

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
APRIL 14, 2025**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Schulte at 6:05 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administrative Service Center, 12900 Frazho Road, Warren, MI.

**Roll Call**

Members present: Schulte, Zannetti, Hiller, Garcia, Nitz and Spicer. Absent with notice: Fitzpatrick. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassabon, Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker, Special Services Director Stacie Sward, Director of Facilities and Transportation Don Ball, Student Representatives Nataly Chang and Valorie Lee, and Executive Assistant Jackie Miracle.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Approval**

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Nitz to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Minutes**

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Hiller to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2025, as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Correspondence**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented a letter from a community member addressed to the City of Warren and copied to the district via WWPS website portal. The letter addressed bus stop issues and suggested using vacant residential lots as bus stops. It was moved by Hiller supported by Nitz to receive and file the Correspondence as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Estimated Board Expenses**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici reviewed the estimated expenses for Board Secretary Scott Hiller to attend the MASB Spring Institute in Mackinac Island May 2 – May 4, 2025. It was moved by Zannetti supported by Nitz to approve the **Estimated Board Expenses** as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Treasurer's Report**

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the February 2025 Treasurer's Report. He began with General Fund Local Revenue consisting of local tax collections, investments, athletic receipts, Adult Ed tuition and rental income. A review of State Revenue included a State Aid payment, in addition to Section 107 and GSRP funding, while Federal Revenue consisted of grant reimbursement for Title I, Title II, Title III and IDEA. Incoming transfers included Enhancement Millage and Special Ed Millage payments from the ISD, in addition to prior period adjustments for Special Education. The review of Food Service funds included several sources of revenue. Local revenue was generated from à la carte food sales and investment earnings. State revenue included a State Aid payment, as well as reimbursements for breakfast and lunch

**Treasurer's Report** (continued)

programs. Federal revenue was derived from additional breakfast and lunch reimbursements. Lastly, the Centers Program review covered a State Aid payment and incoming transfers from the ISD.

**Payment of the Bills**

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

General Fund	\$	733,258.36
Center Programs		3,601.03
Food Service Fund		307,072.43
Child Care Fund		3,730.60
Campus Corner		1,892.70
Bond 2020 Series I		150,023.23
2023 Energy Bond		28,593.23

The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**  
**Reports**

**Student Representatives**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici introduced Student Representatives Nataly Chang and Valorie Lee and invited them to report on activities at WWT.

Valorie began the meeting with club news, announcing that nine DECA students recently competed at the State competition. Of those nine, five have advanced to the international competition in Orlando. Additionally, Zyhairha Riopelle, a senior at WWT, was elected State of Michigan DECA Vice President of Public Relations. Next, Valorie shared that the WWT staff triumphed in the annual Staff vs. Students Dodgeball Game, which took place during Spirit Week before Spring Break. In CTE news, she reported that students in the medical classes recently earned certification in CPR and First Aid, and that HOSA will be competing at the State level in Traverse City this Wednesday. Lastly, Valorie mentioned that students recently completed SAT testing, and that English III students recently attended a screening of the film *Detroit '67* at the Detroit Public Theater.

In other news, Nataly announced that tickets are now on sale for the Drama Club's upcoming musical, *42nd Street*, which will be premiering April 25-27. She also mentioned that some teachers will make cameo appearances during the performance. Next, Nataly

## **New Business**

### **Reports**

#### **Student Representatives** (continued)

shared that Mr. Dougherty's Leadership Class is sponsoring a Talent Show on April 30, with the winning act receiving a \$50 cash prize. The class is also organizing activities for Take Your Child to Work Day on April 24. She reported that the Band and Choir field trip to New York, which took place from April 9–13, was a success, with students having the opportunity to experience all that the Big Apple has to offer. In sports news, the Boys Volleyball team will host their first home game this Wednesday at WWT. Finally, Nataly announced that Prom tickets are now on sale, with this year's theme being *A Garden in Time*.

#### **Student Achievement**

Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker provided a brief Student Achievement update to the Board. She stated that testing season began with PSAT and SAT assessments last week. Next, Ms. Voelker stated that the Middle School was randomly selected by College Board for an audit and the district received all positive feedback. Finally, Ms. Voelker stated that Summer School planning was currently in process with positions being finalized. She noted that the elementary program would accommodate just under 300 students and be held at WWMS and the Credit Recovery program would also be at WWMS. Both the elementary and secondary program will run from July 7 through July 31, 2025.

#### **Board Member Recognition**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici shared a letter from the MASB acknowledging the accomplishments of Board President Mike Schulte and Trustee Mike Garcia for completing Board Member Certification. President Schulte has completed Level 6 and has earned the Master Platinum Award and Trustee Garcia has completed Level 1 – Certified Board Member Award and Level 2 – Award of Merit. She congratulated them and thanked them for completing these courses on their own time and for their dedication and commitment.

#### **Resolution: SMTEC Agreement**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici explained that this contract is a five-year renewal of the current SMTEC Agreement with Van Dyke, Fitzgerald and Center Line, which has been in use since 1980. She noted that this agreement is renewed every three years to allow completion for students who are enrolled in a two-year program. It was moved by Zannetti supported by Spicer to approve the **Resolution: SMTEC Agreement** as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Ayes:** Zannetti, Hiller, Garcia, Spicer, Nitz, Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 6 – 0.

#### **2024 – 2025 Budget Amendment**

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon explained that this is the second amendment to the budget for this fiscal year. He noted that the Finance Committee met on April 7, 2025 and reviewed the budget recommendations in detail. Tonight's presentation would be a summary of those recommendations and the last amendment prior to the final Budget which will be presented in June.

### **New Business**

#### **2024 – 2025 Budget Amendment** (continued)

Mr. Cassabon began by discussing General Fund Operations, noting that Local Revenue continues to show an increase in investment earnings as interest rates remain high. Additionally the district has seen its highest-ever rental revenue, driven by an increase in rental agreements. A review of State Revenue included MPSERS reimbursement payments to qualifying employees, an ORS forfeiture credit, and an increase in the Declining Enrollment Stabilization Grant, along with other grant adjustments.

Next, Mr. Cassabon reviewed Federal expenditures, highlighting adjustments such as employee docked days, higher substitute costs, an increase in Basic Instruction costs due to added needs, and additional funding for Adult Education. Instruction and Support Services expenses included costs for Kagan training for new staff, General Administration fees for a Tax Advisor, and Operations and Maintenance expenses for the WWMS traffic study, building repairs, and reduced energy costs.

In conclusion, Deputy Superintendent Cassabon highlighted the impact of the asbestos abatement at the ASC, the decision to delete the Geothermal Project until the 2025-26 fiscal year, and the outcomes of the May Governor's Estimating Conference, which will influence next year's budget.

It was moved by Nitz supported by Zannetti to approve the **2024-25 Budget Amendment**. The motion carried 6 – 0.

#### **Bid Award:** Titan Express and Hawthorn Walk-In

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the Bid Award for the Titan Express and Hawthorn Walk-In Freezer. He noted that post-bid interviews were held with Food Service Director John Estrada, Director of Facilities and Transportation Don Ball and Wakely Associates. It is recommended that the **Bid Award:** Titan Express and Hawthorn Walk-in be awarded to Meridian. It was moved by Hiller supported by Nitz to approve the **Bid Award:** Titan Express and Hawthorn Walk-In as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Mr. Zannetti inquired about the timing of the Titan Express. Mr. Cassabon stated that the project would begin soon and was expected to be completed sometime in October.

Mr. Hiller asked if the District has worked with Meridian before. Mr. Cassabon replied that the District has not but the architect has and they come highly recommended. He noted that Meridian was not the low bid; however, the bid they provided is fixed and covers tariff costs.

#### **Policy Updates:** First Reading

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the policy updates recommended as a result of the Policy Committee Meeting held on April 7, 2025. The following policies are being recommended for adoption: 2266, 3120.08, 5330.02, 5340, 8321, 1130, 3110, 4110, 6110, 6111, 6112, 6114, 6325, 6550, 7310, 7450, 2120, 2131, 2132, 2220, 2231, 2340, 2370, 2260.01, 1623, 3123, 4123, 2266, 2260. This is a First Reading and no action is required.

### **Personnel Items**

#### **Leaves:**

As presented

It was moved by Hiller supported by Garcia to approve the **Leaves** as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Personnel Items** (continued)

**New Hires:**

**Patrick Bates** – Bus Driver – date of hire 3/21/25.

**Laura Byrne** - Substitute Teacher – date of hire 3/7/25.

**Savannah Gilbert** – Childcare Assistant – date of hire 03/12/25.

**Lily Kersheske** – Substitute Special Education Paraprofessional – date of rehire 03/06/25.

**Sophia Korte** – Auditorium Worker – date of hire 3/12/25.

**Laura Laban** - Substitute Teacher – date of hire 3/6/25.

**Aliya Maxwell** - Kitchen Helper – WWMS – date of hire 3/19/25.

**Keosouvanh Phommapheng** – Childcare Assistant – date of hire 3/11/25.

**Justin Pinks** – Assistant Cross Country Coach – WWT – date of hire 3/21/25.

It was moved by Hiller supported by Garcia to approve the **New Hires** as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Public Expression**

Vice President Zannetti commented on recent news of the District's S & P rating of A+ noting this reflects on the stability and longevity of the district and will help to keep the cost of borrowing money down. He commended and thanked Superintendent Denewith-Fici and Deputy Superintendent Cassabon for their fiscal responsibility.

Trustee Garcia noted the recent College Board Audit results and suggested it be shared to the district social media website.

Secretary Hiller announced the Drama Club will present the musical "42<sup>nd</sup> Street" on April 25, 26 and 27 and encouraged everyone to attend.

**Negotiations** (Closed Session)

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Nitz that the Board move to Closed Session for discussion of Negotiations. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Hiller, Garcia, Spicer, Nitz, Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 6 – 0.

***The Board moved to Closed Session at 6:55 PM.***

***The Board returned from Closed Session at 7:25 PM***

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**Adjournment**

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Nitz to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Hiller  
Secretary