

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NOVEMBER 11, 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, and Schulte. Absent with notice: Nitz. 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, Student Representatives Nataly Chang and Valorie Lee 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 6 – 0.

Minutes

It was moved by Walsh supported by Hiller to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 28, 2024 as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Correspondence

None

Payment of the Bills

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

General Fund	\$	842,876.64
Center Programs		4,822.46
Food Service Fund		186,902.20
Child Care Fund		2,262.84
Campus Corner		4,413.14
Building & Site		426,610.40
2020 Bond Series I		28,631.16
2023 Energy Bond		369,959.48

The motion carried 6 – 0.

Payment of the Bills (continued)

Vice President Zannetti inquired about a General Fund payment to Gateway Commercial Finance and asked for clarification. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon stated it was payment to cover the district third-party bus driver services from Divergent. Mr. Zannetti followed up with a question about a payment to the Macomb County Treasurer and Mr. Cassabon explained that the process includes local tax payers filing an appeal to the taxable value of their property. When the appeal is granted the county bills us and the State will reimburse through State aid adjustments.

Trustee Garcia inquired about a General Fund payment for Second Step Licensing Renewal and if there was a matrix to measure effectiveness. Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker explained that through the school improvement processes, we would be monitoring the impact in two ways: a reduction in discipline referrals and student absences. Next, Mr. Garcia asked if payment to Plante Moran was for audit cleanup and Mr. Cassabon replied it was the final invoice for the audit. Finally, Trustee Garcia commented on the Food Service portion noting that Coke seems to have outpaced Pepsi in popularity.

Old Business

None.

New Business
Reports

Student Representatives

Superintendent Denewith-Fici introduced Student Representatives Nataly Chang and Valorie Lee and invited them to report on activities at WWT.

Valorie began with news from the Marketing Classes who recently took a field trip to Beyond Home, where students engaged in an informative and fun competition to see what team could create the best visual merchandising stand on a \$100 budget. Next, she announced that HOSA students would be competing in Regionals next Friday at Dakota High School, and finally, the Michigan Career Quest Field Trip is on November 19, where students will have the opportunity to explore careers in advanced manufacturing, construction, technology or health sciences.

Nataly listed the winter sports line up and stated teams are beginning practices this week, and, in StuCo news, a meeting is scheduled for November 18th, to begin planning the next fundraising activity for Susie Q's Kids, a local charity that provides for children in need.

Student Achievement

Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker introduced K-12 Instructional Technology Coach Lisa Meneghin and stated that she would be providing an overview of how instructional technology is being used throughout the district and how she integrates technology between teachers, students and administration.

Ms. Meneghin stated that the purpose of tonight's presentation was to provide an understanding of how instructional technology is being used to connect all pieces of district school improvement through alignment, engagement and assessment.

She began with instructional technology initiatives and explained how the use of digital Individualized Reading Intervention Plans (IRIP) NWEA skills tests and Microsoft Reading

New Business
Reports

Student Achievement (continued)

Coach has assisted in meeting the district ELA goals. In math, tools such as Performance Matters, Atlas Standards and Dreambox help teaching staff identify students' mastery of standards and drills down to help meet individual student needs.

Next, Ms. Meneghin addressed the use of technology in accomplishing the third district goal of a "Well Rounded Education" and explained how technology was being used to support a decrease in absenteeism and to improve behavior referrals. Microsoft Reflect is an application that tracks social and emotional well being and is used in silent mentoring and student tagging.

Finally, Ms. Meneghin emphasized the district focus moving forward on using the tools and components currently available to their fullest potential and how to use them to best meet the district's goals.

Much discussion took place along with many questions that were addressed by Ms. Meneghin.

Vice President Zannetti commented on data entry in IRIPs and how specific and consistent it is and how it was monitored. Ms. Meneghin stated that this is the first year this process is being implemented and some well-written IRIPs will be shared with elementary principals so that they may present the standards to their staff.

Trustee Garcia asked if there was a component for students to access Microsoft Reading Coach from home. Ms. Meneghin replied yes there is, and it was piloted in grades 3 – 5 successfully last year.

Mr. Zannetti asked Ms. Meneghin if there has been any collaboration with other districts regarding the use of the Microsoft AI applications and noted the importance of using artificial intelligence appropriately. Ms. Meneghin responded that not a lot of districts are using Microsoft yet and added she firmly believes that artificial intelligence will not make teachers obsolete; however, districts that utilize it will outperform districts that do not.

Vice President Zannetti asked how teachers translate student data to parents and Ms. Meneghin stated that Dreambox has a parent portal. He asked what practices were in place to hold teachers accountable for their data. Ms. Liz Mors, WWMS Science Teacher, stated that student growth data is used for teacher evaluations every year and Ms. Voelker added that this year's DSAT efforts are framed around providing the opportunity to discuss student achievement data through PLCs.

Trustee Hiller commented on the fact that teachers are reaching out for support and the positive impact that produces.

Bid Award: Summer 2025 Construction

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the recommendation to award the Summer 2025 Construction Bid Award to Clark Construction. Mr. Cassabon noted the calendar change and the shortened summer due to the pre-Labor Day start for the 2025-26 school year. He stated that bids for a variety of projects across the district were sent out early and the team was extremely satisfied with the response, as a number of competitive bids were received. Mr. Cassabon noted that all recommended bids were vetted by Clark Construction, Wakely Associates and Facilities and Maintenance Director Don Ball. Deputy Superintendent stated that in addition to the direct trade contractor costs there is a built-in eight percent contingency award for unforeseen issues and a two percent general conditions budget related to items such

New Business

Bid Award: Summer 2025 Construction (continued)

as building permits, security and safety requirements, temporary utilities, etc. all subject to prior approval for each item.

It was moved by Walsh supported by Zannetti to approve the **Bid Award:** Summer 2025 Construction as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Treasurer Fitzpatrick asked if this bid included the middle school porch on the auditorium side of the building and Deputy Superintendent Cassabon stated that project was scheduled for Summer 2026.

Trustee Garcia asked if Clark Construction was getting paid a separate fee and Mr. Cassabon replied yes, that neither Clark or Wakely costs are included in this recommendation as we have separate contracts with them.. Next, Mr. Garcia noted the difference in cost on the demolition project and asked why the bid was so much less and Mr. Cassabon responded that the company is local and the district has used them often.

Vice President Zannetti noted that the date on the background documentation was listed as November 11, 2025 in error.

Policy Updates: Second Reading

Superintendent Denewith-Fici noted the Policy Committee met on October 14, 2024 to review recommended updates. The following Policies were reviewed and recommended for updates: 0100, 0115, 0144.1, 0154, 1075.1, 1110, 1210, 1220, 1240, 2410, 2414, 2418, 3220, 6320, 6321, 6325, 6350, 6520, 8390 and 8800.

In addition, Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the Title IX Policy update provided by Thrun Law Firm.

Finally, Ms. Denewith-Fici stated concerns from districts throughout the County relating to policies 2410, 2414 and 2418, which were included in the First Reading at the Special Meeting on October 28, 2024. As a result, the Policy Committee is recommending tabling the adoption of Policies 2410, 2414 and 2418 pending a review with district policy advisors and attorney.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick, supported by Hiller to adopt and approve the following policies: 0100, 0115, 0144.1, 0154, 1075.1, 1110, 1210, 1220, 1240, 3220, 6320, 6321, 6325, 6350, 6520, 8390, 8800 and the Thrun Title IX Policy. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Walsh, Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, and Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Personnel Items

Leaves:

As presented

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Zanneti to approve the **Leaves** as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

New Hires:

Campbell, Zoe – Substitute Teacher – date of rehire 11/01/24.

Khan, Aquil – Part Time Bus Driver – date of hire 11/7/24.

Lumpkin, Curley – Custodian – WWMS – date of hire 10/31/24.

Personnel Items

New Hires: (continued)

Morgowicz, Catherine – Lunch Supervisor – Briarwood – date of hire 11/6/24.

It was moved by Walsh supported by Hiller to approve the **New Hires** as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Trustee Fitzpatrick asked for an update on the status of the bus drivers. Superintendent Denewith-Fici stated there is one new driver currently in training, and one new part-time driver hired, which will hopefully help alleviate some of the athletic run concerns.

Public Expression

None

Adjournment

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Zannetti to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 PM. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay F. Walsh
Secretary