Green was the first Black person to successful sue for the right to integrate housing ***in the nation***. During this fight, he and his family endured numerous racist threats, mostly anonymous phone calls, but also a threatening visit from a local realtor. Still, he and his family endured. The family purchased a home on Bessemer where the three children grew up and they were the first African American children to integrate Pinecrest elementary school.

Dr. Green went on to work with MLK until his death. He worked, marched and strategized with many great civil rights leaders of the time such as Andrew Young, Stokely Carmichael, Coretta Scott King, Arthur Ashe, Coleman Young and Fannie Lou Hammer. He was a change maker and throughout his life, he worked in the area of educational equity. He knew that gaps in opportunities and out comes between African American students and others were created due to hundreds of years of educational and opportunity discrimination and he invested his life in finding ways to overcome these gaps. As a school board member, I am aware of these gaps daily and deeply appreciate the equitable student successes his work aspires to achieve.

While it is understandable some are upset at the idea of change, naming the elementary school in the neighborhood where a civil rights icon first purchased a home, where his children first integrated the

school, where other civil rights icons visited and worked to change our country to live up to its founding principles, seems like a very appropriate way to honor a man who dedicated his life to educational equity.

To better understand this decision, I suggest you watch the presentation from the Robert L Green Commission at the June 28<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting or read his book: [At the Crossroads of Fear and Freedom](#).

The name Pinecrest was given to the neighborhood by the land developer. While there is clearly familiarity and connectivity, there is no historical significance. The Pinecrest neighborhood has a strong familial bond that goes way beyond the name of an elementary school. Renaming the school allows all of us to honor Dr. Green, his intelligence, his dedication and his family. It allows us to preserve his legacy as a tireless supporter of civil rights that had roots in our city, and finally it memorializes the kind of greatness we hope our students aspire to.



East Lansing  
Public Schools

## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Board of Education

**FROM:** Dori Leyko  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**SUBJECT:** Human Resources Action Items

**DATE:** August 6, 2021

<b>Hires</b>
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It is recommended that the Board approve the hiring of **Allison Schaub**, 1.0 FTE Marble Elementary Special Education Teacher/ Interventionist, at BA Step 3 level, effective August 23, 2021.

It is recommended that the Board approve the hiring of **Douglas Damery**, 1.0 FTE High School Science Teacher, at MA Step 11.5 level, effective August 23, 2021

It is recommended that the Board approve the hiring of **Emily Zann**, .80 FTE High School Social Studies Teacher, at BA Step 2 level, effective August 23, 2021