Doyle Center for Professional Development
7273 Wing Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48301

MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BLOOMFIELD HILLS SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 23, 2026
6:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

A. Call to Order

Tareq Falah, President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Attendance

Michelle Southward, Vice President, took attendance, and the board members constituting a quorum were:

- Tareq Falah, President
- Michelle Southward, Vice President
- Carolyn Noble, Secretary (arrived at 6:06 p.m.)
- Paul Kolin, Treasurer
- Jason Abel, Trustee
- Lindsay Baker, Trustee

Members of the district's administration were in attendance as follows:

- Todd Bidlack, Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services
- Rebecca Catherincchia, Executive Administrator
- Joe Duda, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources & Title IX
- Sarah Fairman, Executive Director of Learning Services
- Karen Huyghe, Director of Communications
- Kandice Moynihan, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
- Rick West, Superintendent

II. General Discussion

A. Pine Lake Proposal and Affiliation Agreement Discussion

Kelly Hyer, Chris Frey, and Robert Brooks from the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation team presented their proposal on the use of the property, for which requires approval of the school board under the terms of the intergovernmental agreement. The presentation and resolution can be found here, and the board was asked to take action later in the agenda under board business.

B. Infant and Toddler Care Program Discussion

Rick West, Superintendent, presented the administration's proposal to discontinue offering infant and toddler care programming effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year. The presentation and data can be found here, and the board was asked to take action later in the agenda under board business.

C. Regional Enhancement Millage Discussion

Rick West, Superintendent, shared a presentation on the proposal for a countywide millage be placed on the August ballot. The presentation can be found here, and the board was asked to take action later in the agenda under board business.

D. Board Committee Reports

Finance and Operations

Paul Kolin, Chair for the Finance and Operations Committee, reported from the meeting that took place on February 9. Thru Consulting provided an update to the committee on the district's draft goals before they moved on to board business items which included bid packs for primary storage and AV systems. The committee spent time on Superintendent Goal 5 - a balanced budget for 2026-27 and reviewed enrollment projections, forecast projections, the budget evaluation process, a recap of budget conversations and considerations and a review of board specific requests on various organizational charts and budgets. The meeting ended with the superintendent providing an overview on the regional enhancement millage resolution and an update on Oakland County Parks, which will be considered for board action under board business. Also discussed was Policy 2001: Admission and Enrollment - particularly whether children of contractors could be eligible to enroll into the district, and what constitutes an employee. This will be discussed further at an upcoming meeting of the board once answers to the questions have been received by legal counsel.

Curriculum and Instruction

Lindsay Baker, Chair of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee, reported from the meeting that took place on February 10. Thru Consulting provided an update to the committee on the district's draft goals before moving on to the superintendent update, which included an overview of regional enhancement millage resolution and an update on Oakland County Parks, which will be considered for board action under board business. The committee spent time on Superintendent Goal 3 - Student Growth & Assessment Plan, which will be a presentation at the board meeting on March 23. As part of Superintendent Goal 6 - Belonging, the Committee reviewed the final draft of elementary and secondary culture and climate surveys. Also discussed was Policy 2001: Admission and Enrollment - particularly whether children of contractors could be eligible to enroll into the district, and what constitutes an employee. This will be discussed further at an upcoming meeting of the board once answers to the questions have been received by legal counsel.

Strategic Planning
Jason Abel, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, reported from the meeting that took place on February 13. Thru Consulting provided an update to the committee on the district's draft goals before moving on to the superintendent update, which included an overview of regional enhancement millage resolution and an update on Oakland County Parks, which will be considered for board action under board business. Also discussed was Policy 2001: Admission and Enrollment - particularly whether children of contractors could be eligible to enroll into the district, and what constitutes an employee. This will be discussed further at an upcoming meeting of the board once answers to the questions have been received by legal counsel.

E. Legislative Advocacy Debrief
Trustee Noble reported on the National School Boards Association conference attended in Washington D.C. on advocacy and equity. Trustee Noble found the conference to be a worthwhile professional development opportunity and enjoyed meeting with other school board members and legislators while visiting capitol hill.

III. Reconvene
The Board of Education reconvened at 7:30 p.m. and recited the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Special Recognition

A. Gatorade Player of the Year
Congratulations to Kayla Nwabueze for being recognized as Gatorade's Michigan Volleyball Player of the Year for 2025-26.

B. BHHS Debate Team
Congratulations to Luca Alli, Ava Beydoun, Hunter Borenstein, Daniel Cali, Bobby Costis, Leeland Dunstone, Caleb Gibson, Derek Han, Slade Lossia, Holiday Lucai-Sample, Rishab Monga, Hudson Panozzo, Luca Patel, Carter Phillips, Mihir Shah, Inaaya Shamsi, Trevor Shapiro, Omar Sibai, Zuheir Sibai, Priyanca Skilton, Mikael Sparkes, Maya Stojkovic, Gia Walvekar and Cecylia Weeks for earning several top awards at recent competitions and tournaments.

C. Bloomfield Hills Schools Teacher of the Year
Congratulations to Linda Carlson, Danielle Veillette, and Amy Scott who were recognized as the elementary, middle, and high school teachers of the year.

D. Bloomfield Hills Schools Distinguished Service Award
Congratulations to Jennifer Rossi, Nicholas Riggs and Bridget Roach who were recognized as distinguished service award recipients for this school year.

V. Public Comment

- Rich Hansen addressed the Board of Education seeking more challenging ELA options in the course catalogue for high school students.

- Emily Hughes advocated for the continuation of the Bloomin' Infant and Toddler Care Program, and shared considerations and experiences.
- Allison Smith advocated for the continuation of the Bloomin' Infant and Toddler Care Program, and shared considerations and experiences.
- Debbie Chasnick advocated for the continuation of the Bloomin' Infant and Toddler Care Program, and shared considerations and experiences.
- Rose advocated for the continuation of the Bloomin' Infant and Toddler Care Program, and shared considerations and experiences.
- Lillian Crum advocated for the continuation of the Bloomin' Infant and Toddler Care Program, and shared considerations and experiences.
- Aaron Blasius advocated for the continuation of the Bloomin' Infant and Toddler Care Program, and shared considerations and experiences.
- Christina McAfee advocated for the continuation of the Bloomin' Infant and Toddler Care Program, and shared considerations and experiences.
- Grace Brown advocated for the continuation of the Bloomin' Infant and Toddler Care Program, and shared considerations and experiences.
- Jillian O'Neill advocated for the continuation of the Bloomin' Infant and Toddler Care Program, and shared considerations and experiences.
- Jen M advocated for the continuation of the Bloomin' Infant and Toddler Care Program, and shared considerations and experiences.
- Michael Clark advocated for the continuation of the Bloomin' Infant and Toddler Care Program, and shared considerations and experiences.
- Dan Dobring advocated for the continuation of the Bloomin' Infant and Toddler Care Program, and shared considerations and experiences.
- Dan Sullivan advocated for the continuation of the Bloomin' Infant and Toddler Care Program, and shared considerations and experiences.
- Lissa Shank advocated for the continuation of the Bloomin' Infant and Toddler Care Program, and shared considerations and experiences.
- Jane Newman advocated for the continuation of the Bloomin' Infant and Toddler Care Program, and shared considerations and experiences.

VI. Board President's Report

Tareq Falah, Board President, addressed some of the messages he and the school were receiving surrounding photography services and the discontinuation of infant and toddler programming.

VII. Superintendent's Report

Rick West, Superintendent, touched on advocacy in education, legislative smart phone classroom ban and discussions continuing with Oakland County Parks and the hope the agreement will be brought forth for board action in March or April. He also highlighted district events surrounding enrollment and orientation to kindergarten and high school. It was reported that the district has made meaningful process in strategic planning and has developed draft goals, which were a result of extensive data analysis and feedback collection to ensure they are grounded in both evidence and stakeholder input. The goals will be brought forward for board action planned for May or June

VIII. Consent Agenda

It was moved by Carolyn Noble and supported by Michelle Southward to approve the recommendations detailed in the Consent Agenda, as presented:

- Request to Approve Minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 26, 2026
- Request to Approve Disbursement Reports
- Request to Approve Monthly Financial Reports
- Request to Approve Personnel Actions

Ayes:	Trustees Abel, Baker, Falah, Kolin, Noble, Southward
Nayes:	
Motion Passed:	6/0

IX. Board Business

A. Request to Approve the Purchase of Primary Storage

Michelle Southward moved the Board of Education to approve the purchase of primary storage systems in the amount of $183,722.50, to be paid from the sinking fund, as presented. Carolyn Noble seconded the motion.

Ayes:	Trustees Abel, Baker, Falah, Kolin, Noble, Southward
Nayes:	
Motion Passed:	6/0

B. Request to Approve Bid Pack T11 - AV Systems

Lindsay Baker moved the Board of Education to approve Board Package T11 - AV Systems in the amount of $576,144.00, inclusive of 10% contingency, to be paid from the sinking fund, as presented. Michelle Southward seconded the motion.

Ayes:	Trustees Baker, Falah, Kolin, Southward
Nayes:	
Abstention:	Trustees Abel, Noble
Motion Passed:	6/0/2

Trustees Noble and Able did not feel they had enough information or feedback from the staff and students to necessitate the need for the purchase of AV equipment and resources for the buildings.

C. Request for Final Reading and Adoption of Board Policy Updates

Jason Abel moved the Board of Education to approve the changes to board policy recommended by legal counsel, as presented. The motion was seconded by Lindsay Baker.

Ayes:	Trustees Abel, Baker, Falah, Kolin, Noble, Southward
Nayes:	
Motion Passed:	6/0

D. Request to Discontinue Infant and Toddler Care Programming
Lindsay Baker moved the Board of Education to discontinue infant and toddler care programming effective the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Paul Kolin. The board members shared their varying viewpoints on the matter before voting as follows.

Ayes:	Trustees Abel, Baker, Falah, Kolin
Nayes:	Trustees Noble, Southward
Motion Passed:	4/2

E. Request to Approve Resolution - Pine Lake Affiliation Agreement
Jason Abel moved the Board of Education to authorize the superintendent or designee to negotiate the final terms and conditions of the Affiliation Agreement with the County and Commission that are acceptable to the Superintendent in order to allow the Superintendent to consent to the Affiliation Agreement on behalf of the School District, after consultation with legal counsel, and the Superintendent is further authorized to consent to the negotiated Affiliation Agreement to facilitate investment in the Park and for OCRPC's use of the Park, as presented.The motion was seconded by Michelle Southward.

Ayes:	Trustees Abel, Baker, Falah, Kolin, Noble, Southward
Nayes:	
Motion Passed:	6/0

F. Request to Approve Resolution Requesting Regional Enhancement Millage
Michelle Southward moved the Board of Education to approve the regional enhancement millage resolution, as presented. Carolyn Noble seconded the motion. The board members shared their viewpoints on the matter before voting as follows.

Ayes:	Trustees Abel, Falah, Noble, Southward
Nayes:	Trustees Baker, Kolin
Motion Passed:	4/2

X. Adjournment

There being no further business discussed, the meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Noble
Bloomfield Hills Schools Board Secretary

CN/rc