

**W-A-Y Academy Flint**  
**Rescheduled Regular Board Meeting**  
**Date: January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Members Present:

- President-Sanford Edwards
- Vice President- Stephon Murphy
- Secretary- Venetta Tucker
- Treasurer- Kelli Glenn- (Via Zoom)
- Member- L. Deon Williams

Others Present:

- Isaiah Pettway - (Via Zoom)
- Trena Braswell
- Shelli Smith
- Melissa Weisburger
- Ronda Carter
- Alexandra Guzman (via zoom)

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1. Meeting Called to Order:

- Time: 6:40 pm

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2. Roll Call Attendance:

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

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3. Approval of the Agenda:

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

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4. Call to the Public:

- Public Comment: None (Read by Board President Sanford J Edwards)

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5. Approval of the Consent Agenda:

- Approval of the December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
  - Motion: Moved by Stephen L. Murphy / 2nd Venetta Watt
  - Roll Call Vote:

- Stephen L. Murphy (Y)
  - Venetta Watt Tucker (Y)
  - Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)
  - L. Deon Williams (Y)
  - Kelli Glenn (Y)
  - Motion carries.
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6. Correspondence:

- 2024 Annual Financial Report-LSSU
    - The LSSU Annual Financial Report was prepared by Rebecca Clawson from LSSU and emailed to board members prior to the meeting.
    - Rebecca noted two governance concerns in the report:
    - The school remains in a financial deficit.
    - The school did not meet its fall enrollment goal.
    - A standing report from the auditor identified accounts payable owed to the WAY Program. This issue contributed to a low rating for the financial sustainability and viability portion of the report.
    - Melissa, Chris, and Rebecca met to address these concerns.
    - The Deficit Elimination Plan was discussed and accepted. Progress has been noted this year as the deficit trends downward.
    - The school successfully submitted its audit on time this year after switching auditors. This change has already shown positive results.
    - Efforts are focused on meeting the enrollment goal of 105 students for the current year.
    - The school plans to take an aggressive approach to achieve the enrollment target.
    - As a 50D Program and Alternative Education provider, they aim to recruit older students, particularly in the 11th and 12th grades.
    - The school has also enrolled a significant number of middle school and 9th-grade students, with a focus on retaining them for future years.
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7. Old Business: None

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8. New Business:

- Discussion Items:
- Superintendent's Report:
- Spring Count is scheduled for next week.
- Field Audit is set for tomorrow at 9 a.m. The school is being audited again due to findings from last year's field audit.
- **Personnel Update:** The school is fully staffed.
- **State and Legislative Updates:** The team is preparing for the amendment period for the consolidated grants, which are due on February 13th. They are confident in meeting the deadline.
- Superintendent Isaiah provided an update on national concerns regarding federal funding. The president issued guidance to freeze federal funding across all federal departments. Initially, this raised concerns about potential impacts on schools. However, a federal

judge has since blocked the order, and resources are now available. At this time, there is no immediate concern, but the school will continue to monitor the situation.

- **Safety Concerns:** Superintendent Isaiah reported a recent safety issue involving two students. Following a physical altercation on campus, one student posted on social media while brandishing a weapon, implying intent to use it at school or against the other student.
- Shelly and the administrative team responded swiftly by contacting parents and involving law enforcement. Police investigated, spoke with the parents, and determined the student was not in possession of a weapon at the time. The student's parents opted to withdraw their child from the school immediately.
- The school administration has requested the Board's consideration for expulsion due to the severity of the threat and violence, classified as a Class Three offense. Expulsion would ensure the student cannot re-enroll without Board approval, addressing safety concerns. The Board will review this recommendation.

#### **Director's Report (Shelli Smith):**

- Total Enrollment: 90 Students
- Highest Grade Enrolled: 9<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Total Credits Earned: 55.94
- Average Monthly Credit: 0.64
- Average Monthly Credit Level by Grade: 1.21

#### **Points of Pride**

- We started a Robotics team and attended our first training event this month.
- We enjoyed our graduation ceremony with all 11 graduates participating.
- Students celebrated the holidays with a party and the winning team from Team Building Tuesdays put a pie in my face.

#### **Enrollment Update**

- Current enrollment remains steady at 90 students.
- One student graduated last month, and additional graduates this month will further impact enrollment numbers.
- Ninth grade continues to hold the highest enrollment and is expected to grow. A recruitment meeting is planned at a middle school that serves only up to eighth grade to encourage prospective students to enroll.
- Total student credits earned: 55.94. While slightly lower than in previous months, this figure aligns with the half-credit monthly average. The decline is attributed to the winter break and students exceeding credit expectations in prior months.
- Eleventh graders earned the most credits for December.

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#### **9. Reappointment of Mr. Murphy**

- Mr. Murphy's seat was up for reappointment. Though he recently took his oath of office, the Board must nominate him for another term.
- The re-application form has been completed, and Melissa will submit it to the LSU Board for official appointment.

- The official appointment will occur at the May meeting, with the oath of office scheduled for the June meeting.
  - Mr. Murphy's new term will expire on June 30.
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#### 10. Treasurer's Report:

- **December 2024 Financial Statements:**
    - State Aid Payment Received of the amount \$96,866.21
    - GISD \$1,175.18
    - Monies Transferred in **December 2024** \$119,000.00
    - Accounts Payables as of **December 2024** \$32,823.17
    - Payroll Liabilities \$43,386.22
    - Request for transfer in the amount of \$76,209.39
  - The state accepted and approved the Deficit Elimination Plan.
  - The school is trending downward in financial deficit.
  - The state recommended that the deficit elimination plan be a two-year plan rather than a one-year plan, which was approved and presented to the Board.
  - Ms. Venetta Watt inquired about potential future grant freezes and their impact.
  - Superintendent Pettway responded that the impact depends on the timing of any potential freeze, making it difficult to determine at this time.
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#### 11. Action Items:

1. Approval of the **December 2024** Financial Statements:
    - Motion: Moved by Venetta Watt Tucker / 2nd by Stephen L. Murphy
    - Roll Call Vote:
      - Stephen L. Murphy (Y)
      - Venetta Watt Tucker (Y)
      - Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)
    - Motion carries.
  - Motion to nominate Mr. Murphy for another term
    - Motion: Moved by Sanford J. Edwards III / 2nd Venetta Watt
    - Roll Call Vote:
      - Stephen L. Murphy (Y)
      - Venetta Watt Tucker (Y)
      - Sanford J. Edwards III (Y)
      - L. Deon Williams (Y)
      - Kelli Glenn (Y)
    - Motion carries.
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#### 12. LSSU Liaison Updates:

- Melissa Weisberger Report:
- The nomination of Mr. Murphy has been completed.
- The transparency page for Board members needs updating, including the school's logo, authorizer's logo, and a website link.
- January is Board Appreciation Month; board member gifts were distributed in December, but T-shirts are still pending.

- Isaiah presented the Annual Financial Report; no questions were raised.

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13. Announcements:

- Ronda Carter was introduced as a new Special Education teacher.
- Direct deposit cards for payroll will be issued starting today. All staff attending in person will receive their cards immediately.

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14. Call to the Public:

- Public Comment: None

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15. Adjournment:

- Time: 7:19 pm

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Minutes submitted by: Alexandra Guzman

Approved