MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
June 23, 2026

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, Garcia, Nitz, Spicer, Fitzpatrick, and Schulte. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassabon, Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker, Director of Special Services Stacy Sward, Director of Facilities and Transportation Don Ball, and Executive Assistant Diana Rende.

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 Hiller supported by Fitzpatrick to approve the Amended Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 8, 2026 as presented. The motion carried 5–0-2 with Garcia and Schulte abstaining due to being absent from that meeting.

Correspondence

None

Treasurer's Report

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the Treasurer's Report for May 2026. He began with General Fund Revenue consisting mainly of Local tax collections, in addition to Adult Ed tuition, earnings on investments, and gate receipts. State revenue included the monthly State Aid payment as well as funding for the GSRP program. Federal revenue consisted of grant reimbursements for Title I, II, III, and IV, IDEA, and reimbursement from the Filter First Program. Incoming Transfers included payment from the Chippewa Valley School District for reimbursement for IAM teacher salaries.

Next a review of Food Service Local Revenue reflected investment earnings in addition to $14,000 in ala carte food sales, and a $5,000 State meal reimbursement while Federal Revenue reflected reimbursement for Federal Free and Reduced lunch claims.

Finally, a review of the ISD Center Program reflected a $175, 000 State Aid Payment.

Payment of the Bills

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

Building & Site	$	-
2020 Bond Series I	$	-

Payment of the Bills (continued)

2023 Energy Bond	$ -
2025 Capitol Projects Fund	$ 176,664.00

The motion carried 7 – 0.

Old Business

None.

New Business

a. Appointment: Early Childhood Supervisor

Superintendent Denewith-Fici with the support of Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker and Interim Early Childhood Supervisor Sue Lawrence presented her recommendation of Patrice Wadie for the role of Early Childhood Supervisor. Ms. Wadie comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience including a role as a GSRP teacher and more than 10 years as an Early Childhood Supervisor in a neighboring district.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Nitz to approve the **Appointment: Early Childhood Supervisor** as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Schulte✓,-Zannetti ✓ , Fitzpatrick ✓, Hiller✓, Garcia✓,

Spicer✓Nitz✓. Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion carried 7-0

b. Approval: Final 25-26 Budget

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon along with the Finance committee met on June 17th to finalize the 25-26 Budget. Local revenue reflects a large increase of $114,000 due to delinquent tax collections. There was also a higher than expected increase on earnings on investments due to interest rates staying steady. In addition Mr. Cassabon explained that the district has done a good job increasing rental revenue and we also showed an increase of $165,000 in State Revenue.

Moving on to expenditures the district retained $161, 000 due to being docked for not having enough days to cover their absences but showed increase costs in substitute pay, APA/ Clerk CBA Signing Bonuses, utility payments, and building repair costs. Mr. Cassabon was pleased with the energy improvements helping offset the rising costs of the utilities.

- Childcare increase salaries due to minimum wage rising has been spread out to the families with an increase of rates.

New Business (continued)

b. Approval: Final 25-26 Budget (continued)

- The Food Service Fund slight increase in wages, benefits, and supplies. Included is the cost for new WWMS cafeteria furniture and a bid pack to replace the floors in three of the buildings.
- Campus Corner will be basically at a reset again this year.
- 2020 Bond-waiting on rates to finalize what was not spent
- 2023 energy should be at $0 balance
- 2025 Bond Best estimate by June 30, 2026-remaining items to purchase with balance : technology upgrades, phones, security, teacher laptops, busses, and classroom furniture

Mr. Zannetti inquired for clarification on why the distributed amount was more than what was granted. Mr. Cassabon explained that this was the first time the State has given a bonus grant that is retirement reportable. He stated that there are nine different retirement plans across the district and it is difficult to determine how close the amount are to the UAAL. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon further explained that the finalized letter of agreement stated the final payout was $880 for full time employees and $440 for part time employees.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Spicer to approve the **Approval: Final 25-26 Budget** as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

c. Resolution: GASB Fund Balance Commitment

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon stated this is an annual resolution with no changes from previous years, the Resolution committing fund balance under GASB Statement #54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions, will allocate $100,000 for repayment of tax tribunals, and as committed, an amount equal to the year-end value of all year-end compensated absences.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick, supported by Hiller, that the Board approve the

Resolution: GASB Fund Balance Commitment as presented

ROLL CALL VOTE: Zannetti ✓ Fitzpatrick ✓ Hiller ✓ Garcia ✓

Nitz ✓ Spicer ✓ Schulte ✓ Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion carried 7-0.

d. Budget Hearing-Truth in Budgeting Hearing for 2026-2027

President Schulte announced the Budget Hearing was called to order.

Mr. Schulte addressed the Board and audience stating public comments would be heard at this time. There were no comments or questions from the audience.

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the operating millage for the 2026–2027 fiscal year, noting that the district will be able to continue levying the full 18 mills on non-homestead properties.

New Business (continued)

d. Budget Hearing-Truth in Budgeting Hearing for 2026-2027 (continued)

President Schulte announced that the Budget Hearing was closed.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Zannetti that the Board adopt the

General Appropriations Resolution Approving the Budget for 2026-2027 as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Zannetti _____ Fitzpatrick _____Hiller_____ Garcia____

Nitz✓___ Spicer_____✓ Schulte____✓ Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion carried 7-0.

e. Resolution: Original Budget Proposal 2026-2027

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the original budget proposal for the 2026–2027 fiscal year, outlining updates to key revenue assumptions and expenditure planning. He emphasized that, due to the absence of an approved State budget, the proposal is based on current assumptions and will require amendment once finalized State figures are available.

Mr. Cassabon highlighted a 6.29% increase in taxable values increase along with a $250 per pupil increase and a 7.26% increase in county wide enhancement mileage that the district will receive.

On the expenditure side, the proposal reflects increases in teaching positions, property and casualty insurance, support staff costs, and costs associated with bussing.

It was moved by Zannetti, supported by Fitzpatrick, that the Board approve the

Resolution: Original Budget Proposal 2026-2027 as presented

ROLL CALL VOTE: Zannetti _✓__ Fitzpatrick _✓__Hiller_✓__ Garcia_✓_

Nitz✓___ Spicer_____✓ Schulte____✓ Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion carried 7-0.

f. Resolution: Administrator Contracts

Superintendent Denewith-Fici explained this was an annual action by the Board and the following 20 administrators were being recommended for a 2-year contract ending on or near June 30, 2028:

Kristen Allen	Coordinator – Adult & Community Education
Timothy Baldwin	Coordinator – Enterprise High School
Don Ball	Director - Facilities & Transportation
Jennifer Boggio	Assistant Principal - WWMS
Heather Brodi	Principal – Pinewood Elementary School
Neil Cassabon	Deputy Superintendent
Craig Cutshaw	Director - Athletics
John Estrada	Director – Food Services
Ian Fredlund	Executive Director – Academic Services

New Business (continued)

f. Resolution: Administrator Contracts (continued)

Colleen Gruben	Assistant Principal - WWTHS
Kevin Hustek	Director - Technology
Melissa Johnson	Principal – Westwood Elementary School
Steven Kay	Director – Southwest Macomb CTE Consortium
Beth Mager	Principal – Briarwood Elementary School
Tamara Pawloski	Supervisor – Special Education and Student Intervention
Jeanne Portalski	Supervisor – Human Resources
Linda Renno	Supervisor of Business Services
Donny Sikora	Principal – WWMS
Stacie Sward	Director – Special Services and Student Intervention
Michelle Voelker	Director – Curriculum

and three administrators being recommended for a one-year probationary contract ending on or near June 30, 2027:

Patrice Wadie	Coordinator – Early Childhood
TBD	Principal – WWTHS
TBD	Assistant Principal WWTHS

In addition to their contracts, salary increases for each individual administrator was also approved.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick, supported by Nitz, that the Board approve the

Resolution: Administrator Contracts as presented

ROLL CALL VOTE: Zannetti ✓ Fitzpatrick ✓ Hiller ✓ Garcia ✓

Nitz ✓ Spicer ✓ Schulte ✓ Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion carried 7-0.

g. Bid Pack #3: Change Order Summer 2026 Renovations

Mr. Neil Cassabon explained that during recent storm sewer jetting work in the WWMS auditorium parking lot, it was discovered that an additional line existed but was not connected. To avoid the need for a second excavation by another contractor, it was decided that the current company will complete the work and connect the lines, ensuring the system functions properly. Additionally, it was identified that the planter boxes surrounding the plaza entry were not originally designed to drain correctly. The revised plan will allow these planter boxes to drain directly into the sewer system, eliminating any visible exterior piping and improving overall functionality and appearance.

Mr. Hiller stated that between these two missed items in addition to the boxes from the WWT field and the WWMS auditorium door that he feels that there are quite a lot of architectural omissions. Mr. Cassabon responded that he has consulted with the district's legal counsel and confirmed that contractors are protected under an errors and omissions clause. He added that it is beneficial that the architects and engineers are identifying these issues early and that we would have to pay for the items eventually.

New Business (continued)

g. Bid Pack #3: Change Order Summer 2026 Renovations (continued)

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Nitz to approve the **Bid Pack #3: Change Order Summer 2026 Renovations** as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0

h. Bid Award: Beverage Vendor 2026-2027

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the Bid Award on behalf of Director of Food Services John Estrada. Mr. Estrada received two bids and with price comparison is recommending the non- exclusive beverage bid to Pepsi Beverages Company.

It was moved by Garcia supported by Hiller to approve the **Bid Award: Beverage Vendor 2026-2027** as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0

Personnel Items

Leaves:

Two FMLA – Care of a Family Member

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

New Hires:

Marvin Coleman Jr. – Summer Student Custodian – date of hire 6/15/26.

Ethan Easterly– Summer Student Custodian – date of hire 6/15/26.

Evan Hammons– Summer Student Custodian – date of hire 6/15/26.

Sarah Suminski – Bus Driver – date of hire 6/17/26.

Patrice Wadie – Early Childhood Supervisor – date of hire 6/23/26.

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

Public Expression

Lisa Korkis, Pinewood building substitute, expressed her disappointment that her email that was sent was not on the agenda as correspondence. She relayed her email to the board covering the topic of the distribution of the 27l(2) funds. Ms. Korkis explained that she is always willing to help in any position as needed for extra assistance in any building. She referred to comments that were made at the April 13, 2026 Board meeting quoting others that had said “Warren Woods is a small community” and that “education is hard work for all”. Ms. Korkis stated she was not sure if that the building substitutes. were just overlooked or removed from

Public Expression (continued)
the distribution as a choice. She asked that the Board find a way to provide the same funding to the building substitutes.

Leslie Rindall followed, noting that she had also submitted prior correspondence regarding the same matter. She shared that she has served as a substitute in the district for ten years and remains actively involved in the schools daily. Ms. Rindall respectfully asked the Board to reconsider the decision to exclude building substitutes.

Luanne Romano, a teacher at Pinewood Elementary, also addressed the Board, expressing her support for the five district building substitutes and the 27l(2) funds.

Mr. Zannetti expressed concerns regarding the transparency of the district's campaign finance policy. He requested a review of the policy to ensure a clear separation and independence between Board operations and campaign activities, as well as to ensure the district is adequately prepared. Mr. Zannetti emphasized the importance of being able to clearly address the "who, where, why, and how" related to these matters.

Adjournment

It was moved by Hiller supported by Zannetti to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Hiller
Secretary