

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
APRIL 8, 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 Kara Beal, Special Services Director Stacie Sward, 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 Zannetti supported by Hiller to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 25, 2024 as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0 – 1 with Fitzpatrick abstaining due to absence.

Correspondence

None

Payment of the Bills

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

General Fund	\$	839,337.59
Center Programs		3,687.01
Food Service Fund		106,944.17
Childcare Fund		1,007.70
Campus Corner		3,635.20
2023 Energy Bond		17,037.90

The motion carried 7 – 0.

Trustee Garcia noted a payment to Grand Traverse Resort for the HOSA Leadership Conference and asked how the students that attended did. Student Representative Natalia stated that students will compete next week. Next, Mr. Garcia inquired about a payment

Regular Board Meeting

April 8, 2024

Page 2

Payment of the Bills (continued)

to the National Health Career Association and asked if it was for study and testing fees. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon replied it covered the fees for students taking exams for certifications.

Old Business

None

New Business

Reports

Student Representatives

Superintendent Denewith-Fici welcomed Student Representatives Isabella Burke and Natalya Bonkowski and stated they would provide an update on activities at WWT.

Natalya reported that as stated earlier, HOSA students are looking forward to attending the Leadership Conference at Grand Traverse Resort next week. In addition, CNA students are preparing for upcoming certification tests, along with students in the EMT and Fire Fighting programs. Digital Media produced their first livestream which you can check out on YouTube when it airs on April 19 and 26, and she and another student will accompany Mr. Martin to Grand Rapids to compete in Skills USA this coming weekend. Lastly, she reported that spring sports are in full swing and the WWT students competed against the staff at the Student vs. Staff Dodgeball Game last week.

Bella reported on the Unified Basketball Game which was held prior to Spring Break, and stated it was a school-wide event with everyone participating and encouraged everyone to check out the “hype video” on YouTube and the photos on the Peer2Peer Facebook page. Next, she stated that the Leadership Class sponsored a book drive with proceeds to be donated to elementary students. The Culture Club is planning a Cultural Day with the date to be announced and NHS is assisting with production for “Shrek the Musical” which opens this Thursday, along with additional performances Friday, Saturday and Sunday. SAT testing begins tomorrow at WWT, and DECA Nationals are scheduled for April 26, when Ms. Ghattas will accompany Bella and her sister who have qualified to compete to California to compete at the international level. Finally, Bella announced that plans are underway at WWT for “Bring Your Child to Work Day” on April 25.

Staff Recognition: Teacher of the Year

Superintendent Denewith-Fici recognized WWPS 2023-24 Outstanding Teachers and presented each with a Certificate of Recognition. Amy Ellison – First Grade Teacher, Westwood, Lindsay Grange – Special Education Teacher, Warren Woods Middle School and Scott Corpuz – Band/Choir Teacher, WWT. The nominees will be recognized at a county dinner hosted by the ISD on April 11, 2024.

Ms. Denewith-Fici read student statements for each candidate and thanked them for their dedication and service, and for always doing what is best for kids.

Care Solace Update

Superintendent Denewith-Fici stated tonight’s report would provide an update on the impact the recent partnership between WWPS and Care Solace has had.

Regular Board Meeting

April 8, 2024

Page 3

New Business

Reports

Care Solace Update (continued)

Ms. Denewith-Fici explained that Care Solace was a mental health care coordination service that assists with providing social and emotional support for students/staff and families who do not otherwise have access to this type of care. All WWPS administrators, social workers, counselors and nurses received training in December 2023 to provide details on the services that are offered, and informational updates are provided through two monthly newsletters. The service assists with helping to find quality care quickly, jumping waitlists when necessary, and provides support with language barriers and referrals.

In conclusion, Ms. Denewith-Fici provided some statistics to show the impact the service has had so far. From December 2023 through April 2024 there have been 33 warm handoffs, generating 1,840 communications on their behalf. In addition, outreach has resulted in 47 anonymous searches, which indicate that the referrals are successful, as information we are sending out is making an impact.

Trustee Garcia asked if there was a cap to the number of referrals and Superintendent Denewith-Fici replied there was no cap.

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

None

Termination

As presented.

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

Public Expression

Superintendent Denewith-Fici announced that “Shrek The Musical” tickets were available at no cost to Board members.

Trustees Garcia and Nitz commented on how much they enjoyed the opportunity to read to Pinewood students in honor of March is Reading Month.

Regular Board Meeting
April 8, 2024
Page 4

Adjournment

It was moved by Hiller supported by Zannetti to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 PM. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Walsh
Secretary