

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Green at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administrative Service Center, 12900 Frazho Road, Warren, MI.

**Roll Call**

Members present: Green, Schulte, Walsh, Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, and Garcia. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassabon, Curriculum Director Kara Beal, Special Services Director Stacie Sward, Student Representatives Natalya Bonkowski and Isabella Burke and Executive Assistant Jackie Miracle.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Approval**

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

**Minutes**

It was moved by Schulte supported by Hiller to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 22, 2022 and the Minutes of the Closed Session Meeting of August 22, 2022 as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

**Correspondence**

None

**Payment of the Bills**

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

General Fund	\$	1,045,911.94
Center Programs		1,034.56
Food Service Fund		72,963.05
Child Care Fund		2,833.46
Building & Site		19,774.50
Bond 2018		90,031.53
Bond 2020 Series I		163,588.04

The motion carried 7 – 0.

### **Payment of the Bills**

Mr. Zannetti commented on the large energy charge at WWT and asked for an explanation. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon stated that the chiller was originally installed in 2007 and despite updated controls for the equipment, we are dealing with an increase in square footage with the new office addition.

Mr. Zannetti then asked if payment to Presidio for laptop and notebook warranties was for the high school only. Mr. Cassabon replied this included a combination of CTE laptops, elementary laptops and some general replacement.

Trustee Hiller inquired about a charge from DTE and asked if it was for street lighting. Mr. Cassabon explained that this is not a new charge as there were still existing DTE light poles on district property at WWT, EHS, Briarwood and Westwood.

Next, Mr. Hiller asked about a General Fund charge for cleaning of the kitchen hood and if it was for the culinary arts kitchen. Mr. Cassabon replied that any cleaning for the Culinary Arts kitchen would be charged to CTE and any Food Service kitchen cleaning would be changed to Food Service.

Trustee Garcia inquired about a charge to Brightly Software and if it was an annual, periodic or need-based fee. Deputy Superintendent replied that this is an annual fee for both the district event scheduler and the maintenance scheduler.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

#### **Reports**

##### **Student Representatives**

Natalya and Isabella provided an update on some of the camp opportunities they participated in over the summer with a presentation that included the MyLead Conference at MSU, Northwood Lab Camp, Mid-Level Leadership Camp at Albion College and, finally, participating as student mentors for incoming freshmen.

In school news, StuCo met this week, fall sports kicked off and Schoolapalooza was a success. Students are enjoying learning with the new laptop carts, and are excited about the new monitors in the hallways.

##### **Student Achievement: Educational Goals**

Curriculum Director Kara Beal presented the 2022-23 Educational Goals as per state requirements. She stated that Benchmark Assessments in Reading and Math will be given to all students in grades K-8 at least twice a year in order to measure student growth in ELA and Math. The goal is to share results digitally with parents no later than 30 days after the testing window. Ms. Beal stated early release time will be used to act on, monitor and review data to continue to encourage growth in Reading and Math for all students. In conclusion, Ms. Beal stated M-STEP Benchmark Data would be presented at the September 26, 2022 Special Board Meeting.

Mr. Zannetti referred to the term "show growth" and asked how the district would measure student growth. Ms. Beal replied that the district will use RIT scores with the assistance of the ISD, in addition to the District Improvement Plan to meet the average state growth requirements.

**New Business**

**2021-2022 Audit**

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon introduced Plant Moran Representatives Jennifer Chambers and Lindsay Mink who were present this evening to share the results of the 2021-2022 audit.

Ms. Chambers began by stating that Plante Moran met with the Finance Committee at length on August 31, 2022 to review the audit in detail. She explained that the audit resulted in an “unmodified opinion,” the highest form of assurance possible, and noted the Federal Programs Audit revealed all major program grants are in compliance with federal rules and regulations.

Next, Ms. Chambers presented a breakdown of the General Fund Revenue by Source. This is the primary operating fund for the district and is comprised primarily of State Aid, local property taxes and Federal funding. She noted an influx of funds through non-recurring COVID emergency grant funds stressing the need to reduce services and staff when the funding is no longer available. Ms. Chambers then detailed expenditures noting an increase from 2021, the majority of which came from an increase in instruction and instructional support as staff works together to fill learning gaps and noted an 16% increase in total salaries and benefits.

In conclusion, Ms. Mink presented a Student Enrollment and Foundation Allowance History, noting a slight decline in enrollment for 22-23. She stated that due to the current State administration being focused on closing the funding gap, all districts are working from the same baseline and we are just now back to 2009 funding levels.

Ms. Chambers congratulated Deputy Superintendent Cassabon and the Business Office staff on the positive review and thanked them for their cooperation.

Mr. Zannetti thanked Mr. Cassabon and the Business Office Staff for their hard work.

Mr. Garcia thanked Mr. Cassabon and his team for their hard work. He asked if there were any recommendations for any future improvements for internal controls and if there was a need for upgrading protection as the threat of cyber attacks increase. Ms. Chambers replied that when financial internal controls were examined there was no significant recommendations for changes. On the cyber side, she noted it is a significant area for districts to be concerned about and stated there are different assessments that can be done. Mr. Garcia asked if testing for third-party related activities were done and Ms. Chambers replied yes it is considered but there is no absolute test. Mr. Garcia inquired about the comment on the excessive Food Service Fund balance and Ms. Chambers replied it is required due to the nature of the programming. Mr. Garcia commented on the huge decrease in investment rate and Ms. Chambers commented it is based on a statewide system rate of return.

Ms. Walsh thanked Ms. Chambers and Ms. Mink for making tonight’s presentation easy to understand.

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon thanked Ms. Chambers and Ms. Mink, in addition to Linda Renno, Accounting Supervisor and the Business Office Staff for their hard work.

It was moved by Schulte, supported by Fitzpatrick to approve and accept the **2021-2022 Audit** as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

## **New Business**

### **Course Proposal: Academic Success**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the proposal stating the district was working with the ISD to provide high-dosage tutoring for students at the high school level through 11t funds. This course will count as elective credit and has been suggested by the MISD pupil accountant.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Schulte to approve the **Course Proposal: Academic Success** as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

### **Personnel Items**

#### **Leaves**

As presented.

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

#### **New Hires**

**Danielle Allen** – GSRP Teacher – Early Childhood Center – Hire Date 09/06/22.

**Bonnie Berezowsky** – Custodian – Administration Building – Hire Date 08/30/22.

**Koenig, Kristin** – Intervention Assistant – Pinewood – Hire Date 09/09/22.

**Liza Hall** – Special Education Paraprofessional – WWT – Hire Date 08/29/22.

**Mark Hall** – Special Education Paraprofessional – WWT – Hire Date 08/29/22.

**Jennifer Ligorotis** – Special Education Paraprofessional – WWT – Hire Date 08/29/22.

**Jenna Logan** – Special Education Paraprofessional – WWT – Hire Date 08/29/22.

**Nicole Loria (Paglia)** – Resource Room Teacher – WWMS – Hire Date 08/24/22.

**Matthew Lentine** – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher – Westwood - Hire Date 08/31/22.

**Marissa Morford** – Special Education Paraprofessional – WWT – Hire Date 09/19/22.

**Mackenzie Smith** – Speech Pathologist – WWMS – Hire Date 9/19/22.

**Susan Smith** – SLI Teacher – Pinewood – Hire Date 08/31/22.

**Morgan White** – Kindergarten Teacher – Briarwood- Hire Date 08/24/22.

**Amanda Wolgast** – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher – Pinewood - Hire Date 09/01/22.

### **Personnel Items**

#### **New Hires** (continued)

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

### **Public Expression**

Lori Stone was present on behalf of the Warren/CenterLine Prevention Coalition, working in conjunction with CARE and offering information on the current vaping situation and how the WCPC is giving young people tools for coping.

Superintendent Denewith-Fici thanked Ms. Stone and stated her appreciation for CARE and the support they offer, in addition to their partnership with WWPS.

Fred Huebener, WWTHS Parent, thanked Ms. Stone and to the supports offered by CARE. He stated he wanted to bring attention to FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) and shared some statistics including how FASD is often misdiagnosed as Autism. Mr. Huebener also stated that he had recently attended the MI Heart Gallery which is a foster care program for children looking for permanent homes. Next, Mr. Huebener stated he would be confirming Food Pantry dates for the rest of the year with Gleaners tomorrow. Finally, Mr. Huebener stated that he reported a campaign violation to the State Elections Commission as he felt a recent social media post was not “proper use of district resources.”

Bobby Compton, WWPS parent shared concerns about busing issues this week and requested the services be addressed.

### **Adjournment**

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Fitzpatrick to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Walsh  
Secretary