MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
October 12, 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: Chamberlain, Garcia, Hiller, Nitz, Spicer, Fitzpatrick, and Schulte. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassabon, Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker, Executive Director of Academic Services Ian Fredlund, Director of Facilities and Transportation Don Ball, and Student Representative Mya Spicer 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 Garcia to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 28, 2026. The motion carried 5-0 with Schulte and Fitzpatrick abstaining due to absence at that meeting.

Correspondence

Email from WWMS Parent

It was noted by Superintendent Denewith-Fici that the email was received Tuesday night and that WWMS principal Donny Sikora met with the parent on the next day.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Nitz to receive and file the **Correspondence.** The motion carried 7-0

Payment of the Bills

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

General Fund	$	1,214,234.05
Center Programs	$	3,927.12
Food Service Fund	$	121,693.69
Child Care Fund	$	940.04
Campus Corner	$	11,846.12

Payment of the Bills (continued)

Building & Site	$	-
2020 Bond Series I	$	-
2023 Energy Bond	$	-
2025 Capitol Projects Fund	$	11,905.00

Mr. Garcia inquired about the large licensing fee for Subject.com on page 4 in the General Fund. Curriculum Director Voelker explained that the fee covers Credit Recovery at Enterprise and online learning at Tower.

The motion carried 7 – 0.

Estimated Board Expenses

The Board was presented estimated costs associated with attendance at the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Annual Leadership Conference, to be held in Lansing from October 15-18, 2026. Cost projections were provided for one-day attendance by two Board members and multi-day attendance by three Board members.

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

Old Business

None.

New Business

Reports

Student Representatives

Student Representative Mya Spicer began her report stating that Student Council met after school today to discuss a spooky spirit week for October 26-30.

She then transitioned into explaining a new contest between the staff during the morning announcements. Every morning a trivia question is included in the announcements. The first staff member to call with the correct answer gets a point. The winner will be decided at the conclusion of first semester.

Mya then explained a new student incentive that Mr. Henshaw is offering to boost first hour attendance. The class with the highest attendance average will receive a breakfast party.

Mya concluded her report with the exciting news that Communication Camp letters have started to be distributed. Invitations will go out to 60 students at Tower to attend.

Mr. Schulte expressed his happiness that Communication Camp is still being held.

New Business (continued)

Reports

Student Representatives (continued)

Mrs. Spicer requested additional details regarding the themes for Spooky Spirit Week. Mya shared that the themes are still pending approval from Mr. Henshaw, Principal of Warren Woods Tower High School. The Student Council's proposed themes are:

Monster Mash Monday
Texas Tuesday
On Wednesdays We Wear Pink
Throwback Thursday
Frightened Friday

Student Achievement: Literacy & Engagement Presentation

Literacy Coach Nacole Kherkher and Engagement Coach Erika Liska started their presentation with shared visions and common expectations focusing on Coherence, Consistency, and Alignment. Mrs. Kherkher stated that there is an emphasis on a structured district-wide approach to literacy instruction, ensuring that curriculum, instructional practices, interventions, and supports are aligned so that students receive a unified and effective literacy experience regardless of building or grade level.

Ms. Kherkher also discussed the implementation of strategic use of instructional time through WIN (What I Need) at the elementary level. WIN is designed to protect core Tier I instruction while ensuring students receive targeted support based on their individual needs. Previously, students requiring additional support were often pulled from regular classroom instruction, which could result in gaps in learning in other subject areas. Implemented in all three elementary buildings, K-3 students participate in two daily 30-minute WIN blocks for ELA and math, while grades 4-5 have one 30-minute WIN block focused on the area of greatest need. This dedicated time is also used for pull-out interventions and support services, helping ensure that every student receives timely, focused instruction. This structure allows students to receive additional intervention without missing instruction in other subjects.

Ms. Kherkher further shared that 12 districts in Macomb County are using Amplify CKLA and that the MISD provides launch training for new teachers throughout the year. Through Amplify, staff receive professional learning opportunities including mCLASS DIBELS 8 training, intervention coaching, leadership observation support, and in-district CKLA coaching days. The Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) provides additional regional support through CKLA launch trainings, literacy intervention and coaching networks, leadership institutes, and collaborative district meetings. At the Warren Woods district level, educators receive ongoing literacy updates, PA 146 alignment guidance, unit planning and pacing support, collaborative planning days with coaches, coaching cycles, explicit instruction training, and Literacy Learning Labs. Together, these supports create a comprehensive system of professional learning and coaching designed to strengthen literacy instruction across the district.

Ms. Spicer inquired about how WIN Time affects students who are not identified as needing additional support. Ms. Kherkher explained that these students are provided opportunities to explore content more deeply and participate in activities that offer additional challenges.

New Business (continued)

Reports

Student Achievement: Literacy & Engagement Presentation

Ms. Spicer also questioned whether parents are notified when their student is identified as needing additional support. Ms. Kherkher stated that parents are notified by the interventionists and that parent reports are available.

Regarding CKLA, Ms. Spicer sought clarification on how the Literacy Team collects feedback and data from teachers to determine whether the program is showing results. Ms. Kherkher explained that building leaders and literacy teams meet during PLCs to receive feedback and provide ongoing support.

Ms. Spicer further inquired about how often the Literacy Team reports to the Curriculum Director. Ms. Voelker responded that she receives ongoing feedback, noting that it typically takes three to five years to see the full impact of implementation.

Mr. Fitzpatrick requested clarification regarding the student goals and expectations established through these programs. Ms. Kherkher explained that the District uses State-established goals as well as benchmark goals. The frequency of assessment depends on the level of support each student requires. For example, a Tier 3 student is assessed every 10 days, while a Tier 2 student is assessed every four to six weeks.

Mr. Fitzpatrick expressed concern about whether teachers are feeling overwhelmed by the additional workload. Ms. Kherkher explained that teachers work collaboratively with interventionists and coaches, with each supporting approximately 24 students.

Mr. Garcia sought clarification as to why students in grades K-3 receive two intervention sessions while students in grades 4-6 receive one. Ms. Kherkher explained that the greatest need is currently in grades K-3, with an emphasis on providing intervention as early as possible. She added that students in grades 4-5 are generally more independent, allowing additional classroom time to be used to provide support as needed.

Ms. Liska started her presentation with the Explicit Instruction Facilitator Network provided by MiMTSS in partnership with the MDE. She stated that there are three (3) overall objectives; to expand understanding of explicit instruction principles, to refine professional development skills for delivering engaging and effective sessions, and to promote research-based practices in classroom instruction.

Ms. Liska is combining her information from the Explicit Facilitator Network with the Kagan Cooperative Learning Initiative. She noted that at the beginning there may have been a few teachers reluctant to use Kagan methods. She was thrilled to announce a large increase, especially at the secondary level, in the understanding and use of Kagan methods.

New Business (continued)

Reports

Student Achievement: Literacy & Engagement Presentation

Ms. Liska presented Two Engagement goals for the district: Growing from pockets of excellence to widespread implementation, and to ensure that all teachers are able to identify opportunities to use Everyone Answers Kagan structures, pick the right structure, and use it correctly in the moment. For goal number one, anecdotal data , as well as teacher reported self-assessments, were shared indicating that progress towards this goal is already being made. Next steps include training administrators to be able to give feedback on the use of cooperative learning structures in the course of their classroom observations, focusing on new teachers, continuing to train out teacher Kagan Coaches, and making sure to highlight quality implementation to staff. For the second goal, most teachers are working on their understanding of content-structure match and using all of the Everyone Answers structures. Progress from last year regarding content-structure match was shared and indicated an understanding, but not fluency, with the skill. Some teachers who are further along in their progress have been working with, or plan to work with instructional engagement coach in mini cycles designed to support planning lessons with cooperative learning structures embedded efficiently and effectively. An example of one of these mini cycles was shared.

Mr. Hiller stated that he remembered a few years back when we first implemented Kagan. It is excellent to see the staff move from compliance to all in.

Change Order: Summer 2026

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon explained that this change order includes three components.

First, the project will install missing concrete stoops at three exit doors at Warren Woods Middle School (WWMS). During asphalt removal, it was discovered that the kitchen exit doors did not have concrete stoops. The addition of the stoops will help minimize door movement caused by seasonal weather changes and ground heaving.

Second, a 6-inch-thick concrete sidewalk will be installed along the exterior of the WWMS kitchen and boiler room areas. This improvement is intended to address water drainage concerns near the building’s foundation.

Third, 37 roof drain pan retrofit kits will be installed at Warren Woods Tower High School (WWT). The new kits are necessary to accommodate changes in roof elevation and ensure proper drainage for the new roofing system.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Chamberlain, to approve the **Change Order: Summer 2026.** The Motion carried 7-0

Out of State travel: Band Trip March 2027

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented this item on behalf of Warren Woods Tower Band and Choir Director Mr. Corpuz. She explained that the proposed Disney World trip follows the same format as previous trips, which are scheduled as part of Mr. Corpuz's four-year

New Business (continued)

Out of State travel: Band Trip March 2027 (continued)

rotation of student travel opportunities. The trip is once again being coordinated through Bob Rogers Travel, the company that has planned prior band and choir excursions.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Nitz, to approve the **Out of State travel: Band Trip March 2027** as presented.

Mr. Chamberlain asked for clarification regarding the maximum participation number of 100 students. Superintendent Denewith-Fici explained that participation in the trip is voluntary and not all eligible students choose to attend. She noted that Mr. Corpuz has historically estimated attendance based on participation levels from previous trips and used that information to project the anticipated number of students.

The Motion carried 7-0.

Personnel Items

Leaves:

Two leaves Intermittent FMLA Care of a family member leaves were presented.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller, to approve and accept the **Leaves** as presented. The Motion carried 7-0.

New Hires:

Allen, Ronni – Special Education Paraprofessional – POHI+ - WWT – date of hire 10/5/26.

Burnette, Adrienne – Afternoon Custodian – WWMS – date of hire 10/12/26.

Greenawalt, Veronica – Substitute Nurse – date of hire 9/30/26.

Marquardt, Olivia – Substitute Teacher – date of hire 10/7/26.

It was moved by Nitz supported by Chamberlain to approve the New Hires as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Public Expression

WWPS parent Angela Minch [District Resident] addressed the Board regarding concerns about playground and restroom accessibility for students with special needs. Ms. Minch shared that she is the parent of a student with special needs and asked the Board to consider the development of inclusive, accessible playgrounds with appropriate equipment, accessible surfaces, and secure fencing to provide a safer environment for students of all abilities. Mrs. Minch also raised concerns regarding the need for accessible restroom facilities in elementary buildings with safe, sanitary, and appropriately sized changing accommodations for older students with special needs. She requested that the District evaluate its current playground and restroom facilities and consider improvements that promote the safety, dignity, accessibility, and inclusion of all students.

Public Expression (continued)

Mrs. Spicer shared that she attended the Warren Woods Middle School home football game and wanted to recognize Building Substitute Mr. McMenamin for his outstanding support during the event. She noted that he was extremely helpful in assisting with student spectators throughout the game and remained after the event to help with cleanup. Mrs. Spicer expressed her appreciation for his dedication and remarked that he is a great person.

Adjournment

It was moved by Hiller supported by Chamberlain to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 PM. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Spicer
Secretary