

W-A-Y Academy Flint
Regular Board Meeting
Date: October 16th, 2025

Members Present:

- L. Deon Williams
- Venetta Tucker
- Stephen L. Murphy
- Sanford J. Edwards III

Others Present:

- Isaiah Pettway
- Trena Braswell
- Shelly Smith
- Marilyn Galan (Via Zoom)

I. Meeting Called to Order - Roll Call

- Time: 6:40 pm

Roll Call Attendance:

- Stephen L. Murphy (Genesee County) - Present
- L. Deon Williams (Genesee County) – Present
- Venetta Watt Tucker (Genesee County) - Present
- Sanford J. Edwards III (Genesee County) - Present

II. LSSU Governance Video & Discussion - NONE

III. Approval of the Agenda

- Motion: Moved by Sanford J. Edwards III / 2nd by L. Deon Williams (Y)
- Roll Call Vote:
 - Stephen L. Murphy (Y)
 - Venetta Watt Tucker (Y)
 - L. Deon Williams (Y)
 - Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)
- Motion carries.

IV. Call to the Public

- Public Comment: None

V. Approval of the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of the September 29, 2025 Rescheduled Board Meeting Minutes with the correction of Mr. L. Deon Williams' attendance, who was *present* at the meeting;
- Motion: Moved by Venetta Watt Tucker (Y) / Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)
 - Roll Call Vote:

- Stephen L. Murphy (Y)
- Venetta Watt Tucker (Y)
- L. Deon Williams (Y)
- Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)
- Motion carries.

VI. Correspondence - NONE

VII. Old Business

A. Reconsideration of Board Meeting Day and Time

- Regular board meeting schedule will change from the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. to the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., effective today and starting on Monday, November 17, 2025.
- Motion to change monthly board meeting day and time: Moved by Sanford J. Edwards III / 2nd by L. Deon Williams (Y)
- Roll Call Vote:
 - Stephen L. Murphy (Y)
 - Venetta Watt Tucker (Y)
 - L. Deon Williams (Y)
 - Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)
- Motion carries.

VIII. ESP Report / Directors Report

ESP Report (Superintendent Isaiah Pettway)

State Budget Update

- The state passed its budget, avoiding a major government shutdown.
- The per-pupil allowance increased from \$9,600 to \$10,060—the largest increase in three years.
- The food program remains whole, allowing meal service for all students to continue.

Federal Budget Update

- Reductions in the U.S. Department of Education's Special Education Division may affect IEPs, planning for them, approvals, and IDEA funding. IDEA is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (grant) which offsets the cost of these services. The impact is still unclear and will be monitored closely.
- School enrollment is at 112 versus our goal of 105. All students have been counted.

- Additional morning security is needed due to higher AM attendance and we are looking into that.
- The school is seeking a part-time Special Education Teacher to support the increased number of students with special needs.
- There will be an amendment to your budget (probably) in December.

Director Report (Mrs. Shelly Smith):

Enrollment Update

- Enrollment increased from 93 students in early September to 112 by Count Day, with most in 9th and 10th grades.
- Applications are still being accepted, and interviews will resume in November.
- Two students were absent on Count Day but were verified by Day 3.

Student Progress

- Students earned twice the expected monthly credits; only two earned zero.
- September attendance averaged 91%.
- Parents have shared improved student attitudes and desire to come to school.
- Staff are required to make at least two positive calls per year to each family; calls have begun, focusing on new parents.

IX. New Business

A. None

X. Board Committee Reports / Comments / Action

Finance Committee - Superintendent Pettway *on behalf of Mrs. Sherry Lynem*

A. Discussion Items:

1. August 2025 Financial Statements

- State Aid Payment Received: -
- State of Michigan: \$8,934.25
- Monies Transferred in September 2025: -
- Accounts Payables as of September 2025: \$30,786.98
- Payroll Liabilities (9/5, 9/19 & September Healthcare): \$46,395.68
- Request for transfer in the amount of: \$77,182.66

No state aid payment was received in September but this is normal. Payment is expected next week and a transfer will take place when payment is received.

2. 2025 Audit Update

Sherry is working with the auditor to meet the November 1 deadline; the audit is on track and will be submitted on time. Preliminary results show improvement, with the deficit reduced from \$95,000 to \$25,000—a \$70,000 decrease. The academy is expected to fully eliminate the deficit this year and that was the goal. The final audit will be on next month's agenda, and the auditor will present findings to the board. Board members will receive an audit-related questionnaire via email, so be on the lookout.

B. Action Items:

1. Approval of September 2025 Financial Statements:

- Motion to approve August 2025 Financial Statements: Moved by Sanford J. Edwards III / L. Deon Williams (Y)
- Roll Call Vote:
 - Stephen L. Murphy (Y)
 - Venetta Watt Tucker (Y)
 - L. Deon Williams (Y)
 - Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)
- Motion carries.

XI. LSSU Authorizer's Report - Superintendent Pettway *on behalf of Ms. Melissa Weisberger*

- Reminder that the next two Professional Development sessions with Angie Irwin are scheduled for October 23 (5–8 PM) at Voyageur Academy in Detroit and October 28 (5–8 PM) at Detroit Learning Academy of Redford.
- When uploading minutes to Epicenter, ensure proposed and approved versions are clearly distinguished.

XII. Call to the Public:

- Public Comment: None

XIII. Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn Moved by Sanford J. Edwards III / 2nd by L. Deon Williams (Y)
- Roll Call Vote:
 - Stephen L. Murphy (Y)
 - Venetta Watt Tucker (Y)
 - L. Deon Williams (Y)
 - Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)
- Motion carries.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm

Minutes submitted by: Marilyn Galan