

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
JANUARY 13, 2025**

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: Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, Nitz, Spicer and Schulte. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassabon, Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker, Special Services Director Stacie Sward, Director of Facilities and Transportation Don Ball, Student Representatives Nataly Chang and Valorie Lee, and Executive Assistant Jackie Miracle.

Pledge of Allegiance

Oath of Office

Superintendent Denewith-Fici read the Oath of Office to newly elected Board Member Nicole Spicer and to re-elected Board Members Mike Schulte, Scott Hiller and Jenny Nitz.

Election of Secretary

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Nitz to nominate Scott Hiller as WWPS Board Secretary. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, Nitz, Spicer and Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 7 – 0.

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 Zannetti supported by Fitzpatrick to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 16, 2024 as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Correspondence

None

Payment of the Bills

It was moved by Hiller supported by Fitzpatrick to pay the following bills as presented:

General Fund	\$	961,888.48
Center Programs		10,145.41
Food Service Fund		139,121.53
Child Care Fund		1,665.20

Payment of the Bills (continued)

Campus Corner	\$	4,610.06
Bond 2020 Series I		32,789.54
2023 Energy Bond		23,448.00

The motion carried 7 – 0.

Trustee Garcia asked if the MSU College advisor was present for the entire year and if they advised across all colleges. Superintendent Denewith-Fici stated that the advisor is present for the entire year and does provide support to students applying for all colleges. Next, Mr. Garcia asked about the 27K Student Loan repayment and if the grant funds have been received and Deputy Superintendent replied that the funds have been received and qualified employees have been reimbursed.

Vice President Zannetti commented on the number of mechanical charges this month. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon noted that this was due to a significant amount of HVAC repair work. Next, Mr. Zannetti inquired about the protective coating work at Westwood, and Mr. Cassabon stated that Westwood had been completed, along with the first coating at Enterprise.

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.

Nataly began with a report on the Unified Basketball game vs. Grosse Pointe South last week noting that even though WWT did not win the game, students who participated received a varsity letter and had a great experience. She added that there are four more games scheduled. In StuCo news, Nataly stated that Open Mic Night was a big success, and members recently had a chance to show off their new StuCo merch when they attended the District Conference at the MISD to see Ashley Childs with Rays of Sunshine, who presented on Acts of Kindness and Authenticity.

Next, Valorie reported that students at WWT were busy taking finals this week and noted the new schedule which allows students to take two exams per day instead of three. Valorie was also excited to share the news that she and three other WWT students finished in the top 64 out of a total of 300 participants to attend the Western Bronco Pitch Competition, which gives students an opportunity to improve their public speaking skills.

Student Achievement: School Accountability

Superintendent Denewith-Fici introduced Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker and stated that she would be presenting tonight's report which was a required yearly update on the school accountability ratings from the MDE.

New Business
Reports

Student Achievement: School Accountability (continued)

Ms. Voelker stated tonight's presentation would provide an understanding of the differences in MICIP goals and School Index goals and the response and planning moving forward. She began with a review of the three district MICIP goals which include English/Language Arts, Mathematics and Well-Rounded Education, noting thresholds were established "Pre-Covid" and plotted key considerations moving forward. Next, Ms. Voelker reviewed the State Scoring Index Calculations, and reported no WWPS schools were identified as needing additional support.

In conclusion, Ms. Voelker reviewed individual building school index ratings and summarized that future response and planning efforts will continue to be framed around on-track attendance, EL progress, and remain conscious that student subgroups are constantly changing.

Trustee Nitz noted a significant increase in Elementary and Middle School scores from 2021-2022 to 2022-23 and asked what it could be attributed to. Ms. Voelker stated that the Bridges Math Curriculum implementation contributed to an increase in math scores and indicate positive growth, however, data will be analyzed by individual schools.

More discussion ensued regarding ensuring resources are in place to make improvements and Superintendent Denewith-Fici noted a new staff member has been added to support subgroups. In addition, the Superintendent stated the district was piloting an attendance program in partnership with Van Dyke Public Schools.

Board Appreciation

Superintendent Denewith-Fici thanked the Board Members for their leadership and commitment to the WWPS Community. She presented them with tokens of appreciation from each building and thanked them for their dedication.

Resolution: School of Choice 2025-26

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the resolution which maintains past practice and opens the application window for Macomb County residents to apply for School of Choice beginning February 1, 2025 until July 31, 2025.

It was moved by Hiller supported by Nitz to approve the **Resolution: School of Choice 2025-26** as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, Nitz, Spicer and Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Bid Award: Enterprise VUV Equipment and Installation

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the recommendation to assign the Bid Award for the Enterprise VUV Equipment and Installation to Ameresco. It was moved by Zannetti, supported by Fitzpatrick to approve the **Bid Award: Enterprise VUV Equipment and Installation** as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Bid Award: Food Service Equipment

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the bid award for food service equipment and noted it was part of the excess fund balance spend down plan. Mr. Cassabon noted this

New Business

Bid Award: Food Service Equipment (continued)

effects six out of the seven buildings that service students, with the exception of the Early Childhood Center. It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Nitz to approve the **Bid Award:** Food Service Equipment as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0. Trustee Garcia asked if any additional charges would be covered by the Food Service Funds and Deputy Superintendent replied yes, the Food Service Fund would cover any additional charges.

Bid Award: Summer 2025 Asbestos Abatement

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the recommendation from Nova Environmental to award the Summer 2025 Asbestos Abatement bid award to Quality Environmental Services, LLC., and noted it was the final piece of the 2025 construction work.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to approve Bid Award: Summer 2025 Asbestos Abatement as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Mr. Hiller inquired about WWMS and EHS and Mr. Cassabon stated that there was none detected at either building.

Bid Rejection: Education Center Geothermal Wellfield, Equipment and Installation

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the recommendation to reject the Education Center Geothermal Wellfield, Equipment and Installation Bid. He stated that the original bids received were over budget and that a subsequent bid to replace the equipment in a more traditional format will follow.

It was moved by Hiller supported by Fitzpatrick to approve the **Bid Rejection:** Education Center Geothermal Wellfield, Equipment and Installation as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Budget Amendment 2024-2025

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon stated that the Finance Committee met at length on December 18, 2024 to review the recommended changes in detail. He noted that the original budget was established based on many assumptions as there was no State Aid budget in place at the time of adoption.

First, Mr. Cassabon reviewed General Fund recommendations and detailed Local, State and Federal Revenue and noted the impact on investment earnings which are beginning to see a decrease; however we are still trying to take advantage of the higher rates while we can. Next, Mr. Cassabon reviewed enrollment trends and stated in addition to a decline in enrollment, the original budget included a \$100 increase per pupil which did not occur. Mr. Cassabon noted additional State funding did include a Declining Enrollment Stabilization payment. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon noted that the State reduced contributions to the MPSERS unfunded liability, however, it was added as a new line item to effectively reduce the offset. A review of Federal Revenue included a summary of grant allocations.

Next, Mr. Cassabon reviewed expenditures which included a UAAL payment, a new collective bargaining agreement for teachers, an additional section of kindergarten at Westwood and other staff changes. He noted there were some expected changes to occur as a result of PA 152 with regard to employer health insurance contributions, the minimum wage debate and the Employee Sick Time Act.

New Business

Budget Amendment 2024-2025 (continued)

In conclusion, Deputy Superintendent Cassabon reviewed revenue and expense amendments for the Centers Program, which has also experienced declining enrollment, causing one classroom to close, in addition to increased expenses due to salary increases from the new teachers' contract. Finally, the Food Service fund, which has been utilizing breakfast and lunch for all students and more students qualifying for Federal free lunch, has resulted in an increase in staff hours.

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Fitzpatrick to approve the **Budget Amendment 2024-2025** as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Vice President Zannetti thanked Mr. Cassabon and the Business Office Team for their thoroughness and expertise and President Schulte expressed his appreciation to the Finance Committee.

Resolution: IDEA Funding

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the Resolution and stated this was being supported by the K-12 Alliance, in addition to most districts in the tri-county area, to guarantee 40% funding from the Federal government in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) passed in 1975. It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Zannetti to approve the **Resolution: IDEA Funding** as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, Nitz, Spicer and Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Personnel Items

Leaves:

As presented

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

New Hires:

Dylan Dyjewski - Substitute Teacher – date of rehire 12/16/24.

Thomas Greco – Substitute Teacher – date of hire 1/6/25.

Caleb Hadden – Substitute Teacher – date of hire 1/6/25.

Rochelle Hilliard – Dispatch Clerk – Garage – date of hire 1/6/25.

Susan Lift – Substitute Food Service – date of rehire 12/16/24.

Stephanie Salatrik – Kitchen Helper – WWT – date of hire 1/8/25.

Lynda Spica – 2nd Grade Teacher – Pinewood – date of hire 1/13/25.

Marcella Stechow – Kitchen Helper – WWT – date of hire 1/6/25.

Personnel

New Hires: (continued)

Laura Stewart – Intervention Assistant – Briarwood – date of hire 1/6/25.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to approve the **New Hires** as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0 – 1 with Trustee Nitz abstaining due to conflict of interest.

Public Expression

Adjournment

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Fitzpatrick to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 PM. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Hiller
Secretary