

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NOVEMBER 14, 2022**

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Members present: Green, Schulte, Walsh, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, and Garcia. Absent with notice: Zannetti. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassabon, Special Services Director Stacie Sward, Technology Director Kevin Hustek, WWMS Principal Donny Sikora, Director of Facilities and Transportation Matthew Dishman, Student Representative Natalya Bonkowski and Executive Assistant Jackie Miracle.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval

It was moved by Walsh supported by Schulte to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Minutes

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 24, 2022 and the Minutes of the Closed Session Meeting of October 24, 2022 as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Correspondence

None

Payment of the Bills

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

General Fund	\$	891,835.57
Center Programs		5,731.52
Food Service Fund		232,693.03
Child Care Fund		12,530.79
Campus Corner		7,061.99
Building & Site		12,925.00
Bond 2020 Series 1		59,470.18

The motion carried 6 – 0.

Payment of the Bills (continued)

Trustee Hiller inquired about a payment to Gateway Commercial Finance and asked if it was for the transportation contractor. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon replied yes, Gateway Commercial Finance is the payment for our third-party contractor used to provide substitute bus driver services.

Next, Mr. Hiller asked about a payment to Macomb County Treasurer and Mr. Cassabon explained that individuals appeal taxes through the county that we are then required to pay. Prior year adjustments are then made by the state to the district via state aid throughout the year.

Mr. Hiller then asked about Food Service payments to Bernco and asked for an update on the status of the Middle School project. Mr. Cassabon stated that he and Matthew Dishman were notified that the doors have been shipped and are now on-site. The temporary walls need to be removed and inspections done prior to opening.

Trustee Garcia commented on the payment issued to Secure Education Consultants and asked if they have issued a report. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon replied that the report has been issued in draft form under attorney/client privilege and we are waiting for the final opinion. Mr. Garcia followed up and asked how well the district fared and Mr. Cassabon replied the consultants were very impressed with how far we have come since when we first worked with them in 2018 and said we are ahead of many other districts; however, we still are expecting some recommendations.

Next, Mr. Garcia inquired about a payment to Burlington English asking if it was a “per adult seat” charge or a licensing fee? Mr. Cassabon replied it was a per seat fee which are ordered by Adult Ed throughout the year as needed.

Mr. Garcia’s final request was clarification on a payment to Lightspeed Systems. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon stated this was an annual fee not only for licensing for the filter, but also for software alerts to building administration that notify of concerning comments or searches related to violence, bullying or self harm. He stated it has already more than paid for itself.

Old Business

None

New Business

Reports

Student Representatives

Superintendent Denewith-Fici welcomed Isabella and asked for an update on activities at WWT.

Isabella began with Sports stating the Girls Volleyball Team won the District Championship last week and the Girls Swim Team took second place in the Gold Division. Next, she stated that the Booster Club Craft Show is this weekend with athletes from WWT Sports Teams on hand to help, and the Marketing Classes are designing WWT Christmas gear to sell. Finally, Bella announced the Staff vs. Students Basketball Game scheduled for Tuesday at 1:35 PM.

New Business

Reports (continued)

Student Achievement: Bridges Math Update

Superintendent Denewith-Fici introduced Curriculum Director Kara Beal and Elementary Math Coach Kathy Hribar and stated they were here this evening to present an update on the Bridges Math program implementation.

Ms. Beal stated the purpose of tonight's report is to provide an overview on the progress of the implementation of the newly adopted Bridges Math program. She began with a brief history of the adoption process which included the pilot program which was introduced to the user group during the 2021-22 school year. Next, she explained the training process which began with intensive professional development for the Math Coach, Kathy Hribar, along with the preparation, ordering and organization of the materials for each building. Grade Level Leaders participated in a training retreat during the summer to prepare them to lead their building teams in the rollout process, and, finally, teachers received training during both Back-to-School and Election Day professional development.

Ms. Hribar then shared a brief presentation which provided examples of some of the hands-on activities in which students are engaging. Next, she summarized other supports that are available such as collaboration among the Elementary Support Team, including the Instructional Technology Coach, to promote and improve the process, and outreach and partnership with the ISD which will provide ongoing training.

In conclusion, Ms. Beal and Ms. Hribar provided an outline of the next steps to implementation which include STEM enrichment opportunities, Internal Dreambox Challenge and plans for a STEM/Math Family Engagement Event this winter.

Resolution: Stormwater Management

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the Resolution to the Board and stated that as part of a consortium of districts with the ISD we are required to renew the permit. It is recommended that the Board approve the **Resolution: Stormwater Management** as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Schulte, Walsh, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia and Green. **Nays:** 0. The motion carried 6 – 1.

Mr. Garcia asked if there was a cost to renewing the permit. Facilities and Operations Director Matthew Dishman responded that the MISD holds the permit, and we are able to split the cost among other districts.

Ratification: AFT Michigan – Local 4706

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon stated an agreement had been reached with the Paraprofessional's Union on October 27 and would extend through June 2025. He detailed some of the changes to the contract including wage increases effective Monday, November 21, and July 1 for the next two years, in addition to off-schedule retention payments, increased district contribution and added additional paid holidays for non, full time members of the group. Mr. Cassabon expressed his appreciation to the bargaining group for making this a seamless process. It was moved by Hiller supported by Walsh to approve the **Ratification: AFT Michigan – Local 4706**. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Schulte, Walsh, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia and Green. **Nays:** 0. The motion carried 6 – 0.

New Business

Ratification: AFT Michigan – Local 4706 (continued)

President Green thanked the Paraprofessionals for being willing to do whatever it takes to focus on achievement. The Board recognizes the commitment of this group and takes their responsibility to compensate seriously.

Personnel Items

Leaves

As presented.

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

New Hires

Heidi Czarnecki – Special Education Paraprofessional - Early Childhood Center – ECSE – Hire Date 11/7/22

Abidah Hussain – Language Acquisition Assistant – Elementaries – Hire Date 11/7/22.

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

Public Expression

Amber Miller, district parent, requested that the bus stop at Brainbridge and Schoenherr be reinstated as it is not safe for students and creates a transportation hardship.

James Young, district parent, also requested that the bus stop at Brainbridge and Schoenherr be reinstated.

Mr. Vue Cha, district parent, expressed his concern regarding the lack of a bus stop South of Frazho. He stated he can hear the number of accidents in that area on while working from home.

President Green stated he would have Superintendent Denewith-Fici contact Ms. Miller.

Ken Giorlando, district Paraprofessional, stated he has been a paraprofessional at WWT for eight years and expressed his appreciation for the new contract.

Board Secretary Kay Walsh thanked the Paraprofessionals for all they do every day.

Board Trustee Mr. Garcia stated that he had attended a recent DSAT Meeting where data was presented by grade level. He was impressed by the approach our teams are using to identify students in need. He shared some insight regarding testing and stated in addition to

Public Expression (continued)

many new teachers and student transiency there are many unknown factors that affect student data. Mr. Garcia thanked Ms. Beal and the staff for their commitment.

Board Trustee Mr. Fitzpatrick thanked the Warren Woods Community for their support in the recent election and for the opportunity to serve on the Board for another six years where he can continue to help "Make it happen together."

Mr. Fitzpatrick added a reminder that the WWT Boosters Craft Show is this Saturday and Sunday.

Student Rep Isabella announced that the NHS Rake and Run was a success with three groups raking up 20 bags of leaves. She added that today the Peer to Peer program participated in a field trip to see *Black Panther* followed by a trip to McDonalds.

Board President Jere Green expressed his thanks to the community for their support in the recent election and stated he is honored to have a seat on the Board. He added that he is passionate about the District and looks forward to working together with staff and community.

WWMS Principal Donny Sikora extended his appreciation to re-elected Board members Mr. Green and Mr. Fitzpatrick.

Adjournment

It was moved by Schulte, supported by Fitzpatrick to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 PM. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay F. Walsh, Secretary