

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Livonia Public Schools
15125 Farmington Road
Regular Meeting
November 25, 2019**

President Johnson convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. in the Board Room, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Members Present

Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson

Members Absent

Bonifield

LPS Educators and Support Staff of the Year

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt resolutions for the 2019-2020 Educators and Support Staff of the Year.

RESOLUTION

Kitty Yost

WHEREAS, *The Trustees of the Board of Education are desirous of recognizing and promoting excellence in education in this school district; and*

WHEREAS, *Kitty Yost, a fifth-grade teacher at Cooper Upper Elementary, and a 27-year employee of Livonia Public Schools, has distinguished herself by being named Elementary Educator of the Year for 2019-2020 by a district-wide committee of teachers, support staff and administrators; and*

WHEREAS, *In achieving that recognition, it is evident that she is an exceptional educator, going far beyond the expected range of her duties to meet the needs of students, colleagues, parents, and others; and*

WHEREAS, *Kitty believes that all children need to feel supported and cared for, before they are ready to do their best learning; and she is willing to go above and beyond to build and maintain relationships with her students while instilling the value of hard work in the classroom and in life.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *that the Trustees of the Board of Education do hereby commend and congratulate Kitty Yost for being named Elementary Educator of the Year for 2019-2020 and for the dedication and loyal service she has rendered to Livonia Public Schools, her students, and the community.*

RESOLUTION

Christianne Antonelli

WHEREAS, *The Trustees of the Board of Education are desirous of recognizing and promoting excellence in education in this school district; and*

***WHEREAS**, Christianne Antonelli, a business and marketing teacher at Stevenson High School, and a 20-year employee of Livonia Public Schools, has distinguished herself by being named Secondary Educator of the Year for 2019-2020 by a district-wide committee of teachers, support staff and administrators; and*

***WHEREAS**, In achieving that recognition, it is evident that she is an exceptional educator, going far beyond the expected range of her duties to meet the needs of students, colleagues, parents, and others; and*

***WHEREAS**, Christianne has shown a deep dedication to educating her students and supporting her students' growth, both academically and by instilling and modeling the "soft skills" and interpersonal skills they will need to be successful after completing their education in Livonia Public Schools.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Trustees of the Board of Education do hereby commend and congratulate Christianne Antonelli for being named Secondary Educator of the Year for 2019-2020 and for the dedication and loyal service she has rendered to Livonia Public Schools, her students, and the community.*

RESOLUTION
Abigail Knoph

***WHEREAS**, The Trustees of the Board of Education are desirous of recognizing and promoting excellence in education in this school district; and*

***WHEREAS**, Abigail Knoph, a paraprofessional in the Western Wayne Skill Center program at Garfield Community School, and a 3-year employee of Livonia Public Schools, has distinguished herself by being named Support Staff Member of the Year for 2019-2020 by a district-wide committee of teachers, support staff and administrators; and*

***WHEREAS**, In achieving that recognition, it is evident that she is an exceptional employee, going far beyond the expected range of her duties to meet the needs of students, colleagues, parents, and others; and*

***WHEREAS**, Abigail displays a genuine gift in her ability to connect with students by placing the focus on their abilities; and in doing so, she has affected her students' overall growth and confidence, both inside and outside of the classroom.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Trustees of the Board of Education do hereby commend and congratulate Abigail Knoph for being named Support Staff Member of the Year for 2019-2020 and for the dedication and loyal service she has rendered to Livonia Public Schools, her students, and the community.*

Ayes: Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

**American
Education Week**

It was moved by Mrs. Burton and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District designate November 18-22, 2019 as the 98th annual observance of American Education Week.

American Education Week
November 18-22, 2019
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality; and

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and

WHEREAS, public education employees work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, schools unite entire communities, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District do hereby proclaim November 18 - 22, 2019 as the 98th annual observance of

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

And urge all citizens to make a commitment to public education and to the future of our children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education take this special occasion to thank Livonia Public Schools employees, parents and community volunteers for the work they do to educate and support the children of our school district.

Ayes: Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

District Update from the Superintendent

Superintendent Oquist shared information about the activities and accomplishments of LPS students and staff throughout the District, and presented a slideshow with some of the highlights.

Recess

The Board recessed the meeting for approximately ten minutes to visit with guests and resumed the meeting to continue their business.

Written Communication

None

Audience Communication

Ms. Frank Gullekson and Ms. Carol Marcus addressed the Board regarding concerns about Ms. Gullekson's substitute teaching position through EduStaff.

Response to Prior Audience Communication

None

Consent

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mrs. Burton that

Agenda

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 October 28, 2019

VI.A. Approval to Purchase Door Hardware – Michigan State Police Safety Grant (Door Hardware from FBH Architectural Security, Flint, Michigan, in the amount of \$28,634.00)

Ayes: Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson

Nays: None

Approval of Lease Renewal – Life Church of Livonia

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the lease agreement with Life Church of Livonia, effective November 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, for a total amount of \$12,840.00.

Ayes: Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson

Nays: None

Teachers for Approval

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 offer employment for the 2019-20 school year to the following teachers:

Del Pizzo, Tanino Dante	1.0 Teacher, Moderate Cognitive Impairment Garfield Community School
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Parise, Rebecca	1.0 Elementary Student Assistance Provider Cooper Upper Elementary
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Ayes: Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson

Nays: None

Teachers for Tenure

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

Amanda Belczak	October 30, 2019
Heather Brubaker	August 29, 2019
Kari Parnell	November 15, 2019

Ayes: Bradford, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson

Abstain: Burton (member of her extended family is on the list)

Nays: None

Resignations

As authorized in the Board of Education motion of June 3, 2019, a resignation has been accepted by the superintendent for:

Simone Argue	December 3, 2019
Christopher Woodruff	November 1, 2019

Retirements

It was moved by Mrs. Bradford and supported by Mr. Centers that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt resolutions of appreciation for services rendered by:

Mary Ann Ingram, who will retire from the District on January 15, 2020, and will have devoted 22.6 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a paraprofessional at Grant Elementary, Nankin Mills Elementary, and Garfield Elementary; and a secretary at central office.

Eileen Walsh, who will retire from the District on January 10, 2020, and will have devoted 22.4 years of dedicated, loyal, and outstanding service to the Livonia Public Schools as a paraprofessional at Perrinville Early Childhood Center and Roosevelt Elementary.

Ayes: Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

Sympathy Resolution for Family of Sally Erickson, Teacher at Cooper Upper Elementary School

It was moved by Mrs. Jarvis 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 Sally Erickson.

The Board unanimously approved the adoption of this resolution:

**SYMPATHY RESOLUTION
Sally Erickson**

WHEREAS, The Board of Education was deeply saddened to hear of the untimely death of Sally Erickson; and,

WHEREAS, She was a valued staff member in the Livonia Public Schools School District; an elementary teacher at Tyler Elementary and Cooper Upper Elementary; and,

WHEREAS, She consistently demonstrated her outstanding dedication, care, and commitment to students, parents, and colleagues; and,

WHEREAS, Sally Erickson will always be remembered with great fondness and with a profound sense of gratitude for the immeasurable contributions she made to our school district;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District offers its deepest sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of Sally Erickson.

Ayes: Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

First Reading of

Proposed changes to the policies below were previously reviewed by

Board Policies: the Board. These policies will be on the agenda of the next regular Board meeting for a second reading and potential approval.

JB –

Compulsory Attendance

**BOARD POLICY
STUDENTS**

JB

JANUARY 12, 2015

~~ATTENDANCE~~ **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE**

Regular and timely student attendance is vital to a student's success and will be a common and shared expectation of the schools, the parents, and the students.

JBA –

Placement of Students

Attendance in the elementary and secondary schools of the Livonia Public Schools School District shall be in accordance with the law.

JBE – Truancy

The law in Michigan governing compulsory attendance requires a parent, legal guardian, or other person having control of a child age six to eighteen to send the child to school during the entire school year, except under limited circumstances specified in the Revised School Code, subsection (3) of subsection 380.1561.

JGCC –

Communicable Diseases

Children becoming six years of age before September 1 shall be enrolled on the first day of the school year in which their sixth birthday occurs. A child becoming six years of age on or after September 1 shall be enrolled on the first school day of the school year following the child's sixth birthday.

JK –

Fundraising Activities

The School District shall report to the appropriate authorities any child who is absent from school in violation of the compulsory attendance law.

BCBK –

Executive (Closed) Sessions

Parents are responsible for contacting the school in all cases of student absence. All absences will be classified as excused, unexcused, or school business. An excused absence is defined as an absence beyond the control of the student (e.g. illness, family emergency) and reported to the school by the student's parent or guardian within the designated timeframe. An unexcused absence will result when the parent or guardian does not notify the school of the student's absence within the designated timeframe. A school business absence includes field trips, counselor appointments, or other instances when the student is legitimately absent from class but is present in or involved with a school function. In cases of doubt, the administrator will make the final determination as to whether an absence is excused or unexcused. **Exceptions to the attendance policy may be applicable to a student eligible under either the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.**

More than three consecutive days of absence is considered to be an extended absence. A total of ten or more absences is considered to be excessive. Written documentation may be requested by the school administration for cases of extended or excessive absences.

Attendance Records

Attendance records shall be maintained in accordance with law.

**BOARD POLICY
STUDENTS**

JBA

MAY 16, 2016

~~COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AGES AND PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS~~ **ENROLLING TRANSFERRING INTO LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The law in Michigan governing compulsory attendance requires a parent, legal guardian, or other person having control of a child age six to sixteen to send the child to school during the entire school year, except under limited circumstances specified in the Revised School Code, subsection (3) of subsection 380.1561. A child who was age

~~elevated on or after December 1, 2009 or later shall attend school from age six to eighteen. Children becoming six (6) years of age before December 1 shall be enrolled on the first day of the school year in which their sixth birthday occurs. A child becoming six (6) years of age on or after December 1 shall be enrolled on the first school day of the school year following the child's sixth birthday.~~

Students who enroll into Livonia Public Schools should customarily be placed in the grade assigned by the previous school. Children who have completed kindergarten in another system but who are of LPS kindergarten age will be initially enrolled in kindergarten.

Adjustments may be made in grade placement when warranted by performance in our school setting.

If a grade level is impossible to determine, the student should usually be assigned to an age- appropriate grade level. The building principal has the discretion to place individual students at the most appropriate grade level.

A child who resides in the School District may enroll in kindergarten if the child is at least five years of age on September 1 of the school year of enrollment, as set by the State of Michigan.

If a child residing in the School District is not five years of age on September 1, but will be five years of age not later than December 1 of a school year, the parent or legal guardian of that child may enroll the child in kindergarten for that school year if the parent or legal guardian notifies the School District in writing that he or she intends to enroll the child in kindergarten for that school year. After receiving this notification, the School District may make a recommendation to the parent or legal guardian of the child that the child is not ready to enroll in kindergarten due to the child's age or other factors. However, regardless of this recommendation, the parent or legal guardian retains the sole discretion to determine whether or not to enroll the child in kindergarten.

Special Education Students

Special education programs and services are provided to eligible students from birth to age 26.

**BOARD POLICY
STUDENTS
TRUANCY**

**JBE
JUNE 20, 1988**

The Livonia Public Schools School District shall report to the appropriate authorities any child who is absent from school in violation of the compulsory attendance law.

**BOARD POLICY
STUDENTS
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

**JGCC
JUNE 20, 1988**

The Board of Education authorizes the superintendent or a the superintendent's designee in appropriate circumstances to exclude a student or employee from the premises of the School District when the individual is known or reasonably suspected to have contracted a communicable disease based on the Wayne County Department of Public Health Disease Control Division Communicable Disease Reference Chart.

The superintendent or the superintendent's designee is charged with the duty of establishing adhering to the aforementioned guidelines and procedures that provide, case by case, an assessment of the risks the infected individual presents to those persons who may come in contact with that individual. These guidelines and procedures must assure that confidentiality of the medical condition of the student or

employee is maintained and that information is disseminated only on a "need to know" basis.

~~The guidelines and procedures will assure that an administrative decision regarding educational programming and services or conditions of employment will be based in part on a recommendation of an inquiry team which may include health care personnel, the employee's or student's physician and other persons designated by the superintendent of schools.~~

BOARD POLICY

JK

STUDENTS

~~**JUNE 20, 1988**~~

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES SOLICITATIONS

~~**Reviewed 2014**~~

Fundraising activities refer to school and district sponsored activities that generate funds to support school programs and student activities. While there is recognition of the desire and need for fundraising, there is also the understanding for some constraint to prevent them from becoming too numerous and overly demanding on employees, students, parents, the business community, and the general public. The fundraising activities of each school shall be kept within a reasonable limit.

~~All fundraising activities must be compliant with federal, state, and local laws and All fundraising activities must have the prior approval of the superintendent or the superintendent's designee before announcing or advertising for the solicitation of funds.~~

BYLAWS OF THE BOARD

BCBK

BOARD OPERATIONS

~~**DECEMBER 4, 2000**~~

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSIONS

~~**Reviewed 12/2013**~~

The Board of Education may meet in closed session only for the following purposes:

1. To consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, when the named person requests a closed hearing. A person requesting a closed hearing may rescind the request at any time, in which case the matter at issue shall be considered thereafter only in open session. Requests for closed sessions shall be made in writing and signed by the individual(s) making said request.
2. To consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of a student when the student or the student's parent or guardian requests a closed hearing. Requests for closed sessions shall be made in writing and signed by the individual(s) making said request.
3. For strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement when either negotiating party requests a closed hearing.
4. To consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained.
5. To consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation, but only when an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the Board.
6. To review the specific contents of an application for employment or appointment to public office when the candidate requests that the application remain confidential. However, all interviews by the Board for employment or appointment to public office shall be held in an open meeting.
7. ~~To consider security planning to address existing threats or prevent potential~~

threats to the safety of the students and staff.

8. To consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.

For the purposes identified in Items 1, 2, and 3, a simple majority vote is sufficient to adopt in the public portion of the meeting the motion to convene a closed session. For items 4-8 7, a two thirds roll call vote of the members in open session is required to call a closed session.

The purpose of the closed session shall be stated at the time the vote is taken. The closed session shall be recorded in separate minutes which shall not be made a matter of public record except as provided in P.A. 267. Votes on matters considered in closed session must be taken in a public meeting and entered into the minutes of that meeting.

**Second
Reading of
Board Policy
EB – Buildings
and Grounds**

It was moved by Mrs. Burton and supported by Mrs. Bradford that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee and adopt Board Policy language per the attached document for:

**BOARD POLICY
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

**EB
NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent or the superintendent's designee to oversee the maintenance of District-owned buildings and grounds. The condition and maintenance of school facilities and grounds is the responsibility of the school custodial staff with support from the District's Maintenance and Operations Departments, under the direction of the school's principal and the operations administrator. All regular practices to maintain schools in appropriate condition shall be in accordance with District practices and procedures.

Upon request, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall provide the Board of Education with information as to the general condition of the District's buildings and grounds. Inventories of capital assets shall be maintained to protect the School District in the event of losses from fire, theft, or any other causes. All District-owned assets shall be utilized for the maximum benefit of District operations.

Ayes: Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson

Nays: None

**Second
Reading of
Board Policy
EBB – Safety
Protocol**

It was moved by Mr. Centers and supported by Mrs. Jarvis that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee and adopt Board Policy language per the attached document for:

**BOARD POLICY
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
SAFETY PROTOCOL**

**EBB
NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

The administration shall attempt to prevent accidents from occurring by taking reasonable precautions to protect the safety of all students, employees, visitors and others present on District property or at school-sponsored events.

It is the responsibility of the administrative staff to assure the safety of children while under the supervision of School District employees.

The staff shall adhere to recommended safety practices as they pertain to the school buildings and grounds, special areas of instruction, student transportation, school activities, occupational safety, etc.

Each school’s principal or designated leading administrator shall be responsible for the supervision of a safety program for his/her school, including adherence to the safety drill requirements per state law. The superintendent or superintendent’s designee shall have overall responsibility for the safety program of the District. The superintendent or superintendent’s designee shall inform appropriate staff members of current state and local requirements relating to safety protocols.

Ayes: Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

**Second
Reading of
Board Policy
EBBC –
Emergency
Drills**

It was moved by Mrs. Frank and supported by Mrs. Burton that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee and adopt Board Policy language per the attached document for:

**BOARD POLICY
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
EMERGENCY DRILLS**

**EBBC
NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

The superintendent or the superintendent’s designee shall develop and implement, in cooperation with appropriate local agencies, any drills, plans or other arrangements to meet such emergencies as fires, tornadoes, lockdowns or other such events, natural or man-made, which require special measures for protecting the safety and welfare of students and staff in accordance with law.

Ayes: Bradford, Burton, Centers, Frank, Jarvis, Johnson
Nays: None

**Adjournment
Off/Supt/jw**

President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.