Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District

Meeting Location: LPS Admin Bldg., 15125 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI 48154

6:30pm meeting / Board Room

Minutes of Regular Meeting / January 26, 2026

ROLL CALL: Present - Karen Bradford, President / Madeline Acosta, Secretary / Colleen Burton, Trustee / Mark Johnson, Trustee / Dave MacFarland, Trustee Absent: Crystal Frank, Vice President / Liz Jarvis, Trustee

President Bradford Commenced the meeting at 6:31pm

AGENDA:

III. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Presentation of 40 Year Awards: It was moved by Mr. Johnson and supported by Mrs. Burton that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District adopt resolutions of appreciation for Joseph Libtow and Carl Roberts, recognizing 40 years of continuous employment with Livonia Public Schools.

Ayes: Bradford, Acosta, Burton, Johnson, MacFarland
Nays: None

B. Presentation of Golden Apple Award: Mrs. Jenkins led the presentation of the Golden Apple Award to recipient, Albert Nickel. Mr. Nickel was nominated by Hayes Elementary staff and is a Crossing Guard for both Hayes and Cooper Upper elementary schools. Mr. Nickel shared how much he loves his job and enjoys the school communities he's part of.

C. Recognition of School Board Appreciation: Mrs. Jenkins led the presentation of School Board Appreciation Month. She spoke about the Board's exemplary and distinguished reputation among Michigan school boards, their Honor Board status, their presenting at the MASB Conference and the numerous ways the Board displays its commitment and dedication to the Livonia Public Schools community throughout the year. Mrs. Jenkins read the Wayne RESA Resolution and State of

Michigan proclamations in their honor.

D. Board of Education Election of Officers 2026:
Mark Johnson nominated Colleen Burton to the office of **President**. Colleen Burton accepted the nomination which passed in voting.

Ayes: Bradford, Acosta, Burton, Johnson, MacFarland
Nays: None

Colleen Burton nominated Crystal Frank to the office of **Vice President**. During the Study Session and Committee of the Whole meetings, the Board discussed the election at length. Crystal Frank was present for both meetings and agreed to accept nomination to the office prior to this Regular Meeting. As such, Crystal Frank previously accepted the nomination which passed in voting.

Ayes: Bradford, Acosta, Burton, Johnson, MacFarland
Nays: None

Dave MacFarland nominated Madeline Acosta to the office of **Secretary**. Madeline Acosta accepted the nomination which passed in voting.

Ayes: Bradford, Acosta, Burton, Johnson, MacFarland
Nays: None

It was moved by Mr. Johnson and supported by Mrs. Burton that Alison Smith be appointed **Treasurer** of the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District for 2026 until the next annual election of officers.

Ayes: Bradford, Acosta, Burton, Johnson, MacFarland
Nays: None

E. Audience Communications: None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

It was moved by Mr. MacFarland and supported by Mr. Johnson that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District approve the following Consent agenda items:

*Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 20, 2026
*Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2025

Ayes: Bradford, Acosta, Johnson, MacFarland
Nayes: None

VI. BUSINESS MATTERS: None

VII. INSTRUCTION MATTERS:

A. Expulsion of One Secondary Student: It was moved by Mr. Johnson and supported by Mrs. Acosta that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District expel one secondary student for violations of the Livonia Public Schools' Board of Education policies.

Ayes: Bradford, Acosta, Johnson, MacFarland
Nays: None

VIII. PERSONNEL MATTERS:

A. Teachers for Approval: It was moved by Mr. MacFarland and supported by Mr. Johnson that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and offer employment to the following:

Amy Assenmacher / 1.0 FTE / Occupational Therapist / Student Services
Ashlyn Doner / 1.0 FTE / Phys. Ed & Health Teacher / Stevenson
Rachael Isaacson / 1.0 FTE / ASD Teacher / Johnson
Megan Stratz / 1.0 FTE / Spanish Teacher / Stevenson

Ayes: Bradford, Acosta, Johnson, MacFarland
Nays: None

B. Teachers for Tenure: It was moved by Mrs. Acosta and supported by Mr. MacFarland 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:

Amanda Jacobs / January 3, 2026
Alisyn Warner / January 16, 2026
Kara Pajor / January 22, 2026

Ayes: Bradford, Acosta, Johnson, MacFarland
Nays: None

C. Resignation: The Board was notified of the following resignation:

Anthony Abbate / January 16, 2026

IX. HEARING FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

A. Second Reading Board Policy JBE - Truancy: It was moved by Mr. Johnson and supported by Mrs. Acosta that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the Board Policy Committee and adopt the following Board Policy language:

BOARD POLICY **JBE**
STUDENTS
TRUANCY **JANUARY 26, 2026**

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.

LEGAL REF.: MCL 380.1561, 1577, 1586

Ayes: Bradford, Acosta, Johnson, MacFarland
Nays: None

B. Second Reading Board Policy DK - Student Activities Fund Management: It was moved by Mr. MacFarland and supported by Mr. Johnson that the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District accept the recommendation of the Board Policy Committee and adopt the following Board Policy language:

BOARD POLICY **DK**
FISCAL MANAGEMENT
STUDENT ACTIVITIES FUND MANAGEMENT **JANUARY 26, 2026**

The Board of Education authorizes the establishment and maintenance of a student activity accounts at each of the schools of the district. An administrator of the school shall be responsible for the proper administration of the financial activities of each student activity account in accordance with the provisions of state law and appropriate accounting practices and procedures. All cash and checks collected must be deposited in full and under no circumstances may collected cash be retained or used directly for purchases or refunds. Deposits shall be prepared and submitted weekly or as directed by the Finance Office. All payments made from the student activity account shall have the approval of the administrator responsible for the student activity account.

The annual school district audit shall include an audit of student activity funds. Payment for the audit shall be made from district funds.

Reserves shall be limited to amounts estimated as necessary for the beginning of the following year's operation unless being used by agreement for multi-year fundraising efforts.

Monies raised by student organizations must be expended for the benefit of the students.

The Superintendent shall establish appropriate rules and regulations for the implementation of this policy.

Ayes: Bradford, Acosta, Johnson, MacFarland
Nays: None

C. First Reading Board Policy DFL - Investments: The Board Policy Committee reviewed changes to the following Policy which the Board then recommended for a second reading:

BOARD POLICY **DFL**
FISCAL MANAGEMENT ~~**JUNE 20, 2005**~~
INVESTMENTS **FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

The purpose of this policy is to establish the objectives, standards, and parameters for investing public funds of the District. The District's investment objectives, in priority order, are to safeguard public funds and preserve principal, to maintain sufficient liquidity to meet operational and capital needs, and to achieve a reasonable rate of return given market conditions.

The Board shall appoint a Treasurer/Investment Officer to oversee the day-to-day management of District's investments. The Treasurer/Investment Officer shall be responsible for the transferring of appropriate funds to affect investment transactions, for the investment of operating funds, operating reserves funds, and bond proceeds, consistent with this policy and action of the Board. Unless otherwise authorized by the Board of Education, District funds shall be invested through the Michigan Liquid Asset Fund Plus (MILAF+).

This investment policy applies to all cash and investments held or controlled by the District that are not required to meet day-to-day operational needs. This policy does not apply to funds related to the issuance of debt where there are other governing documents in effect for such funds. Additionally, any future revenues, which have statutory investment requirements conflicting with this Investment Policy and funds held or controlled by Federal or State agencies are not subject to the provisions of this policy.

Investments and Depositories are restricted to those in compliance with MCL 380.622, 380.1221, 380.1223, and 141.2705

~~Section 1. PURPOSE.~~

~~The purpose of this Policy is to set forth the investment objectives and parameters for the management of public funds of Livonia Public Schools School District "the District." This investment policy is designed to safeguard funds on behalf of the District, to assure the availability of operating and capital funds when needed, and provide an investment return competitive with comparable funds and financial market indices.~~

~~Section 2. SCOPE.~~

~~In accordance with The Revised School Code of Michigan, Act 451 380.622, 380.1221 and 380.1223, this investment policy applies to all cash and investments held or controlled by the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education "the Board" on behalf of the District. This policy does not apply to funds related to the issuance of debt where there are other indentures in effect for such funds. Additionally, any future revenues, which have statutory investment requirements conflicting with this Investment Policy and funds held or controlled by Federal or State agencies (e.g., Department of Revenue), are not subject to the provisions of this policy.~~

~~Section 3. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES.~~

~~The primary objectives, in priority order, of investment activities shall be safety, liquidity, and yield.~~

~~A. Safety of Principal.~~

~~The foremost objective of this investment program is the safety of the principal of funds. Investment transactions shall be undertaken in a manner to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio. The objective will be to minimize credit risk and interest rate risk. In order to comply with statutory and standards requirements, Credit Risk, Concentration Credit Risk, and Interest Rate Risk shall be disclosed in the District's financial statement, in accordance with statutory and standards requirements, when necessary.~~

~~i. Credit Risk (Custodial Credit Risk and Concentration Credit Risk)~~

~~Credit risk exists when there is a possibility the issuer or other counter-party to an investment may be unable to fulfill its obligations. With the exception of credit quality ratings for debt securities guaranteed by the United States government, the District's investments shall include only those with credit quality ratings as set by nationally-recognized statistical rating organizations for any~~

investments in debt securities, external investment pools, money market funds, bond mutual funds, and other pooled investments of fixed-income securities.

The District will minimize Custodial Credit Risk, which is the risk of loss due to the failure of the security issuer or backer, by limiting investments to the types of securities listed in Section 9 of this Investment Policy; and pre-qualifying the financial institutions, broker/dealers, intermediaries and advisors with which the District will do business in accordance with Section 7 of this Investment Policy.

Since an increased risk of loss occurs as more investments are acquired from one issuer due to lack of diversification, the District will minimize Concentration of Credit Risk, which is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the District's investment in a single issuer, by diversifying the investment portfolio so that the impact of the potential losses from any one type of security or issuer will be minimized.

ii. Investment Rate Risk

Interest Rate Risk exists when there is a possibility that changes in interest rates could adversely affect an investment's fair value. The District will minimize Interest Rate Risk by structuring the investment portfolio so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities in the open market; and, investing operating funds primarily in shorter-term securities, liquid asset funds, money market mutual funds, or similar investment pools and limiting the average maturity in accordance with the District's cash requirements.

iii. Foreign Currency Risk

The District is not authorized to invest in investments which have this type of risk.

B. Maintenance of Liquidity.

The funds shall be managed such that they are available to meet reasonably anticipated cash flow requirements.

C. Yield/Return on Investment.

Investment portfolios shall be designed with the objective of attaining a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, taking into account the investment risk constraints and liquidity needs. It is understood that return on investment is of secondary importance when compared to the safety and liquidity objectives described above.

Section 4. MANAGEMENT OF INVESTMENTS.

The Board shall establish an Investment Officer to oversee the day-to-day management of District's investments. The Investment Officer shall be responsible for the transferring of appropriate funds to affect investment transactions, for the investment of operating funds, operating reserves funds, and bond proceeds, consistent with this policy and action of the Board. Should the Board elect to select an outside investment advisor, such advisor or firm must be registered under the Investment Advisor's Act of 1940.

Section 5. STANDARDS OF PRUDENCE.

The standard of prudence to be used by the Investment Officer shall be the "Prudent Person" standard and shall be applied in the context of managing the overall investment program. The Prudent Person standard states:

"Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probable income to be derived from the investment."

Section 6. ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.

In order to qualify for the position, at the time of appointment, The Investment Officer shall currently have no personal business activity that conflicts and shall, after appointment, refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair one's ability to make impartial investment decisions. Also, the Investment Officer shall disclose to the Board any material financial interests in Qualified Institutions that conduct business with the Board or the District, and they shall further disclose any material personal financial/investment positions that could be related to the performance of the District's investment program.

Section 7. AUTHORIZED INVESTMENT INSTITUTIONS AND DEALERS.

Only firms meeting one of the following requirements shall be eligible to serve as Authorized Institutions:

A. The firm must comply with all of the following requirements.

i. Primary and regional dealers that qualify under Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15C3-1 (uniform net capital rule);
ii. Capital of no less than $10,000,000;
iii. Registered as a dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;
iv. A member of the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD);
v. Registered to sell securities in Michigan; and
vi. The firm and assigned broker have been engaged in the business of effecting transactions in U.S. government and agency obligations for at least five (5) consecutive years; or

B. Public Depositories qualified in accordance with MCL 380.1221, The Revised School Code of Michigan.

All brokers, dealers and other financial institutions deemed to be Authorized Institutions shall be provided with current copies of this investment policy and shall provide in return to the Board, certification of having read, understood and agreement to comply with this investment policy.

Section 8. COMPETITIVE SELECTION OF INVESTMENT INSTRUMENTS.

The Investment Officer shall obtain bids from at least two (2) brokers or financial institutions on all purchases of investment instruments on the secondary market. Overnight sweep investment instruments shall not be subject to this section.

Section 9. AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS AND PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION.

Investments and Depositories are restricted to those complying with MCL 380.622, 380.1221, and 380.1223. These include:

A. United States Government Securities.
B. United States Government Agencies.
C. Federal Instrumentalities (United States Government-Sponsored Enterprises).
D. Certificates of Deposit.
E. Repurchase Agreements.
F. Commercial Paper.
G. Bankers' Acceptances.
H. Registered Investment Companies (Money Market Mutual Funds).
I. Investment pools, as authorized by the surplus funds investment pool act, 1982 PA 367, MCL 129.111 to 129.118, composed entirely of instruments that are legal for direct investment by an intermediate school district.

~~Section 10. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS.~~

~~A. Any investment held at the time of the implementation of this policy that meets the requirements of MCL 380.622, 380.1221, and 380.1223 but does not meet the guidelines of this policy, shall be exempted from the requirements of this policy. At maturity or liquidation, such monies shall be reinvested only as provided by this policy.~~

~~B. Amendments.~~

~~This policy shall be reviewed from time to time. The Board must adopt any changes to this policy.~~

~~**CERTIFICATION OF AUTHORIZED INSTITUTION**~~

~~The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education acknowledges it has read, understands and agrees to comply with the Investment Policy of the Livonia Public Schools School District.~~

~~By: Kevin Whitehead~~
~~Title: President, Livonia Public Schools Board of Education~~
~~Date: May 31, 2005~~

D. First Reading Board Policy JDA - Corporal Punishment Prohibition: The Board Policy Committee reviewed changes to the following Policy which the Board then recommended for a second reading:

BOARD POLICY **JDA**
STUDENTS ~~**MAY 1992**~~
CORPORAL PUNISHMENT PROHIBITION ~~Reviewed 8/2017~~
FEBRUARY 23, 2026

The use of corporal punishment is prohibited. Corporal punishment means the deliberate infliction of physical pain by hitting, paddling, spanking, slapping, or any other physical force used as a means of discipline.

Corporal punishment does not include physical pain caused by reasonable physical activities associated with athletic training.

A person employed by or engaged as a volunteer or contractor by the district shall not inflict or cause to be inflicted corporal punishment upon any pupil under any circumstances.

A person employed by or engaged as a volunteer or contractor by the district may use reasonable physical ~~force~~ intervention upon a pupil as necessary to maintain order and control in a school or school-related setting for the purpose of providing an environment conducive to safety and learning. In maintaining that order and control, the person may use physical ~~force~~ intervention upon a pupil as may be necessary:

1. To restrain or remove a pupil whose behavior is interfering with the orderly exercise and performance of school district functions within a school or at a school-related activity, if that pupil has refused to comply with a request to refrain from further disruptive acts.
2. For self-defense or the defense of another.
3. To prevent a pupil from inflicting harm on himself or herself.
4. To quell a disturbance that threatens physical injury to any person.
5. To obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object upon or within the control of a pupil.
6. ~~To protect property.~~

The district makes available to each employee, volunteer, and contractor a list of alternatives to the use of corporal punishment, which shall be consistent with a crisis prevention and intervention framework, outlined in the following: JDA-Exhibit

CROSS REF.: JDAAA-Emergency Use of Seclusion and Restraint
LEGAL REF.: MCL, 380.1312 JDA- Exhibit

E. First Reading Board Policy JDAAA - Emergency Use of Seclusion and Restraint: The Board Policy Committee reviewed changes to the following Policy which the Board then recommended for a second reading:

BOARD POLICY **JDAAA**
STUDENTS ~~**AUGUST 21, 2017**~~
EMERGENCY USE OF SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT **FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

The Livonia Public Schools' Board of Education, administration, and instructional staff recognize the importance of supporting student conduct to maintain an atmosphere of quality instruction in order to promote school achievement. It is the policy of the District to provide a safe educational environment for all of its students.

Student~~s'~~ behavior, at times, may necessitate the use of Emergency Seclusion and Restraint in order to maintain the safety of the student or others. Seclusion and/or physical restraint interventions are intended as a last resort for use in emergency situations only, in which a pupil's behavior poses an imminent risk to the safety of self or others. Each emergency intervention use should provide an opportunity for the pupil to regain self-control while the staff member is maintaining safety. Diligent situation assessment, monitoring, documentation, and reporting by trained personnel are required.

The administration will utilize: (1) proper procedure for seclusion as outlined in the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Policy for the Emergency Use of Seclusion and Restraint; (2) proper procedure for restraint as outlined in the MDE Policy for the Emergency Use of Seclusion and Restraint; (3) annual awareness training for all staff; and (4) proper training for Key Identified Personnel in all schools.

The School District shall adhere to the policies and procedure in accordance with the MDE Policy for the Emergency Use of Seclusion and Restraint.

CROSS REF.: JDA-Corporal Punishment
LEGAL REF.: MCL 380.1307c(h)(v)
MCL 380.1307(1)b

F. First Reading Board Policy JQE - Pregnant and Parenting Students: The Board Policy Committee reviewed changes to the following Policy which the Board then recommended for a second reading:

BOARD POLICY **JQE**
STUDENTS ~~**DECEMBER 18, 2017**~~
PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS **FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

In accordance with Title IX, the District shall provide reasonable accommodations to students who are pregnant or parenting, ensuring equal access to educational programs and activities without discrimination. A pregnant or parenting

student retains all rights, privileges, and responsibilities afforded to all students. Decisions regarding a student's continued participation in coursework and school activities shall be informed by the recommendations of the student's licensed healthcare provider.

The District may request appropriate medical documentation to support the student's ability to safely participate in their educational program.

A student who wishes to continue their education but seeks an alternative to the traditional school setting is encouraged to contact the building principal or school counselor to discuss available options and supports that best meet their individual needs.

~~A pregnant student has all the rights and responsibilities of other students, and her continuing attendance in classes should be based on the recommendation of her physician. The student's school may request medical verification of the student's ability to continue in all classes in her program.~~

~~If a pregnant student wishes to continue her schooling but not attend the regular program, she should contact the principal or her counselor to discuss an alternative placement.~~

LEGAL REF.: MCL 380.1301

G. First Reading Board Policy JR - Student Records: The Board Policy Committee reviewed changes to the following Policy which the Board then recommended for a second reading:

BOARD POLICY **JR**
STUDENTS ~~**MARCH 16, 2015**~~
STUDENT RECORDS ~~**(Reviewed 12/2017)**~~ **FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

Livonia Public Schools School District will compile, maintain, disclose, delete, or provide access to student records ~~The compilation, maintenance, disclosure, and deletion of or access to student records shall be~~ in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 and other applicable laws~~.~~

LEGAL REF.: MCL, 600.2165; 15.231 *et seq.*; 20 USC 1232g

H. Hearing From Board Members: Mr. Johnson shared appreciation for Mrs.Jenkins' sentiments about the Board of Education during her presentation in honor of School Board Appreciation Month. Mr. Johnson shared his pride in the Board and remarked that the Board and Cabinet teams share a collective commitment to make the District the best it can be. Mr. Johnson acknowledged the synergy between the Cabinet and Board teams which make governing over the District run smooth. Mrs. Bradford asked parents to help keep students safe & bundled up while commuting to school tomorrow and the days ahead as the forecast necessitates dressing appropriately for the weather.

President Bradford Adjourned the Meeting at 8:31pm

Off/Supt./MA/tg