

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FEBRUARY 10, 2025**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Schulte at 6:02 p.m. in Pinewood Elementary School Gymnasium, 14411 Bade, Warren, MI.

Roll Call

Members present: Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, Spicer and Schulte. Absent with notice: Nitz. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassabon, Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker, Special Services Director Stacie Sward, Director of Technology Kevin Hustek, Pinewood Principal Heather Brodi, 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 Fitzpatrick to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Minutes

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 13, 2025, as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Correspondence

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented an email to the Board from a parent expressing concern about the parking lot situation at WWMS, specifically drop-off and pick-up times. It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to receive and file the correspondence as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Treasurer's Report

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the Monthly Treasurer's Report for December 2024. He began with General Fund Local revenue consisting mainly of local tax collections, in addition to investment earnings and athletic gate receipts. State revenue reflected a State Aid payment, and a review of Federal revenue consisted of many grant reimbursements, including Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, IDEA and Perkins. Next, a review of Incoming Transfers reflected an Enhancement Millage Payment from the ISD.

In conclusion, Mr. Cassabon reviewed Food Service funds noting a positive month with Revenue exceeding Expenses and ISD Centers Program which reflected a State Aid payment.

Payment of the Bills

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

General Fund	\$	845,302.54
Center Programs		4,302.44

Payment of the Bills (continued)

Food Service Fund	\$	98,450.43
Child Care Fund		223.78
Campus Corner		4,792.97
Bond 2020 Series I		9,949.52

The motion carried 6 – 0.

Trustee Garcia noted an expense in the amount of \$42,550 to Concentric and inquired about the scope of payment. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon replied that it was paid with grant funds through the ISD and covered a new partnership with Concentric that would allow for student home visits to provide additional support for students who are identified by principals as being chronically absent. Next, Mr. Garcia asked for additional details regarding the 2024 maintenance agreement with JP Th Properties. Mr. Cassabon explained this was the 10-year maintenance agreement for the service drive from Schoenherr through the Tim Hortons parking lot to the WWMS east parking lot. Finally, Mr. Garcia asked if the payment to Sinclair Recreation was for playground equipment and Mr. Cassabon stated it was replacement costs for equipment that was damaged in a windstorm last fall.

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.

Nataly began with a report on the Unified Basketball Team stating that they have played one game to date with their next game on Thursday at Sterling Heights High School. In addition, she announced that they will be playing at Little Ceasars Arena on March 15 and tickets are on sale now. In other news, Nataly stated that the Marketing II Class is sponsoring a fundraiser and selling Valentine lollipop bouquets for \$5. In Club news, Nataly added that StuCo met today for a planning meeting for upcoming events and NHS recently participated in a group Valentine's Day activity where students wrote notes to local nursing home residents.

Next, Valorie announced that auditions were held recently for this year's Drama Club musical, "42nd Street," with rehearsals beginning last Monday. In sports, Valorie noted that the Boys' Volleyball Club hosted a Powderpuff Volleyball game to raise funds for the club and the seniors came in first place. Other sports news included final season stats with Boys' Basketball finishing with 8 wins and 10 losses, Girls' Basketball – 8 wins and 6 losses, Boys' Swim – 3 wins and 3 losses, Girls Bowling finished with 5 wins and 4 losses, and the Wrestling team finishing with 2 wins and 2 losses with the team recently beating Lakeshore and De La Salle and heading to the 2025 Regionals. Finally, Valorie announced that the Cheer Team placed first in competition at Grosse Pointe South High School last Friday and the Varsity Dance Team will be

New Business
Reports

Student Representatives (continued)
competing on February 22 at Brandon High School.

Pinewood Report

Principal Heather Brodi thanked everyone in attendance and introduced Music Teacher Rachel Coy. Ms. Coy introduced her fifth-grade students and stated that they had been working on bucket drumming skills in class and that tonight they would perform “Carol of the Bells.” Ms. Brodi thanked Ms. Coy and the students for their entertaining performance. In addition, she expressed her appreciation to the Board for giving the students the opportunity to showcase their skills.

Ms. Brodi stated that tonight’s presentation would provide an overview of “Morning Meeting,” which is a strategy the Pinewood Staff is implementing daily during the first hour of every morning while students are preparing for their day and receiving their breakfast. The purpose is to help students feel like they belong, setting the tone for the day, helping them to stay engaged and ultimately improve student attendance. Ms. Brodi outlined the four consistent components which include a greeting, an opportunity to share, an activity and a morning message. She stated the purpose is to create a strong classroom community where predictability helps students feel valued and connected, which reduces anxiety.

In conclusion, Ms. Brodi noted that the goal of the program is to support social/emotional learning, promote regular attendance and build positive relationships.

Vice President Zannetti asked when the program was implemented and if any positive changes have resulted. Ms. Brodi replied that staff began implementing the program in September and they have noticed a reduction in tardies.

Student Achievement: Benchmark Assessment/Mid-Year Goals

Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker stated tonight’s report was required as a result of the 2020 Return to Learn Bill to monitor academic progress. She provided an awareness of building groups and subgroups by comparing Fall 2024 NWEA data to NWEA National norms for students in grades K-8. Trustee Garcia asked if buildings could drill down to target specific discrepancies among subgroups and Ms. Voelker provided RIT score data which helps to identify learning needs and can be used as a starting point to decide if instructional changes should be implemented.

The presentation concluded with discussion regarding the data provided. Vice President Zannetti asked Ms. Voelker if she was satisfied with the results. Ms. Voelker stated that while she is satisfied with current data, there are many variables to be considered, and improvement is needed. She noted upcoming legislation and changes that will need to be made in order to be in compliance, in addition to identifying and addressing students’ needs earlier on.

Superintendent Denewith-Fici thanked Ms. Voelker for this evening’s presentation.

Proposal: WWMS Traffic Study

Superintendent Denewith stated that based on concerns that have been raised with regard to traffic flow at the middle school, a proposal to proceed with a traffic study to be conducted by Spalding DeDecker is being presented.

New Business

Proposal: WWMS Traffic Study (continued)

It was moved by Hiller supported by Zannetti to approve the **Proposal:** WWMS Traffic Study as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, Spicer and Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 6 – 0. Mr. Zannetti commented on the importance of School Administration to discuss the plans and the recommendation to address the safety concerns to the parents after the results of the study are received.

Mr. Garcia inquired about the 90-day implementation and expressed concerns with the 30-day invoice period. In addition, he addressed the importance of getting parents to follow the rules.

Approval: WWT/EHS Vape Detection Devices

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon stated that these devices were being funded by a State Mental Health and Safety Grant and would provide for devices to be installed at WWT and EHS. He stated if additional funds were allocated for the 2025-26 budget, we could consider expanding the program to WWMS.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to approve the WWT/EHS Vape Detection Devices as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Mr. Fitzpatrick noted his approval of the well-spent grant funds.

Appointment: Finance Committee Representative

Superintendent Denewith-Fici noted a vacancy on the Finance Committee as a result of the election of a new Board trustee and stated it was necessary to appoint a new representative and alternate. It was moved by Garcia, supported by Hiller to appoint Mike Garcia as Finance Committee Representative with Jenny Nitz as the alternate. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia and Schulte. **Nays:** Spicer. The motion carried 5 – 1.

Appointment: MASB Delegate (Board of Directors)

President Schulte presented the ballot for the MASB Board of Directors election and stated WWPS belongs to Region 8 and the Board should select and cast a vote for one candidate. He added that Randy Meisner was the recommended candidate being supported by the MISD.

It was moved by Hiller supported by Fitzpatrick to support Randy Meisner as Region 8 MASB Board of Directors Candidate. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, Spicer and Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Personnel Items

Leaves:

As presented

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

New Hires:

Elizabeth Gulick - Substitute Teacher – date of hire 1/27/25 .

Personnel Items

New Hires: (continued)

Hailey Harger – Administrative Professional Assistant – WWT Athletics – date of hire 1/27/25.

Jacquelyn LaForest – Special Education Paraprofessional – POHI+ WWT – date of rehire 1/21/25.

Amy Macelt - Substitute Teacher – date of hire 2/4/25.

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

Termination:

As presented.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to approve the **Termination** as presented. The motion carried 5 – 0 – 1 with Zannetti abstaining.

Public Expression

Vice President Zannetti commented on Federal Administration changes and emphasized the importance of keeping the Board up to date on these funding decisions.

Trustee Garcia thanked the Administration for supporting his recent attendance at the MASB Winter Institute. He added the virtual classes were very convenient and informative.

Adjournment

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Fitzpatrick to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 PM. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Hiller
Secretary