



**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE OAKLAND SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO CONSIDER THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES
BETWEEN SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AND BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

March 20, 2024

- 1. Call to Order** - Board President George Ehlert called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm on March 20, 2024, at Oakland Schools, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, Michigan.
- 2. Roll Call** – Board Secretary Williams called the roll.

Present: Board Members George Ehlert, Theresa Rich, Marc Katz, Connie Williams, Steven Gottlieb

- 3. Introductions** – Board President Ehlert introduced Board Members Theresa Rich, Marc Katz, Connie Williams and Steven Gottlieb and he stated that Oakland Schools Administration is represented by the presence of Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson, Superintendent; Mr. Ken Gutman, Deputy Superintendent; Teri Les, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations; Dandridge Floyd, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; and Sherry McMillan, Executive Director of Legal Affairs.

The Board President stated that Mr. Joshua Farr, the Petitioner, was present in support of the petition and Ms. Lisa Gardner, legal counsel for Southfield Public Schools, was present in opposition to the petition. He stated that the Deputy Superintendent from Birmingham Public Schools indicated that the district will not be represented at this hearing.

In accordance with state and federal law, Oakland Schools does not discriminate, nor permit discrimination, on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sex, pregnancy or parental status, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, height, weight, marital status, military service, veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, in its educational programs and activities, employment, or enrollment. The District also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. For questions or complaints regarding unlawful discrimination or harassment, employees should contact the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Personnel Management and Labor Relations at (248) 209-2429 or HR@oakland.k12.mi.us. Students and others should contact the Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator at (248) 209-2590 or Jacqueline.Zablocki@oakland.k12.mi.us.

4. Statement of Purpose of Public Hearing – Sherry McMillan stated the following:

“This public hearing is scheduled to consider a block property transfer petition brought by a resident homeowner seeking to transfer property between two local school districts in Oakland County in accordance with the Revised School Code. The Petitioner requests the boundary lines of the Southfield Public Schools and Birmingham Public Schools be changed by transferring parcels 24-10-302-008, located in the Township of Southfield, and 24-10-302-009, located in the City of Southfield and commonly known as 30065 Vernon Drive, from the Southfield Public Schools to the Birmingham Public Schools. The Oakland Schools Board of Education must determine whether the petition meets the eligibility requirements for a block property transfer including whether the property is contiguous to Birmingham Public Schools and whether the petitioner owns each parcel. If the property is eligible to be transferred, the Board of Education will decide whether to grant or deny the property transfer request. The Oakland Schools Board of Education has discretion in the factors it considers relevant to a block property transfer request related to the educational opportunities for the children involved such as transportation factors of distance, safety, and availability, Petitioner’s ties to the community, the effect of the transfer on the affected school district, and the racial population of the affected districts, the availability of alternatives (school of choice), the knowledge or lack of knowledge of the location of the property when purchasing, and educational needs.”

5. Presentation of Official Documents - Sherry McMillan presented the following official documents:

- Documents submitted by the Petitioner seeking to transfer Parcels 24-10-302-008 located in the Township of Southfield and 24-10-302-009 located in the City of Southfield and commonly known as 30065 Vernon Drive
- Maps provided by Oakland County distinguishing the municipal boundaries and the public school district boundaries
- Maps provided by the Petitioner
- Deeds for Parcel 24-10-302-008 and Parcel 24-10-302-009.
- Legal description of the property
- Legal opinion and legal analysis from Dickinson Wright law firm concerning the ownership of Parcel 24-10-302-008 and Parcel 24-10-302-009 and the eligibility for transfer
- Correspondence from the Michigan Department of Education regarding the eligibility for transfer and the appeal process

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- Correspondence from the Birmingham Public Schools and the Southfield Public Schools agreeing to abide by the decision of the Oakland Schools Board of Education
- State Equalized Valuation for both parcels from Oakland County
- Proof of publication that the public notice was published in the Oakland Press on March 8, 2024, in accordance with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act
- Notices of Hearing to Petitioner, Birmingham Public Schools and Southfield Public Schools informing them of the date, time and place of the property transfer hearing

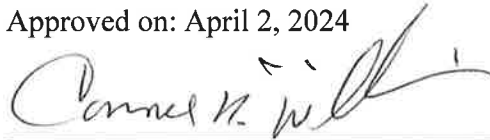
6. **Testimony From Those Favoring Transfer** - Mr. Joshua Farr provided testimony in favor of the transfer.
7. **Testimony From Those Opposing Transfer** - Ms. Lisa Gardner provided testimony in opposition to the transfer.
8. **Questions, Discussion, and Summary Statement** – Board Members posed questions to Mr. Farr and Ms. Lisa Gardner and discussion ensued. Sherry McMillan presented a summary statement.
9. **Board Action** - Board President Ehlert asked the Board if the Petitioner has established ownership of Parcel 24-10-302-008 and Parcel 24-10-302-009 resulting in the parcels being eligible for transfer from Southfield Public Schools to Birmingham Public Schools. Board Secretary Connie Williams called the roll.

Ehlert – No Rich – No Katz – No Gottlieb – No Williams – No

The Petitioner's request for property transfer was denied.

10. **Adjournment** - The Board President adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

Approved on: April 2, 2024



Connie R. Williams, Board Secretary

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