

**MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
APRIL 22, 2024**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Schulte at 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center of Briarwood Elementary School, 14100 Leisure, Warren, MI 48088.

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 Kara Beal, Technology Director Kevin Hustek, Briarwood Principal Christine Walter, Student Representatives Isabella Burke and Natalya Bonkowski, and Executive Assistant Jackie Miracle.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval

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

Minutes

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2024 as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Correspondence

None.

Treasurer's Report

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the Treasurer's Report for March 2024. He began with General Fund Local Revenue consisting of Local tax collections from the City of Warren, investment earnings, and Adult Ed tuition. State Revenue consisted of a State Aid payment, in addition to Section 107 and Adult Ed funding from Wayne RESA, and Federal revenue consisted of grant reimbursements from ESSER III, ARP11T, Perkins and WIDA. Lastly, Incoming Transfers consisted of an Enhancement Millage payment from the ISD.

Next, a review of Food Service funds beginning with Local Revenue reflected ala carte sales, in addition to earnings on investments and some catering revenue. State Revenue included a State Aid payment and Federal Revenue consisted of breakfast and lunch reimbursements and prior period adjustments.

Finally, a review of ISD Centers Program funding reflected a State Aid payment along with a payment from the ISD.

Payment of the Bills

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

Building & Site	\$	9,331.20
2020 Bond Series I		9,652.52

Payment of the Bills (continued)

2023 Energy Bond \$ 74,045.47

The motion carried 7 – 0.

Old Business

None

New Business

Reports

Student Representatives

Superintendent Denewith-Fici introduced Student Representatives to the Board Isabella Burke and Natalya Bonkowski and asked for an update on activities at the high school.

Natalya began with StuCo Officer Elections for 2024 stating that preparations are currently underway for elections. In addition, next year's Homecoming is tentatively scheduled for October 12 with the Pep Rally taking place on October 11. Next, she stated that she, along with one other WWT HOSA finalist, had a wonderful experience and learned a lot while recently competing at the State Competition. In addition, students in the Digital Media class recently traveled to Grand Rapids to participate in Skills USA, which was another great learning experience. Natalya provided information for anyone present who was interested in viewing the WWT News production which will be broadcast on YouTube. Finally, WWT celebrated Career Day last week with representatives from various careers and today they celebrated Culture Day with exhibits and performances from diverse cultures from around the world.

Next, Bella shared some important upcoming dates including Prom on May 10, Senior Sunset on May 14, Class Night on June 6 and Commencement on June 10. In school, students are taking AP practice tests to prepare for the actual exams and this Thursday is Bring Your Child to Work Day. In addition, the Leadership Class sponsored a book drive and collected enough to donate 40 books to each elementary school in honor of March is Reading Month and Peer2Peer shirts are still available to purchase. In conclusion, Bella stated Teacher Appreciation Week will be celebrated in two weeks and gave a shout out to WWT teachers for being huge inspirations and for all they do to support students for who they are and who they want to be.

President Schulte thanked Natalya and Bella for their commitment to the Warren Woods Community throughout the last three years and wished them luck upon graduation.

Student Achievement: Briarwood Report

Superintendent Denewith-Fici introduced Briarwood Principal Christine Walter and thanked her for hosting tonight's meeting. Ms. Walter thanked the Board and those in attendance for being present this evening and stated tonight's presentation was to highlight some areas that Briarwood is focusing on to promote a strong community with the ultimate purpose of helping students to feel secure and that they belong.

Ms. Walter began with student attendance, and provided some background data indicating that attendance was an area of concern prior to the pandemic and stated the numbers are still suffering. She shared some strategies Briarwood staff have implemented including

New Business
Reports

Student Achievement: Briarwood Report (continued)

greeting students to start the day off strong, silent mentoring to provide support to individual students, tracking data through monthly reports from Performance Matters and the HERO (here every day on time) Award. Ms. Walter stated PBIS celebrations continue to recognize positive behavior and Family Engagement nights offer opportunities for students and families to be involved.

Ms. Walter introduced Briarwood EL/Math Support Teacher Mr. Brian Potts and stated he and some of his Science Olympiad students would share some highlights from their recent tournament. Mr. Potts gave an overview of the purpose of Science Olympiad to view Science as a sport. He introduced students Brock and Mason who demonstrated their precision Ping Pong Propulsion, Tali who participated in mystery architecture, Emily who provided an example of Codebusters and A is for Anatomy, and Rosie who demonstrated Crime Busters.

Next, Ms. Walter introduced Fourth-grade Teacher Lauren Gugala who coaches the Girls on the Run Club. Ms. Gugala stated this was the fourth year for the club at Briarwood which is open to 4th and 5th graders. The purpose of the club is to inspire a joyful, healthy and confident attitude resulting in positive social, emotional and physical health and culminates with a 5K run at Lake St. Clair Park on May 19.

Fourth-grade Teacher and Little Inventors Coach Kelli Swindell introduced Mason and Jackson who shared their inventions for this year's competition. Mason explained how his "Filterator" worked and Jackson demonstrated his "Lego Picker Upper". Ms. Swindell explained that Little Inventors promotes inspiring students' imaginations to bring things to life.

Lastly, Briarwood and Pinewood STEM Teacher Breean Jarvie gave an overview of the Stem outreach and how it encourages teaching students as future engineers. She noted community partnerships with Lawrence Tech, Project Lead the Way, MISD and Arts and Scraps and how working with the community was enhancing the program. Ms. Jarvie introduced several students who demonstrated the projects they created using Tinkercad including: Talia who designed a laptop easier to use, Hassan, who developed a trophy and Daylon who is still in the process of improving his design for an electric automatic garbage bag tie. Lastly, Ms. Jarvie highlighted a project that required students to design, construct, code and program a vehicle to clean up a nuclear spill and introduced Jake, Rosie and P.J. who demonstrated their projects.

Ms. Walter thanked all the presenters for taking the time to be here this evening.

Staff Recognition

Curriculum Director Kara Beal stated she would like to recognize Instructional Technology Coach Lisa Meneghin on her recent accomplishment of becoming a MACUL Certified Coach. Ms. Beal noted Ms. Meneghin's ability to make better sense of technology thus providing continuous improvement and making technology more efficient for staff. She thanked Lisa for her outstanding contributions and her ability to embrace change.

Bid: Selection and Assignment: RTU Installation and AHU Replacement

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the recommendation for the selection and assignment of the RTU Installation and AHU Replacement to be assigned to S & D Mechanical Services. He stated that this would allow for rooftop removal and replacement of seven units at

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Bid: Selection and Assignment: RTU Installation and AHU Replacement (continued) WWT, including the removal of one unit not in use. Also included is the removal and replacement of three air handler units at WWT.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Walsh to approve the **Bid: Selection and Assignment:** RTU Installation and AHU Replacement as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Bid Award: Food Service Equipment

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the Bid Award for Food Service Equipment and stated that this would provide a new reach-in freezer at Pinewood Elementary School. It was moved by Hiller supported by Nitz to approve the **Bid Award:** Food Service Equipment as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Appointment: Director of Facilities and Transportation

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the recommendation to appoint Dr. Don Ball to the position of Director of Facilities and Transportation, noting his vast experience and expertise. It was moved by Walsh, supported by Zannetti to approve the **Appointment** as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Walsh, Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, Nitz and Schulte. **Nays:** 0. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Dr. Ball thanked the Board and Administration for this opportunity and stated that he is looking forward to coming to WWPS.

Personnel Items

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the Personnel Items for Board Approval.

Leaves:

As presented.

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

New Hires:

Elizabeth Flegal - Speech and Language Pathologist – Briarwood – Date of hire 2024/2025 School Year.

Sarah Hubbard – Auditorium Worker – Date of hire 4/17/24.

Grace Piper - Auditorium Worker – Date of hire 4/03/24.

John Portalski – Math Teacher – WWT - Date of hire 2024/2025 School Year.

Ryan Skovranko - Auditorium Worker – Date of hire 4/08/24

Tobias Xiong - Auditorium Worker – Date of hire 4/03/24

Personnel Items

New Hires: (continued)

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

Public Expression

Joe Vukich, WWT Social Studies Teacher: Mr. Vukich stated as the AP World History Teacher he was here to show support for the AP program at WWT. He noted that AP classes do help on college applications and resumes and also noted the college credits and potential financial savings available to students upon successful completion.

Hazen Ragland, WWT Math Teacher: Ms. Ragland expressed her support for core AP classes, emphasizing the importance of making these opportunities available to students as they may seek them elsewhere.

Isabella Burke, WWT Student Representative: Bella expressed her concerns regarding cuts to the AP Program stating academically passionate students should be provided the opportunity to excel. She stated that these classes afforded her the opportunity to attend U of M as she was awarded a substantial scholarship.

Bree, WWT Student: Bree stated that as a junior she has doubled up on classes for two years to challenge herself and to be prepared to take AP Calculus as a senior.

Ethan, WWT Student: Ethan expressed his disappointment if AP courses are limited as he appreciates the opportunity to expand his learning potential.

Luis, WWT Student: Luis stated he has doubled his classes for the past two years in a row in order to be prepared for AP Calculus and expressed his disappointment if this opportunity will no longer be available.

Alexandria, WWT Student: Alexandria expressed her disappointment to the proposed changes to the AP classes stating it allows students an opportunity to save money by taking the classes prior to attending college.

Melissa Cheshier, WWT Science Teacher: Ms. Cheshier expressed her concern that students do not receive the same type of instruction and support through dual enrollment as they receive when enrolled in AP classes at WWT.

Jennifer Compton, District parent: Ms. Compton expressed her concern about limiting options to students who require and/or want classes that push them to excel.

Jason Chamberlin, District parent: Mr. Chamberlin stated that he currently has two students attending WWT who are enrolled in AP classes and encouraged the Board and Administration to continue to offer these classes in order to support our students.

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Public Expression (continued)

President Schulte thanked those who addressed the Board and assured them their concerns are taken seriously. He stated the concerns would be addressed and discussed as a Board and Superintendent Denewith-Fici would report back.

Mr. Hiller stated he attended the MASB Conference last year and reiterated his appreciation for the relationship that is maintained in our district between the Administration, the staff, and the Board.

President Schulte added his appreciation for the opportunity to attend the President's Workshop at the MASB Conference. In addition, he attended "Shrek The Musical" last week and noted the effort put in by the students and thanked Trustee Hiller for his behind-the-scenes work.

Mr. Zannetti thanked Principal Walter for hosting this evening.

Adjournment

It was moved by Hiller supported by Walsh to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay F. Walsh
Secretary