

**MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Schulte at 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center of Westwood Elementary School, 11999 Martin 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 Cassbon, Curriculum Director Kara Beal, Special Services Director Stacie Sward, Westwood Principal Melissa Johnson, Elementary Math Coach Kathy Hribar, Westwood Media Specialist Marcia Tack, Westwood Fourth Grade Teacher Ashley LaBruyere, ELL teachers Michele Bastian, Cecelia Valdevisio - WWMS, Lisa Grzywacz - Pinewood, Brian Potts - Briarwood, Georgia Wrinkle, WWT Teacher Consultant, Facilities and Transportation Director Matthew Dishman, Student Representative Isabella Burke and Executive Assistant Jackie Miracle.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval

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

Minutes

It was moved by Walsh supported by Fitzpatrick to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 12, 2024 as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Correspondence

None.

Treasurer's Report

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the Treasurer's Report for January 2024. He began with General Fund Local Revenue consisting of Local tax collections from the City of Warren, investment earnings, rental income, and Adult Ed tuition. State Revenue consisted of a State Aid payment, and Federal revenue consisted of grant reimbursements from Title I, Title II and Title III, IDEA, ESSER III and ARP11T. Incoming Transfers reflected an Enhancement Millage payment from the ISD

Next, Mr. Cassabon presented Food Service Funds and stated Local Revenue reflected earnings on investments and a la carte food sales while Federal Revenue consisted of breakfast and lunch claims reimbursement.

Finally, a review of ISD Centers Program reflected only one State Aid payment in addition to expenses for the month of January.

Payment of the Bills

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

Building and Site	\$ 49,776.66
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Payment of the Bills (continued)

2020 Bond Series I	\$ 34,125.67
2023 Energy Bond	93,089.56

The motion carried 7 – 0.

Vice President Zannetti asked if the 2023 Energy Bond payment to Ameresco was for total or partial payment and Deputy Superintendent stated it was the fee for this month's billing only.

Mr. Hiller asked for clarification on the role of Performance Contracting and Mr. Cassabon replied they are the owner's representative for the Energy Bond.

Old Business

None

New Business

Reports

Student Representatives

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

Bella stated that DECA participated in State Competitions in Detroit last week with 10 students vying for an opportunity to compete at Nationals in California. Next, she announced that eight seniors from WWT have been selected to participate in the Wesner Tuxedo Show. Bella continued her report and stated Freshman Orientation was held last week and student athletes and various school club representatives were on-hand to promote the extracurricular programs.

In conclusion, Bella stated that the Unified Sports Basketball Game is scheduled for March 22 and thanked Ms. Weingartz, Ms. Buza and the paraprofessionals for their guidance and support in bringing this to WWT.

Student Achievement: Westwood Report

Westwood Principal Melissa Johnson welcomed the Board and all those present and thanked them for coming this evening. She began with a brief overview of tonight's presentation which would include segments from Elementary Math, ELL Support Team, Media, PBIS, and would conclude with a student-lead tour of the building. Ms. Johnson highlighted some of the qualities that make Westwood a special place to teach and learn and shared slides of a very successful recent district-wide, math-themed Family Engagement Night hosted at Westwood. She thanked the PTO for their continuous support, acknowledged staff members and introduced Richelle Barkley, Reading Recovery Teacher Leader, and First-grade Teacher Amy Ellison, who was recognized as Elementary Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Lastly, Ms. Johnson introduced Ms. Kathy Hribar, District Elementary Math Coach who would be presenting tonight's Elementary Math portion.

Ms. Hribar stated that tonight's presentation would give some insight into the district's "math journey" and began with some background on the Bridges in Math program which was approved and adopted by the Board last year. As a result, she was pleased to present data

New Business
Reports

Student Achievement: Westwood Report (continued)

which indicated significant increases in M-Step scores after the first year of implementation. District third-grade scores were above both county and State averages, while fourth-grade scores were above the county average.

Next, Ms. Hribar detailed current efforts being implemented to support and promote teaching and learning. Dreambox, is an online program that compliments the Bridges curriculum and can be used at home or in school. With a focus on using assessment to inform instruction, teachers can use Performance Matters, as assessment tool which can drill down by test questions attached to a standard or skill to define who needs extra support. In addition, each building has a half-time math interventionist and high dosage tutoring using Bridges intervention is available before and after school. Finally, the Kagan Cooperative Learning approach provides teaching staff with ways to facilitate structured protocols so all students are engaged.

In conclusion, Ms. Hribar highlighted goals for next year and beyond which include an effort to provide a structured way to provide professional development throughout the year including support for new staff and staff who change grade levels. The first “Math Learning Lab” is in planning stages and expected to begin providing services later this year, and the Leadership Team is working on a plan for coaching to support educators across disciplines, providing a cohesive partnership.

Mr. Zannetti thanked Ms. Hribar and commented that it was good to see efforts paying off after a short duration of implementation.

The ELL (English Language Learners) Support Team provided the Board with an update on the status of the District ELL Program. Michele Bastian, Westwood ELL Teacher, began with an introduction of the ELL Instructional Team and overview which indicated that the number of Macomb County ELL students is growing faster than non-ELL students. Each member of the team detailed data for their specific building which consist of numerous languages ranging from Arabic to Ukrainian.

Next, WWMS ELL Teacher Cecelia Valdivieso presented a lesson and asked members of the Board to draw something that makes them happy with their dominant hand. Then, she asked them to switch hands and draw the same picture. The purpose of the exercise was to model what an ELL student may experience while trying to adjust to learning in a new country. Pinewood ELL Teacher Lisa Grzywacz provided the board with information on “newcomers”, who are students that are new to the country and speak very little English or have a WIDA score below a 1.9 overall. She provided data indicating our ELL students are above both the county and State average level of proficiency. Briarwood ELL Teacher Brian Potts reported on WIDA testing and how ELL staff use data to determine a course of instruction. He stated students are assessed in listening, speaking, reading and writing to establish a starting point. Lastly, WWT Teacher Consultant Georgia Wrinkle provided an update on ELL students at Tower High School. Ms. Wrinkle noted that WWT currently has 88 ELL students and the program, which includes an ELL tutor available during school hours, supports students speaking various different languages. She provided data that indicated six students were able to raise their WIDA scores high enough to exit ELL services at the end of the 2022/23 school year.

New Business
Reports

Student Achievement: Westwood Report (continued)

Westwood Media Specialist Marcia Tack presented the next component of tonight's report which focused on the Elementary Media Program. Ms. Tack shared details of the inner workings of the Media Center including how she fulfills her purpose of instilling a love of literacy in students to executing a successful book fair. She defined what it means to be a media specialist, teacher and librarian.

Lastly, Fourth-grade Teacher Ashley LaBruyere, along with Westwood students Gio, Meadow, Felicia, Nick and Kim, treated the Board to a presentation on the Westwood PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) Program. They shared Westwood C.A.T.S. Behavior Expectations and provided the group with a tour of the building, noting the PBIS incentives students have the opportunity to engage in.

President Schulte thanked Ms. Johnson and the Westwood staff for tonight's presentation.

Bid: Boiler Selection and Assignment

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the recommendation to select and assign the bid for boiler replacement and pipe insulation to S & D Mechanical Services, Inc. He stated this would include the removal of two boilers at Westwood and four boilers at WWMS, all of which are being replaced by high efficiency boilers. In addition, this includes the cost of insulating all of the hot water piping that runs through the tunnels under WWMS.

It was moved by Walsh, supported by Zannetti to approve the **Bid:** Boiler Selection and Assignment as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Mr. Zannetti asked if the boilers would be able to be controlled off site and Director of Facilities and Transportation Matthew Dishman replied that they would be able to be controlled off site.

Personnel Items

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the Personnel Items for Board Approval.

Leaves:

As presented.

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

New Hires:

Jesse Queentree – Substitute Teacher – Date of hire 2/12/24

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

Termination:

As presented.

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

Public Expression

Superintendent Denewith-Fici thanked Principal Johnson and her staff for hosting this evening and for their informative presentation.

Ms. Johnson thanked all those in attendance and introduced other staff members present: Kindergarten Teacher Jill Krych, Media Aide Tammy Ishaq, Julie Syrocki - APA, Mackenzie Syrocki - SACC Assistant, Mike Syrocki – District Maintenance Specialist, Sandy Gendreau – Social Worker, Fourth-grade Teacher Mike Lukasavage, Second-grade Teachers Julie Thornbro and Traci Whetstone and Fifth-grade Teacher Jennifer Durso.

Trustee Garcia commented on last week’s in-person DSAT Meeting and stated that the meeting impressed upon him how seriously teachers take their PLC’s and how they wish they had more time to commit. Mr. Garcia also thanked Ms. Johnson for hosting tonight and stated how impressive it is to see all the good things going on at Westwood.

Student Representative Isabella Burke reported on Natalya’s behalf and stated in Sports News, conditioning practice has started for spring sports and the WWT Bowling Team will be competing in States this weekend. Also, NHS is offering tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 14 is Parent/Teacher Conferences and this Friday the PBIS Honor Roll will be rewarded with a bowl of ice cream at the PBIS event.

President Schulte thanked Bella for her report and noted what an asset she and Natalya are to the Board and Mr. Hiller reiterated his appreciation for the students and their contribution.

Adjournment

It was moved by Walsh supported by Fitzpatrick to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay F. Walsh
Secretary