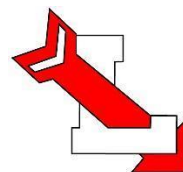


# Board Briefs



Regular Meeting of April 14, 2025

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS - none**

### **STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT**

Conner Casarez stated high school activities are ramping up. Juniors are getting ready for SAT testing and other grades are getting ready for PSAT, M-STEP and AP tests. Students, especially seniors, are looking forward to the summer. Next week the Michigan Supreme Court will hold a session at the high school. Seniors in the AP Government class will have the opportunity to watch the justices in action.

### **APPROVED ACTION ITEMS**

March minutes, payment of bills, Wittenbach Center roof, Murray Lake Elementary carpet, and a vote for Andrea Haidle for KIASB Board of Directors.

### **DISCUSSION - First Reading of Revised/New Bylaws/Policies**

The Board conducted a first reading of policies 0131.1, 1430, 2340, 3430, 4430, 5320, 5330, 5330.01, 5350, 8320, 8500, 8510 and 8640. Revisions to Board policies occur on a regular basis to reflect changes in state and federal laws. These revised policies will be brought to the Board at the next meeting for approval. Mr. Fowler noted that the Public Comment policy needs review to continue to be consistent at each meeting.

### **HUMAN RESOURCE UPDATE**

Dustin Cichocki stated he is working with non-union staff to provide the newly required 1 hour of sick time per 30 hours worked. A retirement seminar will be provided on Wednesday for any staff interested. He will also be coordinating another session for bus drivers. Lowell Area Schools currently has 7 open positions for the fall due to retirements and resignations.

### **BUDGET UPDATE**

Sonia Hodge is hoping to hear more on the State budget in late April or early May. She is currently working with the Technology Department on a new camera solution. The current camera software needs to be moved to a cloud-based system. A REMC quote will come to the Board in May. One of our Federal Grants has been terminated. This grant pays for part of the nursing staff through Health Bar. This will be a loss of \$14,262. There are other State grants that can be used for this service. The preliminary audit will take place on May 8th and 9th.

### **CURRICULUM UPDATE**

Dan VanderMeulen stated SAT, PSAT and M-STEP testing has started. The State Supreme Court will be at the high school next week. The Technology Committee will meet next week to continue their work transitioning Novell to Google and reviewing desktop cycling.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Fowler welcomed everyone back from Spring Break. He wished students good luck with testing. There has been a strong interest in the current open positions for next fall. He stated that April is School Library Month. The library is a place for students to access information and technology. It is an important part of our literacy program, increases student achievement, and enhances the climate and culture of our schools. There is so much information and misinformation online. The library is a place for students to research that information. On April 3 schools received notification that they had 10 days to certify that they were not discriminating based on race. The deadline was extended to April 24. The State feels like they have already met these requirements under Title VI. We are still waiting for more guidance. The administration will continue to monitor the state of the Department of Education and the federal budget. The Michigan Supreme Court is holding a session at the high school next week. A lot of planning has taken place for this event. The event will be streamed. He thanked the Board, staff, students, families and community for all of their support and reminded all of Lowell Area Schools' mission statement - "Lowell Area Schools, in the spirit of high expectations, ensures all students will master essential skills, empowering them to become lifelong learners and contributing, responsible members of our global community."

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

- Laurie Kuna welcomed all back from spring break. The Board will continue to do what they do best - educate students.
- Annie Whitlock thanked Mrs. Rice for the musical memories she provided.
- Jennifer Dougherty wished students and staff good luck for the last few weeks of school.
- Brian Krajewski thanked Lanie Rice for the 30 years of musicals list.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board of Education moved into a closed session to discuss negotiations and a written legal opinion.