

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OCTOBER 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, Hiller, Fitzpatrick, Garcia, Nitz, Spicer and Schulte. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassabon, Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker, Director of Facilities and Transportation Don Ball, Accounting Supervisor Linda Renno, Student Representatives Nataly Chang and Valorie Lee and Executive Assistant Jackie Miracle.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Nitz 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 Regular Meeting of September 22, 2025 as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Correspondence

None

Estimated Board Expenses

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the estimated expenses for President Schulte, Vice President Zannetti, Secretary Fitzpatrick and Trustee Garcia to attend the MASB Annual Leadership Conference at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa October 23-26.

It was moved by Nitz supported by Spicer to approve the Estimated Board Expenses as presented. The motion carried.

Payment of the Bills

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

General Fund	\$ 1,178,306.74
Center Programs	4,954.90
Food Service Fund	150,626.28
Child Care Fund	3,845.58
Campus Corner	12,521.19

Payment of the Bills (continued)

Building & Site	\$ 9,000.00
Bond 2020 Series I	34,636.96
2025 Capital Projects Fund	6,172.73

The motion carried 7 – 0.

Trustee Garcia asked for clarification about a payment to MISD in the amount of \$4,500. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon replied that it was payment for training for the high school counselors.

Old Business

None.

New Business
Reports

Student Representatives

Valorie noted that the end of the first quarter is fast approaching, with the second quarter beginning the week of October 27. She reported that the Student Council recently held its third meeting of the year, during which members discussed fundraising plans for the State competition in January. Valorie also shared that Homecoming was a success, with more than 800 tickets sold. The Seniors won first place in the Pep Rally, while the Sophomores took first place in the float competition. She added that invitations for students attending Communication Camp at the end of October have been sent out and expressed her enthusiasm for participating.

In Club News, Nataly reported that the Drama Club recently held its first meeting of the year and successfully hosted a Karaoke Night at the ASC. In addition, she shared that NHS recently distributed applications for inducting new members. Finally, Nataly noted that WWT Seniors would be participating in a field trip to Oakland University to explore campus life.

Student Achievement: Student Engagement

Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker stated that Instructional Engagement Coach Erika Liska, who, along with herself, received certification as a Kagan Teacher Trainer over the summer, was present to share her plans for this year's Kagan initiative.

Ms. Liska began by providing Kagan updates, including a review of the instructional coaching cycles and the district's expectation that each teacher participates in three coaching structures per year. She explained that this year's focus is on reducing the practice of "calling on one" and highlighted strategies and examples showing how Kagan structures help create a more collaborative classroom environment.

Ms. Liska then shared the impact of Kagan implementation on student learning, teaching practices, and school culture. She noted that an article she authored, soon to be published on the Kagan website, will highlight the *Showdown* structure and feature results from WWPS district classrooms. The article includes survey data that indicated that 96% of high school

New Business **Reports**

Student Achievement: Student Engagement (continued)

biology students reported that working in groups helps them learn. Additionally, 6th grade social studies data showed a 20% increase in student proficiency and a 17% decrease in failing grades after using *Showdown* to prepare for an assessment.

Ms. Liska also shared staff feedback indicating that two-thirds of respondents found internal Kagan coaching to be the most valuable professional development they had received, citing the benefit of immediate feedback. She noted a visible shift from “teaching Kagan” to “teaching with Kagan,” as students become more familiar with the terminology and routines.

To illustrate the application of Kagan strategies, Ms. Liska shared an example from a 6th grade ELA coaching cycle, demonstrating how Kagan structures support data-driven instruction as well as informal classroom support.

In conclusion, Ms. Liska reviewed district goals and outlined her plans for continued staff support. She highlighted the recently developed online professional development library and her intention to expand it, as well as her commitment to assist teachers with structure alignment. She reaffirmed the district’s goal of reducing “calling on one” at both elementary and secondary levels and expressed continued collaboration with district math and literacy coaches to support the implementation of *Bridges* and *CKLA* programs.

Vice President Zannetti asked Ms. Liska how staff manage dominant students. Ms. Liska explained that all Kagan structures are designed to ensure equal participation through designated times or turns. Mr. Zannetti then inquired whether teachers rotate team positions, and Ms. Liska confirmed that both positions and teams are regularly switched.

Mr. Zannetti also asked whether Ms. Liska felt her role was being stretched due to limited funding for additional internal coaches this year. Ms. Liska responded that she remains optimistic Title II funds will soon be released, allowing her to collaborate more closely with other coaches and district experts.

Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker added that Ms. Liska has been responsible for all internal coaching to date but expressed hope that, once funds are released, other trained coaches can be utilized through substitute coverage.

Trustee Nitz commented that it appears the high school has fully embraced the initiative and commended Ms. Liska’s efforts, noting that her work is making a positive difference.

Treasurer Fitzpatrick addressed the student representatives, asking whether their teachers were incorporating Kagan activities. Both students responded that they had participated in some Kagan structures but would like to see more used in their classes.

Change Order: Bid Package #2 Summer 2025 Renovations

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the Change Order, which included the installation of a new vehicle detection loop for the gate separating the WWT student and visitor parking lots. Additionally, approximately 150,000 square feet of the WWT visitor and staff parking areas required fine grading, with 496 tons of limestone used to regrade and compensate for the varying depths of asphalt that needed removal.

The Change Order also included the undercutting of bad soil in the WWT and EHS parking lots. This process involved removing the poor-quality soil and replacing it with crushed limestone to create a solid base for the new asphalt. Finally, it included additional asphalt

New Business

Change Order: Bid Package #2 Summer 2025 Renovations (continued) removal and the installation of drain tile in the EHS parking lot to redirect standing water to the storm drains.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller that the Board approve the **Change Order: Bid Package #2 Summer 2025 Renovations** as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Personnel Items

Leaves:

As presented

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

New Hires:

Mareae Al-kmisi – Substitute Teacher – date of hire 10/1/25.

Stephanie Ameal – Substitute Teacher – date of hire 10/1/25.

Zena Ferrara – Substitute Teacher – date of hire 10/3/25.

Stefen Kutchev – English Teacher – IAM – date of hire 9/29/25.

Susan Lawrence – Interim Early Childhood Administrator – date of hire 9/26/25.

Benjamin Maleszyk – WWMS Track Coach – date of hire 9/24/25.

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

Public Expression

MEA-NEA Local 1 Union Vice President and Pinewood Resource Room Teacher Lisa Grywacz shared a celebration from their Monthly Union Meeting. She stated that 2nd Grade Pinewood Teachers Valerie Austin and Lynda Spica recently applied for and received a grant to cover the cost for a trip to the Detroit Zoo for all second graders at Pinewood.

President Schulte welcomed Diana Rende, who will be replacing Jackie Miracle as Executive Assistant beginning October 31, 2025.

Adjournment

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Hiller to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 PM. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Hiller
Secretary