



LINCOLN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS
Ypsilanti, Michigan
BOARD OF EDUCATION / STUDY SESSION
February 3, 2025
5:00 p.m.
District Boardroom-Lincoln High School

OFFICIAL MINUTES-STUDY SESSION

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer LaBombarbe, President
Matthew Bentley, Vice President
Jason Moore, Treasurer
Lauren Smith, Secretary
Jennifer Czachorski, Trustee
Alisa Soos, Trustee
JaVon Jason, Trustee

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Robert Jansen, Superintendent
Paula Robinette, Human Resources Director
Karensa Smith, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction
Adam Snapp, Finance Director
Vicki Coury, Information & Communications Director
Chris Westfall, Athletic Director
Phil Bongiorno, Facilities Director

OTHERS PRESENT

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President LaBombarbe called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Roll call showed all Board Members were present.

3.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

A quorum was established.

4.0 PLEDGE TO FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Board and audience members.

5.0 PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Ryan Roe Presentation

Expanding Access to a World-Class System Applied & Experiential Learning, including Career Technical Education (CTE) in Washtenaw County- Ryan Rowe PhD WISD

5.2 Model Early Childhood Center Presentation

Presented by Kerry Shelton-Presentation included in Board packet

- Head Start-Federally funded preschool for 3 and 4 year olds. Families qualify based on income and other qualifying factors. 2024-2025 30 slot increase
- Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)- GSRP is a state-funded preschool program for 4 year olds. Families qualify based on income. Moving toward Universal Preschool
- Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)- Services for children 2.5-5 years old who qualify under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). Enrollment based on need-no cap

5.3 Liaison Office Presentation

Deputy Guynes updated the Board of Education on his position as LCS Resource Officer.

6.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Board of Education Public Comment Statement:

This is the time set aside by the Board to hear from you, the members of our community. We invite you to address the Board with comments, questions or concerns regarding board actions, policies, or other issues not resolved through appropriate administrative channels. The Board may not immediately respond to concerns presented at this meeting; however, we will respond to inquiries on or before the next board meeting.

Please fill out the attendance form including your email and phone number, comments will be limited to 3 minutes or less. Comments with respect to the performance of specific district employees are not appropriate during public comment.

The board secretary will read the comments to the full Board of education as presented.

Rules for Public Comment:

1. The Board of Education will limit each speaker to one opportunity to speak during any public comment period
 2. The Board of Education President, or the President's delegee (such as the Superintendent or another District administrator) will respond to your comment
 3. The Presiding officer may: A) prohibit public comments which are frivolous, repetitive, or harassing; B) interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant; C) request any individual to leave the meeting when that person behaves in a manner that is disruptive of the orderly conduct of the meeting; D) request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting, and; E) call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action.
- No Public Comment

7.0 SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

- There have been conversations this week regarding the President's Executive Orders. Sorting them out and determining if they would impact education.
- The Century 21 Team has been meeting with the intention of an upcoming presentation to the Board at a future Study Session.
- The Future of Learning Council has been doing a deep dive into AI.

8.0 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

8.1 Executive Committee

8.1.1 MASB Board of Directors Ballot-Ty Smith

Bios are provided in the Board packet. Please read them over and the Board will be asked to act at the February 24, 2025, Regular Meeting. This year, eight seats are up for election (three-year terms unless otherwise noted). Five candidates are unopposed (Regions 1, 3 and 4 and Groups V and

VI). Thus, we will only be distributing ballots for Regions 6, 7 and 8.-Item moved forward to Regular Meeting and a discussion will continue at the Committee of the Whole.

8.1.2 Middle School Band and Choir Cedar Point

Yearly the Middle School Band and Choir take an end of the year trip to Sandusky Ohio to attend Cedar Point.

8.2 Finance Committee

8.2.1 Finance Update (D)-Adam Snapp-An overview of the Financial Dashboard

8.2.2 LAB Winter Schedule Update (D)-Chris Westfall-follow up from January 13, 2025 (D)

Chris Westfall presented to the Board the possible need to replace/repair the LAB track.

Chris Westfall will return to the March 3, 2025 Study Session to discuss further the condition on the indoor track and the LAB and recommended steps moving forward.

8.3 Performance & Policy Committee

8.3.1 Human Resource Update & Personnel Transactions (D)-Paula Robinette-an overview of personnel transaction and upcoming interviews.

8.3.2 Curriculum & Instruction Update (D)-Karensa Smith

8.3.2.1 Graduation Requirement Credits & Language Proficiency (N)-Regina Winborn

Removal of .5 elective credit in technology for high school graduates High school administration is seeking the removal of the .5 credit in technology that has been a part of Lincoln High School's graduation requirements. It is believed that these requirements were established as far back as 20 years ago when personal and portable technology became a part of our everyday lives. It is also believed that the rationale for this requirement was to make sure that a student graduating from Lincoln High School would be prepared to navigate the ever-changing technology that they may encounter in their daily lives. In today's climate, students are carrying around portable devices (including devices provided by the district) and use applications like Google Classroom daily. With the elimination of this requirement, students would be open to adding an additional elective, remedial, or advanced course to their list of high school courses, moving the allotted number of electives from 3.5 to 4.

This item will move forward to the agenda on February 24, 2025.

Language Proficiency

High school administration would like the ability to advertise and promote more language proficiency amongst our students. This would not just include the testing out process, but utilizing the definition of proficiency as prescribed in the MMC. Making sure the high school provides opportunities for students to earn credit in their native or studied language. This would allow foreign language classes to be occupied by students that are in need of the foreign language credits for their post-secondary plans, while opening up the schedules for students who may already be proficient in another language.

The Board asked Regina Winborn to contact other districts in the area to see how they address similar issues and come back to present her findings on March 3, 2025 Study Session.

8.3.2.2 Alternative Education (D)-Regina Winborn

Revisiting Alternative Education and Path to an 18-credit hour diploma

High school administration would like the opportunity to continue the discussion about alternative means to gain proficiency in the high school curriculum that would help raise the graduation rate and lower the dropout rate. This fall the high school administrators and staff began discussions with Rashell Bowerman from the MDE to

discuss how we can make sure that our high school students are leaving prepared for post-secondary education, the job force, or armed services. This would require close examination of our current practices, programming and course offerings. High school administration would like to bring the school board up to speed about the information that was provided by Rashell in the meetings and begin formulating a plan for all students to not only gain their high school diploma, but the skills needed to be successful after graduation.

This will be discussed further at a future Study Session. Not an agenda item currently.

8.3.2.3 Universal FAFSA (N)-Vicki Coury

Policy on Universal FAFSA Completion for Graduation

As part of our commitment to preparing students for postsecondary opportunities and ensuring equitable access to financial aid resources, all high school seniors will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as a requirement for graduation. This initiative aligns with our district's mission to equip students with the tools and resources necessary for success beyond high school.

Opt-Out Provision:

While we strongly encourage FAFSA completion to support students in exploring their full range of opportunities, we understand that individual circumstances may necessitate an opt-out option. The following provisions outline the criteria and process for opting out:

- A school administrator must demonstrate that good-faith efforts have been made to assist the student or the student's parent/legal guardian in completing the FAFSA or obtaining a parental waiver.
- The student's parent or legal guardian, or the student (if the student is 18 years of age or older, is an emancipated minor, or is an unaccompanied youth), has submitted a parental waiver (obtained by a standard form provided by MiLEAP) exempting the student from completing the FAFSA.
- The student is unable to complete the FAFSA because of privacy concerns.
- After a good-faith effort, the student's parent or legal guardian refuses to sign the parental waiver, is unresponsive, or cannot sign the parental waiver.
- The student is unable to complete the FAFSA as an independent student.

The district will provide ongoing support to students and families in the FAFSA process, including financial aid workshops, one-on-one counseling sessions, and access to community resources. By making FAFSA completion a graduation requirement while offering reasonable opt-out options, we aim to ensure that every student is positioned for success in their postsecondary journey.

FAFSA will be addressed as part of the AR under graduation requirements. Language will be provided for the February 24, 2025 Regular meeting

8.4 Building & Site Committee

8.4.1 Facilities & Grounds Update (D) Trane Update (D)-Phil Bongiorno

TRANE has canceled this week's meeting as they continue working on pricing various scope items and do not have any new numbers to report at this time. Their team is actively developing the controls scope and design, with the envelope and water audit scheduling tentatively set for the second week of February. TRANE also plans to have their design engineering team on-site soon to conduct a detailed review of the high school chiller replacement and other equipment-related scopes.

Additionally, information was shared with the Superintendent weeks ago, advising that the district proceed slowly and cautiously until there is a clear understanding of the district's restructuring. This approach is intended to ensure that district resources are utilized effectively and not wasted.

8.4.2 Technology Update (D) E-Rate Fiber Maintenance (N)-Solomon Zheng

8.4.2.1 Student Device Acceptable Use Agreement-follow up from January 13, 2025 (D)

I am requesting a (reimbursable) budget amendment to the amount of \$387,162.95 out of general funds. This amount has already been approved by the state but must first be expended by the local district before reimbursement. Here is the breakdown per project:

- LCS internal and connection to the WISD: \$203,329.95
- LCS Bessie Hoffman connection to Monroe ISD: \$183,833.00

Last year in March the Board approved the fiber project under the E-Rate grant with the understanding that the funding for the project would be covered by a mix of federal and state funding. Now it is clear the exact amounts of those projects that have been approved by the federal government. The state matching grant that covers the remainder of the cost, however, must be paid up front in order to receive reimbursement.

Confirm the winner of the bid for fiber maintenance vendor for Lincoln Consolidated Schools as Fiber Link for a total of \$30,000 of E-Rate discounted services.

This year for our E-Rate bid under Category 1 we submitted a request for fiber maintenance up to \$30,000. Fiber is delicate and is susceptible to damage and breaks. Fiber maintenance bids allow us to leverage our category 1 E-Rate discount of 80% on these repair, maintenance, and preventive costs each year. Therefore, if we choose to leverage these services we have \$30,000 worth of work we can hire at a discounted rate of 80% (\$6000). This went out to bid with 4 responders of which one was selected.

This item will be added to the Regular Meeting agenda on February 24, 2025.

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

- No additional business

10.0 CLOSED SESSION

10.1 Negotiations

It was necessary to enter closed session to discuss Negotiations, to return to open session.

A roll call vote was necessary.

Pursuant to Sections 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act, it was moved by Bentley and seconded by Moore that we enter Closed Session to discuss Negotiations, to return to open session.

Ayes: 7 LaBombarbe, Czachorski, Bentley, Soos, Jason, Smith and Moore

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

Entered Closed Session 9:26pm/Returned to Open Session 9:43pm

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Bentley and seconded by Moore that we adjourn the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion carried 7-0

President LaBombarbe declared the meeting adjourned.