

W-A-Y Academy Flint
Regular Board Meeting
Date: December 15th, 2025

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

- Isaiah Pettway
- Trena Braswell
- Melissa Weisberger
- Ronda Carter (Via Zoom)
- Marilyn Galan (Via Zoom)

I. Meeting Called to Order - Roll Call

- Time: 6:32 pm

Roll Call Attendance:

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

II. 15-minute Board Development Video

- The Board viewed a Board Development video from LSSU focused on financial oversight, noting its relevance given the completion of the audit, approval of the Deficit Elimination Plan, and the upcoming presentation of a budget amendment.
- Superintendent Pettway reviewed expectations regarding board packets, stating they will be distributed at least five (5) days prior to board meetings to allow members time to review materials and submit questions in advance of the monthly meeting.
- Following the video, discussion was opened for questions.
- Ms. Melissa Weisberger asked board members about their experience reviewing financial statements and budgets and explained that student enrollment is directly tied to the school's budget.
- Superintendent Pettway explained key differences between charter schools and traditional public schools, noting that charter schools do not receive additional financial offsets and that the school's financial stability is directly dependent on sustaining and

maintaining enrollment. He also reviewed the annual budgeting cycle:

- In June, the Board must approve the final budget for the current year and a proposed budget for the upcoming year.
- Budgets may not be approved in a deficit.
- In January, following Fall Count and the holiday break, the Board will be presented with a budget amendment to reflect enrollment changes, increases in per-pupil allocation not included in the proposed budget, and any fluctuating costs.
- It was noted that because Flint is currently under a Deficit Elimination Plan, the Michigan Department of Treasury required an earlier budget amendment in October, shortly after Count Day, to reflect updated enrollment figures.
- Superintendent Pettway explained the audit timeline, stating that audits typically begin in August and conclude in October, and that state law requires the audit and FID report to be submitted by November 1st to avoid withholding of state aid payments.
- Ms. Melissa Weisberger reviewed key items for Board members to consider when reviewing budgets, including spending by category and significant variances reflected in budget amendments. Superintendent Pettway clarified that the Board does not receive a full budget monthly; rather, members receive monthly financial statements, and questions should be based on those reports.

III. Approval of the Agenda

- Motion: Moved by L. Deon Williams (Y) / 2nd Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)
- Roll Call Vote:
 - Stephen L. Murphy (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 October 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

- Motion: Moved by L. Deon Williams (Y) / Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)
- Roll Call Vote:
 - Stephen L. Murphy (Y)
 - L. Deon Williams (Y)
 - Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)

- Motion carries.

VI. Correspondence

- It was noted that correspondence was received after the agenda was distributed and was subsequently shared with all Board members via email.
- The correspondence included confirmation from the Michigan Department of Education that the revised Deficit Elimination Plan has been accepted and approved.

VII. Old Business

A. NONE

VIII. ESP Report / Director's Report

ESP Report (Superintendent Isaiah Pettway)

- Shelly Smith, our director, announced her retirement after more than ten years of service. She will continue to provide support during the transition period.
- Mrs. Ronda Carter was introduced and welcomed as Interim Director. She currently serves as the Special Education Director for WAY Academies and as the Special Education Teacher (here) at our Flint campus. She will serve as Interim Director for the remainder of the school year. The upcoming budget amendment will reflect changes related to this transition, including the need for additional support with Special Education services.
- Student access fees for the learning platform will increase by \$4 per student, resulting in an additional cost of approximately \$444 per month, or \$5,328 annually. An AI-based feature will be added for students. This cost is not reflected in the current budget and will be included in the budget amendment.
- It was noted that Friday will be the last day of school prior to the holiday Break.

Director Report (Mrs. Ronda Carter):

- It was reported that between October and November, enrollment decreased by twelve (12) students, seven (7) of whom graduated.
- The average number of credits earned per student was 0.93, with students earning a total of ninety (90) credits. Seventh-grade students earned the highest average, at 1.7 credits.
- WAY Flint honored Mrs. Shelly Smith with a recognition luncheon and extended an invitation for her to serve as a speaker at graduation, which she delightfully accepted.

IX. New Business

A. Formal Request Letter for 2-year Charter Extension to LSSU

- Board members were advised that the official letter regarding the two-year extension was included in the board packet.
- It was noted that the submission was completed prior to the January 1st deadline and was submitted on December 12, with appreciation expressed to the Board for its support.

The letter addressed the following areas:

- Financial viability and stability of the school
- Progress toward educational goals
- Board governance
- Planned or implemented improvements

B. Vote to ratify Request Letter

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

X. Board Committee Reports / Comments / Action

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

A. Discussion Items:

1. November 2025 Financial Statements

- State Aid Payment Received - \$123,072.84
- State of Michigan: -
- LSSU - \$3,410.00
- GISD - \$24,160.41
- Monies Transferred in November 2025 - \$95,027.64
- Accounts Payables as of November 2025: \$35,513.54
- Payroll Liabilities (11/14, 11/28 & November Healthcare): \$43,035.84
- Request for transfer in the amount of: \$78,549.38

2. 2025 Audit Presentation

- The auditor was present at the board meeting last month and the audit was provided for your review.
- The school should be out of deficit by the end of the school year. The deadline was met without issue.

B. Action Items:

1. Approval of November 2025 Financial Statements:

- Motion to approve November 2025 Financial Statements moved by L. Deon Williams (Y) / Sanford Edwards III (Y)
- Roll Call Vote:
 - Stephen L. Murphy (Y)
 - L. Deon Williams (Y)
 - Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)
- Motion carries.

2. Vote to Receive 2025 Audit Presentation

- Motion to Receive 2025 Audit Presentation moved by L. Deon Williams (Y) / Sanford Edwards III (Y)
- Roll Call Vote:
 - Stephen L. Murphy (Y)
 - L. Deon Williams (Y)
 - Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)
- Motion carries.

XI. LSSU Authorizer's Report - *Ms. Melissa Weisberger*

- Lake Superior State University has received the application for the plus two (+2) charter authorization. The application is scheduled to be presented to the University Board in February, and updates will be provided as the process moves forward.

XII. Call to the Public:

- Public Comment: None

XIII. Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn Moved by L. Deon Williams (Y) / 2nd by Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)
- Roll Call Vote:
 - Stephen L. Murphy (Y)
 - L. Deon Williams (Y)
 - Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)
- Motion carries.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm

Minutes submitted by: Marilyn Galan