

W-A-Y Academy Flint
Rescheduled Board Meeting
Date: September 29th, 2025

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

- Isaiah Pettway (Via Zoom)
- Madeline Black
- Sherry Lynem (Via Zoom)
- Shelly Smith
- Melissa Weisberger

I. Meeting Called to Order - Roll Call

- Time: 6:41 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 (Superintendent Pettway)

- Prior to the video, Superintendent Pettway explained that Melissa is who shared the video with the board.
- We have talked to LSSU about ensuring board members receive professional development credit and continued governance support.
- We propose to include these types of short videos at the start of board meetings (approximately 5 1/2 minutes) followed by a brief discussion.
- Discussion opened for board members to share thoughts; board members mentioned accountability, understanding, and increased involvement.
- Superintendent Pettway went over the function of the board, emphasizing its role in governance and oversight, not day-to-day management.
- He noted the importance of having an engaged and invested board, as the school ultimately belongs to the board.

III. Approval of the Agenda

- Motion: Moved by L. Deon Williams / 2nd by Venetta Tucker (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 August 21st, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

- Motion: Moved by L. Deon Williams / 2nd by Venetta Tucker (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:

A. LSSU Compliance Award Notice

- LSSU, through Jenny Peterman, notified the school and board that the school has again received a Compliance Award based on successful completion of epicenter tasks.
- The school was awarded \$1,410, reflecting an enrollment of 95 students.
- Award funds will be utilized to support efforts to identify and monitor vaping within the building.
- Plans include the installation of a vape detector in restrooms.
- The school has also partnered with Genesee Health Systems to provide counseling and classes for students seeking support in quitting.

VII. Old Business

A. Election of Officers - Vice-President

- The position remains vacant, which is why it is on the agenda.
- At a previous meeting, Mr. Sanford was recommended for the role but was not present to accept the nomination.
- Per contract and law, the board must have four officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- Board member Venetta Tucker nominated Mr. Sanford; Board member L. Deon Williams seconded. Nomination was approved unanimously.
- Motion to elect Mr. Sanford for Vice-President: Moved by Venetta Tucker / 2nd by L. Deon Williams (Y)

- o Roll Call Vote:
 - Stephen L. Murphy (Y)
 - Venetta Watt Tucker (Y)
 - L. Deon Williams (Y)
 - Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)
- o Motion carries.

VIII. ESP Report / Directors Report

ESP Report (Superintendent Isaiah Pettway)

Board Membership

- The board is seeking to add new members to fill the vacancy created by Kelly leaving.
- Compliance requires an odd number of members; the goal is to reach seven or to have five and one in waiting.
- We have two potential candidates as of now, one is a former student.
- Information will be submitted to Melissa by the end of the week.

State Budget Update

- A potential state government shutdown may occur if a budget is not approved by midnight tomorrow.
- A tentative agreement has been reached between state leaders and is pending.
- School aid and per-pupil funding have not yet been finalized.
- No cuts to per-pupil funding are expected; potential increase is anticipated (approx. \$300 per student, bringing the total to \$10,000).

Reauthorization Status

- The current charter granted three years ago was a 3 + 2 term. This means a 3-year contract with an additional 2-years possible if criteria are met.
- All LSSU metrics have been met except *board governance*.
- Concerns include cancelled/rescheduled meetings and inconsistent scheduling.
- Governance stability is very important to ensure reauthorization and prevent possible school closure.
- The board is encouraged to review the current meeting schedule (third Thursday of every month, 6:30 p.m.) to ensure consistency and quorum.

Reauthorization Narrative

- Narrative for the additional two-year extension is due January 1st
- LSSU will provide videos and discussions, some led by Angie Irwin.
- Part of the plan includes a video at our October meeting and an activity with discussion in November.

- Superintendent Pettway recommended scheduling an in-person work session with Angie Irwin before the end of the year (or at least set date/time to be included in the narrative).
- Emphasis was made on maintaining quorum for all meetings.
- Board President Mr. Murphy suggested changing meetings to the third Mondays of every month; members agreed. Proposed change will be added to the October 16th agenda.

Director Report (Mrs. Shelly Smith):

Enrollment Update

- As of September 5, enrollment was 83 students and has since increased to 112, surpassing the goal of 108 — our highest enrollment to date.
- There are 61 morning students, 49 afternoon students, and some that are virtual.
- 22 students attended the August orientation — the largest turnout to date.
- Superintendent Pettway recognized the extensive efforts that contributed to meeting the enrollment goal, including mass mailings and social media outreach.

Student Progress

- There was minimal credit earned by students in July and August, but this is typical during this time of the year.

Updates to the School

- The common area was rearranged to accommodate new students.
- Updates included painting and a new wall mural, among other things.

IX. New Business

A. None

X. Board Committee Reports / Comments / Action

Finance Committee (Mrs. Sherry Lynem)

A. Discussion Items:

1. August 2025 Financial Statements

- State Aid Payment Received: \$97,244.03
- LSSU: \$207.15
- GISD: \$11,351.63
- State of Michigan: \$6,235.37
- Monies Transferred in August 2025: \$98,000.00
- Accounts Payables as of August 2025: \$31,292.85
- Payroll Liabilities (8/8, 8/22 & August Healthcare): \$45,761.62
- Request for transfer in the amount of: \$77,054.47

The final state aid payment for 2024–2025 has been received. No state aid was received in September; however, Title I, II, and IX grant reimbursements were received. Due to low cash

balance, WAY Program is currently covering payroll and some of the bills until state aid payments resume in October.

The audit is in progress, and all requested documentation has been submitted. The report is expected to be submitted on time and by the November 1st deadline.

The meeting and exceeding of the enrollment goal will enable repayment to WAY Program sooner than in previous years and will help reduce the existing deficit and accounts payable balance.

B. Action Items:

1. Approval of August 2025 Financial Statements:

- Motion to approve August 2025 Financial Statements: Moved by L. Deon Williams / 2nd by 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.

XI. LSSU Authorizer's Report - Melissa Weisberger

- Congratulations to the board on receiving the LSSU Compliance Award and on the spending plan in place for the awarded funds.
- Reminder that when board members take their oath, academies are responsible for entering oaths into the Epicenter.
- Members participating in professional development sessions like the one today are eligible for incentives such as dinner, swag, and other items. Your name will be entered into a drawing today for participating.
- Angie Irwin is offering 9 virtual (monthly), 3 pre-recorded, and 3 regional in-person training. The next virtual session, "*Leading with Purpose: Mission-Driven Decision Making*," is on October 14. In-person sessions will be held October 9 at Chandler Park Academy High School in Harper Woods, at Voyageur Academy in Detroit on October 23, and at Redford Campus for The Detroit Service Learning Academy on October 28.
- Great Lakes Student Weekend is being hosted by LSSU. It is a two-day event for high school students and staff. It will include a campus tour, meetings with professors and students, dorm stay, meals, and student activities including a Lakers hockey game. Participants will receive a t-shirt and other things. They will learn about registration, financials, and the National Freshwater Program. They will also be reminded that all

graduating students are eligible for a minimum \$2,000 scholarship and acceptance to LSSU.

- Board members are reminded to submit Conflict of Interest Forms if not already completed.

XII. Call to the Public:

- Public Comment: None

XIII. Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn Moved by L. Deon Williams / 2nd by 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.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm

Minutes submitted by: Marilyn Galan

Approved