

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
September 14, 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, Fitzpatrick, Garcia, Hiller, Nitz, Spicer, and Schulte. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassabon, Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker, Executive Director of Academic Services Ian Fredlund, Business Supervisor Linda Renno, Director of Facilities and Transportation Don Ball, Warren Woods Middle School Principal Donny Sikora, Student Representatives Aiden Paruskiewicz and Mya Spicer, and Executive Assistant Diana Rende.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval

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

Minutes

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2026. The motion carried 7 – 0 with Hiller.

Correspondence

None

Payment of the Bills

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

General Fund	\$ 1,008,849.20
Center Programs	\$ 1,370.94
Food Service Fund	\$ 69,835.44
Child Care Fund	\$ 6,382.41
Campus Corner	\$ -
Building & Site	\$ -
2020 Bond Series I	\$ 12,280.18
2023 Energy Bond	\$ -

Payment of the Bills (continued)

2025 Capitol Projects Fund \$ 1,702,360.47

Mr. Garcia inquired about the expenditure listed under Otter Graphics on Page 4 of the General Fund report. Mr. Cassabon explained that the costs were related to desktop toner supplies used throughout the District.

Mr. Garcia also expressed interest in the ongoing discussions among the Warren area superintendents regarding School Resource Officer (SRO) contracts and voiced hope that the districts may receive some financial relief. Deputy Superintendent Denewith stated that she serves as the representative for the Warren school districts in these discussions and will keep the Board informed of any updates.

The motion carried 7 – 0.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Reports

Student Representatives

Student Representative Mya Spicer began her report with an update on the implementation of the new cell phone policy at Warren Woods Tower High School. She reported that the policy has been well received by students and has been largely successful. Mya noted that allowing students access to their phones during lunch has contributed to the positive reception.

Mya also provided an update on Homecoming float building activities. She reported that preparations were progressing well, despite a delayed start by the freshman class. She concluded her report by outlining the themes and activities planned for Spirit Week leading up to Homecoming. Spirit Week will take place September 14 through September 18 and will conclude on Pep Rally day with Class Shirts.

Student Representative Aiden provided an update on athletics at Warren Woods Tower High School. He reported that the varsity football team had encountered a challenging start to the season with an 0-2 record on the road but was preparing to return home for the Homecoming game on the newly completed football field. Aiden also shared that the varsity volleyball team had opened the season strongly with a victory over Algonac, while the boys varsity soccer team had achieved its best start since 2018 with an impressive 5-0-1 record.

Aiden also reviewed the schedule of events for the upcoming Homecoming weekend and highlighted the significant role Student Council members played in planning both the Pep Rally and the Homecoming Dance.

He concluded his report by recognizing the efforts of the freshman mentors as they welcomed the newest members of the Tower community, the Class of 2030. Aiden explained that the

mentors assisted incoming students by providing building tours, answering questions, and offering guidance as they adjusted to their new school environment.

Student Highlights

WWMS teacher Monica Bisha gave the Board a recap of the 2026 Summer Trip to England and France. She explained that the trip was planned by EF Tours and the cost per participant was \$4900. Mrs. Bisha said that 40 students attended the trip and they were the best group being cooperative and responsible.

Out of State Student Travel: Alps/ Mediterranean 2028

Mrs. Bisha also presented the Board with the details of a trip to Switzerland, Italy, France, and Spain in 2028. She expressed this could be the most ambitious trip covering lots of locations. Mrs. Bisha stated that once again they will be using EF Tours to plan and execute the trip and that she is hoping to propose the trip to students and parents in the coming week to allow ample time for payment plans on the cost. This trip will have a maximum of 30 students.

Mr. Fitzpatrick inquired if the chaperones would be staff members. Mrs. Bisha explained that the chaperones would be staff members and that this trip is being facilitated by Mr. Buza (WWMS Teacher) and Mrs. Buza (WWT Teacher).

It was moved by Nitz supported by Hiller, to approve and accept the
Out of State Student Travel: Alps/ Mediterranean 2028 as presented. The Motion carried 7-0.

Out of State Travel: Washington D.C.

Mrs. Bisha final presentation was for the 8th grade annual trip to Washington D.C. She explained that the trip would be held at the end of April with a cost of \$1100. Per student. This trip will be under the direction of the company 'Student Adventures'. Mrs. Bisha expressed her excitement in adding a few new stops on the trip including Mt. Vernon and the National Archives.

It was moved by Chamberlain supported by Garcia, to approve and accept the
Out of State Travel: Washington D.C..

The Motion carried 6-0 with Mrs. Nitz abstaining due to her husband being a teacher for this trip.

Audit 2025-2026

The representatives began by outlining the documents provided to the Board and stated that preliminary post audit findings resulted in a "clean" opinion, however, they are waiting for the Federal government to release the final rules to issue their "final" audit, but stressed that the content of their presentation and the deliverables would not change. The wait is simply

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New Business (continued)

Audit 2025-26

procedural and once they receive the final word from the federal level, they will remove the “draft” and file the audit as required by law.

In addition, she noted there were no compliance issues identified with bond requirements or the Federal Programs audit. The Representatives shared quantitative results which provide a high-level overview of General Fund Revenue, which is the primary operating fund for the district and is comprised primarily of State Aid, local property taxes and Federal funding.

Next the Representatives from Plante Moran presented a review of General Fund Expenditures, offering a high-level overview of how expenses are distributed noting that the District has been fiscally responsible.

Mr. Garcia expressed his gratitude to Mr. Cassabon and Mrs. Renno for their organization and structures that allow Plante Moran to come in and see all of the information. He also expressed that it was interesting that we have zero exceeding of policy limits.

Mr. Hiller inquired about page 10 in the Report to the Board on the General Fund and the Special Education Fund being one. Mr. Cassabon responded that the WWPS Center Program is so large that we have to be able to cover the expenditures as there is no revenue coming in for the Centers Program until November.

Mr. Schulte expressed his thankfulness to Mr. Cassabon, Mrs. Renno, and the entire Financial committee for their time and effort.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Garcia, to approve and accept the **Audit 2025-2026** as presented. The Motion carried 7-0

Purchase: WWMS Cafeteria Furniture

Mr. Cassabon presented the information for purchasing all new furniture for the WWMS Cafeteria. He explained that he had vendors come to the school first to design and address issues so that they then could create a proposal that address the WWMS needs. The proposed plan will allow handicap access across the room and will be a mix of high and low tables and booths.

Middle School Principal Mr. Sikora commented that this new design should help quiet the noise in the cafeteria and give students choices on their seating.

Mr. Fitzpatrick inquired if there would be painting also completed. Mr. Cassabon responded that there is glazed tiles and sound panels in the Cafeteria so there would be no painting but a new logo will be applied to the front counter.

Mr. Fitzpatrick also questioned the time frame on the project. Mr., Cassabon answered that he hoped to order the furniture this week with the install occurring over Winter Break.

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New Business (continued)

Purchase: WWMS Cafeteria Furniture

Mr. Schulte thanked Mr. Cassabon for the visuals that were given to the Board.

Mr. Fredlund expressed that there are a ton of tiny additions and details in the furniture plan.

It was moved by Nitz supported by Chamberlain, to approve and accept the

Purchase: WWMS Cafeteria Furniture as presented. The Motion carried 7-0.

Purchase: Maintenance Tractor

Mr. Cassabon presented his proposal to purchase a John Deere Compact Utility Tractor from AIS Construction Equipment through the MiDeal program. He explained that this one piece of equipment would replace two aging pieces of equipment.

Mr. Schulte commented on the auctioning of the equipment and who receives the money. Mr. Cassabon responded that the District would receive the funds made from the auction of the equipment minus the auction fees.

Mr. Chamberlain inquired if we would be losing efficiency moving from two pieces of equipment to one. Mr. Cassabon replied that we would seldom use them in the same season.

It was moved by Hiller supported by Fitzpatrick, to approve and accept the

Purchase: Maintenance Tractor as presented. The Motion carried 7-0.

Personnel Items

Leaves:

As Presented

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Nitz, to approve and accept the

Leaves as presented. The Motion carried 7-0

New Hires:

Hiller, Nicole – Special Education Paraprofessional – Pinewood – date of hire 9/8/26

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Chamberlain, to approve and accept the

New Hire as presented. The motion carried 6-0, with Mr. Hiller abstaining due to a familial relationship.

New Hires:

Al-Tameemi, Faten – SACC/Childcare Assistant – ECC – date of hire 8/31/26.

Ronni Allen – Substitute Special Education Paraprofessional – date of hire 9/4/26.

Badalamente, Samantha – CTE Nursing Teacher – WWT – date of hire 9/8/26.

Brosofski, Madison – Clerk – Briarwood – date of hire 8/24/26.

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Personnel Items (continued)

New Hires:

Cunningham, Demarta – SACC/Childcare Assistant – ECC – date of hire 8/26/26.

Deprez, Marsie – Kitchen Helper – WWT – date of hire 8/24/26.

Houser, Dashonna - Special Education Paraprofessional – Pinewood – date of hire 8/31/26.

Izaguirre, Tracie – Kitchen Helper – ASC/ECC – date of hire 9/8/26.

James, Laura – Substitute Teacher/Adult Education Teacher – date of hire 8/31/26.

Lucy, Ann – Special Education Paraprofessional – Briarwood – date of hire 8/19/26.

McAllister, Victoria – Cheer Coach – WWMS – date of hire 8/17/26.

Raykhinshteyn, Edward – Substitute Teacher – date of hire 8/26/26.

Reimer, Stephanie – Math Teacher – WWMS – date of hire 8/19/26.

Rewitzer, William – Assistant Varsity Football Coach – WWT – date of hire 08/20/26.

Robinson, Lauren – Substitute Teacher – date of hire 8/24/26.

Tan, Acacia – Childcare Lead – ECC - date of hire 8/17/26.

Wood, Laura – Substitute Teacher – date of hire 9/1/26

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

Public Expression

Adam Stuss, Warren Woods Public Schools Maintenance Specialist, expressed concerns regarding the purchase of the new maintenance tractor. He stated that his primary concern was ensuring the tractor's bucket would raise high enough to load salt during the winter months. Mr. Stuss also questioned whether the tractor would have sufficient maneuverability to navigate around fences and other obstacles.

Warren Woods Middle School Principal Donny Sikora welcomed Student Representatives Mya Spicer and Aiden and expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Bisha, Mr. Vukich, and Ms. Ragland for providing valuable travel opportunities for students. Mr. Sikora also commended both staff and students for their successful implementation of the new cell phone

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Public Expression (continued)

policy. He noted that staff members have made a significant and unified effort to support the policy and observed an increase in positive face-to-face interactions among students and staff. Mr. Schulte remarked that it was encouraging to hear how staff members are modeling positive behaviors and setting an excellent example for students.

Nina Olszewski, a representative from CARE of Southeast Michigan, addressed the Board regarding the no-cost programs available to schools through the organization. She provided informational materials and highlighted several programs designed to support students, including self-confidence development, anger management, and education related to vaping and marijuana use, among others.

Mr. Chamberlain reported that he attended the Open House events at Warren Woods Middle School, Warren Woods Tower High School, and Briarwood Elementary School. He commented on the high level of energy and engagement displayed at each event and expressed appreciation for the strong community participation.

Mr. Chamberlain also noted the positive reception of the new cell phone policy. He shared that, during his visits, he observed students interacting with one another while waiting for buses without using their phones.

Adjournment

It was moved by Hiller supported by Chamberlain to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 PM. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Spicer
Secretary