

A work session meeting of the Board of Education of Lake Orion Community Schools, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, was called to order on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 5:32 p.m.

Board Members Present: D. Bresett, J. Faber, S. Flaherty, B. McQuiston, H. Sinawi, J. Singer, S. Taylor

Administrators Present: H. Mercer, A. Curtis, D. Towler, A. Weldon, S. Leggett

Others Present: J. Olko, M. Snyder, C. Padilla, A. Bronikowski, L. Byrd, E. Coletti, R. DeGeorge, K. Fox, S. Getty, H. Grant, K. Ihrke, J. Lesko, A. Panik, A. Pulaski, O. Pumford, F. Sickmiller, B. Simonski, S. Tamblyn, G. Valentage, D. Wherry and R. Ziesmer, L. Logsdon, J. Crissman, K. Eveland, E. Spearing, N. Chodoba, J. Goral, L. Hake, R. Schroeder, M. McCarty, C. McCarty, N. Schneider, K. Robbins, J. Moore, D. Mammen, K. McWethy, K. Benton, H. Orlowsky, T. O'Donnell, N. Shuler, L. Eckert

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by McQuiston, seconded by Flaherty, to move into closed session for superintendent evaluation. Roll call: Ayes-7 (Bresett, Faber, Flaherty, McQuiston, Sinawi, Singer, Taylor); Nays-0; Motion carried

The Board moved into closed session at 5:32 p.m. No action was taken in closed session.

President Bresett directed the Board out of closed session at 6:26 p.m.

Moved by McQuiston, seconded by Flaherty, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes - all; Motion carried

NEW CERTIFIED STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS

Adam Weldon introduced Chrissandra Padilla, Amy Bronikowski, Lexie Byrd, Emily Coletti, Renee DeGeorge, Kara Fox, Stacie Getty, Hayden Grant, Kiersten Ihrke, Jason Lesko, Allison Panik, Audri Pulaski, Olivia Pumford, Faith Sickmiller, Brielle Simonski, Susan Tamblyn, Gracie Valentage, Danielle Wherry and Riley Ziesmer in their new roles. Kaylyn Grimes, Ava Iulianelli, Kare Joseph, Ethan Schneider and Erin Schmul were unable to attend the meeting.

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Mark Snyder shared learning highlights from various programs throughout the district.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION RELATED TO ACTION ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There was no participation from the public.

PRESENTATION: STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

The update covered February - May 2026 work. Progress was reviewed in the goal/focus areas below:

Academics and Programs

- Scheduling / Curriculum / Technology

Learning Environment and Culture

- Social Emotional Learning / Individualized Instruction / MICIP
- Professional Development / Learning Environment / Mental Health

Personnel and Leadership

- Negotiations / Leadership Development / Recruitment

Safety and Security

- Emergency Operating Procedures / Response Protocol / Safety Charts
- Agency Partnerships / Leadership Scenarios / SEPLA Conference

Communications and Community Engagement

- Community Outreach / Communications / Marketing

Operations

- 2024 Sinking Fund / Alternate Revenue / 2018 Bond Projects / 2026 Bond Proposal / Operations Review

Finance

- Indirect Cost Rates / Monitor 2025-26 Budget / School Funding Education

STRATEGIC AREA DISCUSSION ITEMS**Governance**

Superintendent's Update: Heidi Mercer discussed the following:

- **Legislative Update:** The Governor approved forgiveness days, and no make-up days are necessary for LOCS. Legislators are currently attending the Mackinac Policy Conference. Birgit McQuiston shared concerns about a proposed tax cut that would negatively impact the school aid fund.
- **Future Bond Planning:** A proposal for \$115 million is being planned for the November 2026 ballot.

Oakland Schools Board of Education Election - Second Reading: There is one candidate for the six-year term open on the Oakland Schools Board of Education. Birgit McQuiston will be the voting delegate, and Heather Sinawi will be the alternate to cast the LOCS vote at the June 1, 2026 election.

FY 2026-27 School Aid Budget Resolution: Board members reviewed a resolution supporting a timely, transparent, and adequately funded FY 2026-27 School Aid Budget.

Policy Committee Report: Danielle Bresett reported the committee met April 30 to review NEOLA update 40-2 and some miscellaneous revisions. They discussed social media guidance which will be developed by the Board Self Assessment Committee. Policy revisions will be brought for first reading on June 10.

Student Achievement

Assistant Superintendent Update: Drew Towleron discussed:

- **Student Handbook Revision:** The Board reviewed the recommended updates for the 2026-27 elementary, middle and high school handbooks.

Lamp of Learning Committee Report: Jake Singer reported the committee met May 1 to select scholarship recipients and discuss potential changes the ceremonies and awards.

Human Resources

Assistant Superintendent Update: Adam Weldon discussed:

- **Certified New Hire Recommendations:** A recommendation to hire twenty-two certified teachers was reviewed.
- **Administrative Recommendations:** A recommendation to hire two administrators was reviewed.

Superintendent Evaluation Report: Danielle Bresett reported the full Board met in closed session on May 27 for the mid-year check point to review goal progress.

Finance and Operations

Assistant Superintendent Update: Andrea Curtis discussed:

- **LOHS Paving Bid Award:** The Board reviewed a recommendation to contract with Hutch Paving for paving work at LOHS totaling \$744,728.
- **Oakland Schools 2026-27 Proposed Budget - Second Reading:** The Board reviewed the proposed general fund revenue and expenditure summaries.
- **International Academy FY 2027 Budget - First Reading:** The Board reviewed the proposed revenue and expenditure summaries. The Board will take action on this item on June 10.

April Monthly Financial Report: General fund/cash balance reports were reviewed.

ACTION ITEMS

Moved by McQuiston, seconded by Sinawi, to approve the consent agenda items as presented:

- a. Approve Payment of the April Bills in the Amount of \$10,665,202.85
- b. Approve Minutes from the April 22 Regular Meeting and Closed Session, April 30 Policy Committee and May 1, 2026 Lamp of Learning Committee Meetings
- c. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Requests
 1. LOHS Thespian Troupe Officers - Rochester, MI, August 3-5, 2026
 2. LOHS Bands and Choirs - Orlando, FL, February 11-16, 2027

Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by Sinawi, seconded by Flaherty, to adopt the Oakland Schools Board of Education Election Resolution, as discussed. Roll call: Ayes-7 (Bresett, Faber, Flaherty, McQuiston, Sinawi, Singer, Taylor); Nays-0; Motion carried

Moved by Singer, seconded by McQuiston, to adopt a Resolution Supporting a Timely, Transparent, and Adequately Funded FY 2026-27 School Aid Budget, as presented. Roll call: Ayes-7 (Bresett, Faber, Flaherty, McQuiston, Sinawi, Singer, Taylor); Nays-0; Motion carried

Moved by Sinawi, seconded by Faber, to approve the proposed revisions for the Elementary School, Middle School, High School and Learning Options Student Handbooks for 2026-2027, as presented. Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by Taylor, seconded by Flaherty, to approve twenty-two (22) certified new hires as presented. Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by McQuiston, seconded by Taylor, to approve appointing Chrissandra Padilla as the Early Childhood Center Director, as recommended. Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by Taylor, seconded by Sinawi, to approve appointing Erin Schmuhl as the Carpenter Elementary Principal, as recommended. Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by Sinawi, seconded by McQuiston, to authorize administration to finalize and execute a contract with Hutch Paving Inc. for paving work at LOHS in the amount of \$582,387.00, with allowances and contingencies of \$162,341.00, for a total recommendation of \$744,728.00. Ayes - all; Motion carried

Moved by Taylor, seconded by Singer, to adopt a resolution supporting the proposed 2026-27 Oakland ISD General Fund Budget, as presented. Roll call: Ayes-7 (Bresett, Faber, Flaherty, McQuiston, Sinawi, Singer, Taylor); Nays-0; Motion carried

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR OTHER NON-ACTION ITEMS/TOPICS

Linda Hake, a district parent, addressed the Board regarding concerns she has with the CERC building.

Rich Schroeder, a district parent, addressed the Board regarding concerns he has with the CERC building.

Megan McCarty, a district parent, addressed the Board regarding concerns she has with the CERC building.

Clarie M., a district student, addressed the Board regarding concerns she has with the CERC building.

RECAP/NEXT STEPS

- Administration will provide Board members data on how many students opt out of SAEBRS testing.

CLOSING COMMENTS: Administrator and Board member items were provided for and so noted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Board Secretary