

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MAY 5, 2025**

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: Schulte, Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, Nitz and Spicer. 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 Fitzpatrick supported by Nitz to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Minutes

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Nitz to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 14, 2025, and the Closed Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2025 as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0 – 1 with Fitzpatrick abstaining due to absence.

Correspondence

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented an email submitted through the website portal from a WWT parent regarding potholes in the WWT parking lot. Superintendent Denewith-Fici stated that either she or Mr. Fredlund will reach out to let her know the timeline of the planned demolition of the WWT parking lot this summer. It was moved by Hiller supported by Zannetti to receive and file the Correspondence as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Ms. Nitz asked what the actual timeline was and Deputy Superintendent Cassabon replied that demolition in the front lot is scheduled to begin the Tuesday after Memorial Day and after that is completed they will move on to the large lot.

Treasurer's Report

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the March 2025 Treasurer's Report. He began with General Fund Local Revenue consisting of investment earnings as well as rental income and Adult Ed tuition. A review of State Revenue included State Aid in addition to Section 107 and GSRP funding while Federal Revenue consisted of a Perkins Grant reimbursement. Incoming transfers included an Enhancement Millage payment, and a review of Food Service Local revenue included a la carte food sales, catering revenue and investment earnings. State revenue was comprised of State Aid as well as the State's portion of reimbursements for breakfast and lunch programs, and Federal revenue was derived from additional breakfast and lunch reimbursements. Lastly, the ISD Centers Program revenue consisted of a State Aid payment.

Payment of the Bills

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

General Fund	\$ 1,179,333.44
Center Programs	5,807.26
Food Service Fund	123,294.86
Child Care Fund	518.10
Campus Corner	2,589.08
Bond 2020 Series I	32,493.12

The motion carried 7 – 0.

Mr. Garcia asked about a payment to Imagine Learning and inquired as to what it was for. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon replied that it covered online licensing for WWT and EHS students taking online classes.

Next he asked about a payment to Kids Read Now and Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker responded it was a program that would allow for all students in grades K-5 to receive six books shipped over the summer directly to students' homes.

Mr. Garcia then asked if the payment to Macomb Duplicating was for new copiers and Mr. Cassabon replied yes. Mr. Garcia asked if this was expected to reduce costs and Mr. Cassabon replied yes, that it was part of the five-year replacement cycle and refreshing/ replacing older copies does help keep costs down.

Lastly Mr. Garcia asked about a payment to Catapult Learning West and if it was for teacher workshops. Deputy Superintendent explained that this was for De La Salle staff and paid through the Federal funds issued for private schools of which WWPS is required to act as the fiscal agent and make the payment on their behalf.

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 with club news, announcing that WWT student McKenna Howard took first place in the HOSA competition and will represent the school at the International Competition in Tennessee next week. In DECA news, Valorie proudly shared that she was part of the winning duo who recently competed at the international level with a presentation on Mental Health Awareness. She thanked the Board for their continued support of these programs, which offer valuable networking opportunities with students from around the world.

New Business

Reports

Student Representatives (continued)

She noted that AP exams began today, and tomorrow will be the NHS Senior Recognition Night, with the ceremony starting at 6:30 p.m. Valorie also reported that the Interact Club recently visited the Skyline Camp and Retreat Center as part of a Day of Caring field trip.

Finally, she mentioned that students are preparing for Prom on Friday, May 2, at Zuccarro's, as well as for the annual Powderpuff Game scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, which includes a dance routine being choreographed with her help.

Nataly provided an update on Culture Day, which was celebrated school wide. Students participated by wearing traditional clothing and sampling foods from various cultures. She extended a special thank you to Ms. Kelly Schumacher and Ms. Georgia Wrinkle for organizing the day's activities. Nataly also announced that Mr. Dougherty's class is still holding auditions for the upcoming Talent Show, scheduled for May 14. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third place acts.

Lastly, she reported on spring sports: the Girls' Soccer Team has secured seven wins, the Boys' Baseball Team is having a strong season, and the Boys' Volleyball Team recently achieved a fifth-place ranking in the state of Michigan.

2025-2026 Budget Assumptions

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented an update to the Board on the 2025–26 budget development process, including background on the assumptions being used until the budget is formally adopted at the end of June.

He began by discussing revenue projections, noting a reduction in rental income for next year due to the temporary closure of the WWMS auditorium for construction following the EHS and Adult Education graduations. He also reported a projected enrollment decrease of 19.6 FTE, along with a lower Declining Enrollment payment, as fewer students are leaving the district than initially anticipated.

On the expense side, Mr. Cassabon reviewed anticipated staff retirements and adjustments to State health insurance due to a reduced cap. He also referenced costs associated with the adoption of Subject.com and a decline in Early Middle College participation. Additionally, he announced that the district will transition from Registration Gateway to PowerSchool Enrollment Express as its registration portal.

In closing, Mr. Cassabon noted that the upcoming May Revenue Estimating Conference, scheduled in two weeks, is expected to clarify remaining budget uncertainties.

Mr. Zannetti asked if there was discussion of an increase in per pupil funding and Superintendent Denewith-Fici replied we are still waiting for a final answer.

Resolution: 2025-2026 MISD Operating Budget

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the MISD Operating Budget for 2025-25. She stated that Treasurer Fitzpatrick attended the Budget Hearing on April 17 where County programs, along with State budget projections were reviewed.

New Business

Resolution: 2025-2026 MISD Operating Budget (continued)

Treasurer Fitzpatrick added that no cuts were being recommended for next year and that Special Education funding was highlighted, noting a new facility for Bovenschen, and continued collaboration throughout Macomb County.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Zannetti to approve the **Resolution:** 2025-2026 MISD Operating Budget as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Fitzpatrick Hiller, Garcia, Spicer, Nitz, Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Mr. Garcia asked if the ISD was audited annually. Mr. Fitzpatrick replied yes they are audited annually and an annual report was presented. Next, Mr. Garcia commented on the number of programs the ISD sponsors and asked how the success of these programs was measured. Superintendent Denewith-Fici replied committees are assigned to gather data which is then presented to the county superintendents for discussion and analysis.

2025-26 Substitute Rates

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the recommended rates for 2025-26 substitutes stating the changes are recommended to remain competitive with surrounding districts, to keep up with the accelerated minimum wage increases and to attract new employees.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Garcia to approve the **2025-26 Substitute Rates** as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0 – 1 with Hiller abstaining due to conflict of interest.

Policy Updates: Second Reading

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the policy updates recommended as a result of the Policy Committee Meeting held on April 7, 2025. This is the Second Reading and 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, 2370, 2260.01, 1623, 3123, 4123, 2266, 2260.

Ms. Denewith-Fici noted the removal of Policy 2340 Field Trip and Other District-Sponsored Trips as additional updates to that policy have been released and must be reviewed for recommendation by the Policy Committee.

It was moved by Garcia supported by Nitz to approve the **Policy Updates** as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Fitzpatrick Hiller, Garcia, Spicer, Nitz, Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Change Order: Bid Package #2 Summer Renovations

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented Bid Package #2 Summer Renovations and stated this series of change orders covers the WWT door and doorframe assembly in addition to Briarwood and Pinewood asbestos removal. He explained that the exterior door and doorframe assembly at WWT was previously replaced in order to remain consistent with all other exterior doors. Next he noted that because the demolition work for Briarwood and Pinewood was bid out early, it did not include asbestos removal, which has now resulted in a deduction as the service will be provided by a different contractor. It is recommended that the **Change Order: Bid Package #2 Summer Renovations** be approved as presented. It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to approve the **Change Order: Bid Package #2 Summer Renovations** as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

New Business

Change Order: Bid Package #2 Summer Renovations (continued)

Mr. Hiller asked for clarification and reiterated that the costs were being removed from the demolition contractor and being built into the asbestos abatement contract and Deputy Superintendent stated that was correct.

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:

Jayden Farah – Auditorium Worker – date of hire 4/14/25.

Ann Jackson – Childcare Assistant – date of hire 4/7/25.

Dezsira Semear - Auditorium Worker – date of hire 4/24/25.

Tiffany Thomas – Bus Driver – date of hire 4/22/25.

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

Trustee Nitz commented that it was good to see a bus driver on the list.

Public Expression

Secretary Hiller stated that he recently attended the MASB Spring institute at Mackinac Island to participate in the Board President's Workshop. He expressed his appreciation for the cohesiveness of the WWPS Board and encouraged others to attend.

Treasurer Fitzpatrick commented on the WWT Drama Club's recent production of *42nd Street* noting how talented and dedicated our students are.

Mr. Hiller added that the director and choreographer both intended to dial back the choreography, however they were pleased to learn it wasn't necessary.

Treasurer Zannetti also stated what a phenomenal job the students did.

Special Services Director Stacie Sward announced that Tammy Porter, WWT Special Services Paraprofessional, will be honored at the "Make a Difference" Awards Ceremony on May 20 and invited the Board to attend.

Adjournment

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Fitzpatrick to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Hiller
Secretary