

**MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
September 28, 2026**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Hiller 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, and Spicer. Absent with notice were 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, Student Representatives Aiden Paruskiewicz and Mya Spicer, and Executive Assistant Diana Rende.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval

It was moved by Nitz supported by Chamberlain to approve the amended Agenda as presented. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Minutes

It was moved by Spicer supported by Nitz to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 14, 2026. The motion carried 5-0.

Correspondence

None

Treasurer's Report

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the Treasurer's Report noting it was a combined report for July and August 2026. He began with General Fund Revenue consisting mainly of Local tax collections, in addition to Adult Ed tuition and earnings on investments. State Revenue included GSRP funding from the MISD. Incoming Transfers included an Enhancement Millage payment from the ISD in addition to a rebate from insurance for overages. Next a review of Food Service Local Revenue reflected investment earnings in addition to some ala carte food sales, while Federal Revenue reimbursement for the free breakfast and lunch program. Finally, a review of the ISD Center Program reflected no revenue to date, which is typical as the MISD receives its first State Aid payment in October.

Payment of the Bills

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

Building & Site	\$	-
2020 Bond Series I	\$	-
2023 Energy Bond	\$	468,184.14

Payment of the Bills (continued)

2025 Capitol Projects Fund	\$ 2,784,010.88
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The motion carried 5 – 0.

Old Business

None.

New Business
Reports

Student Representatives

Student Representative Mya Spicer began her report with a recap of the Homecoming festivities. She stated that even though the weather was very rainy we had a good turnout of spectators for the parade. Mya also expressed how great all of the floats looked. She concluded reporting with the Titan Marching Band taking the field for the first time and a Titan Football victory for the Homecoming game.

Student Representative Aiden Paruskiewicz presented his sports at Tower report. He stated that Girls Volleyball has a 6-6 record, Girls swim is at 2-1, Boys Tennis 5-0, and Boys Soccer with their best record in years at 9-0-1.

Aiden presented the Board with all the WWT Clubs that will start meeting in October. He states that Interact Club meets October 7 with Mrs. South, Unity Club starts October 5 with Ms. Schu, HOSA beings October 1 with Ms. Badalamente, and a brand new club Plant Nation will begin October 2.

Student Achievement: M-Step Report

Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker presented a high-level overview of Spring 2026 data, with a focus on grade-level trends and the district's response plan moving forward with their three district improvement goals. She stated that the path to meeting the three goals should include a focus on attendance and its correlation to achievement.

Mrs. Voelker began the presentation with a review of the District's 3 District Improvement Goals (ELA, Math, and Well-Rounded Education). She stated that while a focus on achievement is critical, the district and its stakeholders must understand the role attendance plays. An overview of historical attendance data for the State, County, and WWPS was provided. Overall, Warren Woods has shown significant improvement in on-track attendance rates for students, nearing the State's expectation of 73.83% of students "On-Track". The data presented also showed that, for the students who do not have on track attendance, they attend (on average) only 80% of the school days. This means that we have a group of students who are missing large portions of Tier I instruction, impacting their attainment of grade level content expectations.

Mrs. Voelker encouraged the Board to review achievement data with this context in mind. She began the student achievement report with a historical review of Math and ELA data, including comparisons to State, County, and local district performance. She highlighted positive

New Business (continued)

Reports

Student Achievement: M-Step Report (continued)

growth, noting that the District is close to the State and County Targets in many areas and that the implementation of the CKLA program (K-5) should aid in the increase of literacy scores.

In Math, Mrs. Voelker reported consistent gains stating that grades 3-7 (average) have exceeded the Targets while 11th grade SAT reflects the District behind the County and State Targets. Ms. Voelker did mention that the WWT teachers are piloting new programs to aid the students. This program review, along with discussions around instructional best practices will be important in maintaining growth in mathematics. During the literacy and math achievement reviews, there was a discussion about student cohorts, and why the presentation of grade level achievement from year to year is challenging, since it represents different cohorts of students.

In conclusion, Mrs. Voelker outlined the district's improvement goals and strategies designed to enhance student achievement. These include attention to alignment, clarity, and consistency, reflective practices, PLC, and Leadership, evaluating existing resources to enhance growth, and providing supports for student achievement. She also noted that work the counselors have been doing with the Macomb County Counselors Organization to aid all students on the path to success. These areas of focus will continue to be monitored during the district improvement process to best meet the needs of our staff and students in improving academic and attendance outcomes.

Mrs. Nitz expressed her surprise at what the State considers proficient on the SAT. She inquired if other states have such a low bar. Superintendent Deneweth-Fici responded that Michigan requires ALL Juniors take the SAT while other states do not have that requirement.

Mr. Garcia stated that the DSAT team has everyone working together to get the scores up and he feels that we are moving in the right direction.

WWPS Teacher Lisa Grzywacz interjected that the teachers are wondering if Extended Day Tutoring will be offered. Curriculum Director Voelker responded that based on the Building Administrators feedback from the program last year, Extended Day Tutoring was not built into the budget.

Mrs. Spicer inquired if the program that calls and texts parents with a student's attendance has proven to be worthy. Executive Director of Academic Services Ian Fredlund responded that the Attendance Network part of the AIS program has shown the highest three year trend in the County. Ms. Voelker added that they have been working on refining the notifications in AIS to avoid parent confusion.

Change Order: Summer 2026

Neil Cassabon, Deputy Superintendent, presented the Board with the cost of additional concrete work required on Leisure Drive, beyond the previously approved work at Briarwood. He explained that the additional work was requested by a City of Warren inspector. After

New Business (continued)

Change Order: Summer 2026 (continued)

discussions with the inspector regarding the scope of the request, it was determined that the District would replace an additional 1,357 square feet of concrete on Leisure Drive

Mr. Chamberlain thanked Mr. Cassabon for advocating on the District's behalf and reducing the amount of additional concrete originally requested by the City.

Mr. Hiller commented on the appearance of the new driveway at Briarwood, noting how nice it looks.

Mr. Chamberlain also expressed his appreciation for the improved traffic flow at Briarwood and stated that he was impressed with the efficiency of the new driveway configuration.

It was moved by Nitz supported by Chamberlain, to approve the
Change Order: Summer 2026. The Motion carried 5-0

Student Discipline

Superintendent Denewith-Fici had the Board reference their packets that contained her recommendation and supporting documents for the expulsion of a student. She explained that the student's backpack was being searched for an unrelated issue when a knife was found. Student mentioned that he knew that knife was in there but did not inform the building staff. Ms. Denewith-Fici explained that due to the length of the knife being longer than three inches, the law states the student must be expelled. She made note that the law also states that the District can offer the student an online education and that after 150 days the student can apply for reinstatement to the Board Expulsion Committee.

It was moved by Garcia supported by Nitz, to approve the
Student Discipline as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Hiller		Fitzpatrick	_____	Spicer		Garcia	
	Nitz		Chamberlain		Schulte	_____	Ayes: 5	Nays: 0
							Motion carried 5-0.	

Delegate MASB

It was moved by Garcia supported by Chamberlain, to appoint
Schulte as MASB delegate and Garcia as MASB delegate Alternate.

The Motion carried 5-0

Personnel Items

Leaves:

Five leaves were presented. Two employee FMLA and three Intermittent FMLA Care of a family member.

Personnel Items (continued)

Leaves: (continued)

It was moved by Nitz supported by Spicer, to approve and accept the **Leaves** as presented. The Motion carried 5-0

New Hires:

Brown, Olyvia – SACC Lead – ECC – date of hire 9/23/26.

Crooks, Jessica - Intervention Assistant – Westwood – date of hire 9/14/26.

Daleo, Marie – Class of 2030 Advisor – WWT – date of hire 9/11/26.

Gaffrey, Judith – Substitute Teacher – Retired Teacher – date of hire 9/17/26.

Hadden, Caleb – Substitute Teacher – date of hire 9/17/26.

Herring, Cedric – Afternoon Custodian – WWT – date of hire 9/23/26.

Johnson, Jamara – Clerk – WWMS – date of hire 9/21/26.

Krywy, Cynthia – Lunch Supervisor – Westwood – date of hire 9/15/26.

McManus, Franklin – Substitute Teacher – date of hire 9/17/26.

Myers, Avery - Substitute Teacher – date of hire 9/17/26.

Owensby, Tonya – Childcare Assistant – ECC – date of hire 9/14/26.

Teholis, Jessica – Lunch Supervisor – Pinewood- date of hire 9/15/26.

It was moved by Chamberlain supported by Spicer to approve the New Hires as presented. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Public Expression

WWPS teacher Lisa Grzywacz stated how impressed she was by the large turnout for the Homecoming Parade. She shared that being part of WWPS is a unique and special experience.

Mrs. Spicer thanked everyone involved in the Homecoming festivities, especially the class advisors. She commented on the outstanding work that went into creating the parade floats.

Mr. Garcia echoed Mrs. Spicer's remarks, noting how impressive the floats were. He also commented on the beauty of the new football field.

Mr. Chamberlain shared that he has received compliments from opposing teams regarding the new field and noted how impressed they have been with the facility.

Public Expression (continued)

Mrs. Nitz expressed her excitement about seeing WWT Principal Mr. Henshaw at the games and how he is embracing being back at Tower.

Adjournment

It was moved by Chamberlain supported by Nitz to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM.
The motion carried 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Spicer
Secretary