

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Schulte at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administrative Service Center, 12900 Frazho Road, Warren, MI.

Roll Call

Members present: Walsh, Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, Nitz and Schulte. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassabon, Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker, Director of Facilities and Transportation Don Ball, Special Services Director Stacie Sward, Technology Director Kevin Hustek, WWT Principal Ian Fredlund, and Executive Assistant Jackie Miracle.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval

It was moved by Fitzpatrick, supported by Zannetti to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Minutes

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Nitz to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 26, 2024 as presented. The motion carried 6-0-1 with Schulte abstaining due to absence.

It was moved by Walsh supported by Hiller to approve the Minutes of the Closed Session of August 26, 2024 as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0 – 1 with Schulte abstaining due to absence.

Correspondence

None

Payment of the Bills

It was moved by Walsh, supported by Zannetti to pay the following bills as presented:

General Fund	\$	813,575.10
Center Programs		10,941.70
Food Service Fund		36,106.55
Child Care Fund		3,655.49
2020 Bond Series I		25,528.87

The motion carried 7 – 0.

Payment of the Bills (continued)

Trustee Garcia thanked Deputy Superintendent for clarifying some questions he submitted via email prior to the meeting.

Trustee Hiller asked for clarification regarding a payment to Shock Brothers. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon explained that this was for work done at the Early Childhood Center to replace the flooring in the GSRP classroom and was paid with grant funds.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Reports

Student Representatives

Superintendent Denewith-Fici announced that the new student representatives to the Board for this year were Nataly Chang and Valorie Lee and stated that they would begin attending meetings starting with the upcoming Special Meeting on September 23.

Student Achievement

Superintendent Denewith-Fici provided an update to the Board on the start of the new school year. She stated that both staff and students were excited to be back and that we had a successful first week. She was pleased to note that due to enrollment demand an additional section of kindergarten was added.

Audit 2023-2024

Superintendent Denewith-Fici stated Deputy Superintendent Cassabon, and the Plante Moran auditors were here this evening to share the results of the 2023-2024 audit. Deputy Superintendent stated the Finance Committee met with Plante Moran auditors on August 29, 2024 to review the audit in detail and introduced Plant Moran Representatives Jennifer Chambers and Kristen Stofflett, who were present this evening to share the results.

Ms. Chambers began by outlining the documents provided to the Board and stated that post audit findings resulted in an unmodified “clean” opinion, the highest form of assurance possible. In addition, she noted there were no compliance issues identified with bond requirements or the Federal Programs audit. Ms. Chambers shared quantitative results which provide a high-level overview of General fund Revenue, which is the primary operating fund for the district and is comprised primarily of State Aid, local property taxes and Federal funding. She stated that the Headlee reauthorization vote has allowed the district to levy a full 18 mills on property taxes which directly affects the general fund, however, there was a slight decline in Federal revenue due to decreased Covid-related funds and grants which provided a significant influx in funding sources and are not expected in the future. Ms. Chambers then reviewed the General fund Revenue by Source, noting the MPSERS stabilization payments, which is a portion of State revenue which is immediately remitted back to the State and considered a flow-through fund, as it is not a guaranteed source of revenue.

Next, Ms. Stofflett presented a review of General Fund Expenditures which provided a high-level view of expense distribution and noted the allocation between instruction and instructional support has slightly decreased. A detailed review indicated a slight decrease in

New Business

Audit 2023-2024 (continued)

staff instructional support due to declining funds, along with an increase in salaries and benefits, with no other significant shifts, in addition to the one-time MPSERS payment adjustment.

In conclusion, Ms. Stofflett reviewed a historical slide noting Student Enrollment and the Foundation Allowance trends. She noted that student enrollment is projected to decrease and there is no increase in the Foundation Allowance for 2024-2025 as there has been in the past.

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Walsh to approve and accept the **2023-24 Audit Report** as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Vice President Zannetti commented that the Finance Committee met recently to go over the audit in detail and extended his appreciation to the auditors and Deputy Superintendent Cassabon, noting the importance of financial integrity to any business, along with a very good bond rating the district maintains, as it relates to taxpayers.

Mr. Garcia thanked the auditors and asked for clarification noting that the 2020 Capital Projects and Special Center Projects were no longer considered Special funds and asked for an explanation. Ms. Chambers stated that the government account standards have a quantitative funds assessment as to what qualifies for major funds. The General Fund is always considered a major fund, and depending on the fund activity and if it meets the government threshold they can fluctuate from year to year.

Next, Mr. Garcia asked if the district was restricted as to types of investments, noting the Mi Liquid Asset Fund, and asked who decides on the district portfolio. Deputy Superintendent stated that investments are managed internally.

Finally, Mr. Garcia asked about custodial credit risk management, noting it appears as there was no real protection. Ms. Chambers replied that from the FDIC insurance perspective it is not uncommon to have a level of uninsured amounts in several banks. Mr. Cassabon added that the district funds are spread across three different banks and that he subscribes to various market and bank monitoring updates allowing for them to be closely monitored. Mr. Garcia noted the funds are indeed closely monitored as it was prominently referenced in the report and thanked Mr. Cassabon for his thoroughness.

Deputy Cassabon thanked the Business Office staff Linda Renno and Cindy Fultz who were present this evening for their support.

Personnel Items

Leaves:

As presented

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Nitz to approve the **Leaves** as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

New Hires:

Elise Kennedy – Special Education Paraprofessional – WWMS – date of hire 8/27/24.

Eric Macedonia – Culinary Arts Teacher – WWT- date of hire 9/9/24.

Jamiyah Madison - Special Education Paraprofessional – WWT – date of hire 8/29/24.

Personnel Items

New Hires: (continued)

Kevin Paterson – 7th Grade Assistant Football Coach – WWMS – date of hire 8/27/24.

Tiauna Perry - Childcare Assistant – ECC – date of hire 08/8/27/24.

Tiara Ruff - Childcare Assistant – ECC – date of hire 9/3/24.

Elizabeth Shark – Athletic Trainer – WWMS/WWT – date of hire 8/23/24.

Jaclyn Terry - Childcare Assistant – ECC – date of hire 08/27/24.

It was moved by Walsh supported by Hiller to approve the **New Hires** as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Public Expression

Michele Bastian, WWEA President/Westwood Teacher: Extended thanks to the Board, Deputy Superintendent Cassabon, WWT Principal Ian Fredlund and Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici for their consideration of the Tentative Agreement. She also thanked the Negotiations Team and added that it was a contract that would help keep the community strong.

Adam Dias, WWT Teacher and Parent: Thanked the Board and administration for the contract as a parent, as he feels this will motivate staff to stay and his children will have quality teachers.

Melissa Chesher, WWT Teacher and Parent: Thanked Mr. Cassabon, Ms. Denewith-Fici, Mr. Fredlund and the Board as the contract will help to retain quality staff, as she chooses to have her children attend WWPS.

Negotiations (Closed Session)

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Fitzpatrick that the Board move to Closed Session for discussion of Negotiations. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Walsh, Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, Nitz and Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 7 – 0.

The Board moved to Closed Session at 6:40 PM.

The Board returned from Closed Session at 7:05 PM.

Ratification

It was moved by Hiller supported by Walsh to approve the three-year agreement with the Warren Woods Education Association, MEA-NEA Local 1 effective September 9, 2024 – June 30, 2027. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Walsh, Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, and Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 6 – 0 – 1 with Nitz abstaining due to conflict of interest.

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Adjournment

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Fitzpatrick to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM.
The motion carried 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay F. Walsh
Secretary