

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SEPTEMBER 8, 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: Zannetti, Hiller, Fitzpatrick, Garcia, Nitz, Spicer and Schulte. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassabon, Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker, 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 Fitzpatrick supported by Zannetti to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 18, 2025 as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Correspondence

None

Payment of the Bills

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

General Fund	\$	903,345.18
Center Programs		976.49
Food Service Fund		17,319.56
Child Care Fund		3,778.41
Bond 2020 Series I		231,179.77
2023 Energy Bond		385.80
2025 Capital Projects Fund		2,146,041.36

The motion carried 7 – 0.

Vice President Zannetti inquired about the Energy Bond balance. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon responded that the reported payment covered advertising costs for bids related to the Summer 2026 bond work, which is expected to complete the Energy Bond project.

Old Business

None.

New Business **Reports**

Student Representatives

Valorie greeted the Board and Administration, expressing her happiness to be back after summer vacation. She began her report by sharing that McKenna Howard became the first WWT student to attend the HOSA International Conference this past summer in Tennessee, where she gained valuable experience and made many new friends. Next, Valorie reported that she and another WWT student attended the MASC Summer Leadership Camp at Albion College. There, students participated in simulations of real-life crisis events, gaining hands-on leadership experience. She concluded by noting that the school year is off to a busy start. The Senior Class kicked things off with a Senior Sunrise event on the first day of school, and Student Council (StuCo) has already begun planning for Homecoming.

Nataly followed with an update on the Marketing Class, which is currently reorganizing the school store and stocking new clothing in preparation for its reopening on September 22. She also reported that Health Care classes have begun CPR certification training and announced that HOSA will hold its first meeting of the year this coming Thursday.

Student Achievement

Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker reported on the Back to School Professional Development day. The event began with a district-wide breakfast provided by the Food Service Department, followed by keynote speaker Rodney Page, who energized the crowd with his music, insight, and passion, helping to set a positive tone for the year.

At the secondary level, the district partnered with the ISD to provide 10 consultants for collaborative sessions. Meanwhile, K–5 teachers participated in their first day of CKLA onboarding.

In conclusion Ms. Voelker stated that follow-up surveys showed that over 90% of participants found the sessions to be valuable and noted that DSAT is scheduled for this Thursday with new facilitators bringing new energy this year.

Audit 2024-25

Superintendent Denewith-Fici stated Deputy Superintendent Cassabon, and the Plante Moran auditors were here this evening to share the results of the 2024-2025 audit. Deputy Superintendent stated the Finance Committee met with Plante Moran auditors on August 26, 2025, to review the audit in detail and introduced Plant Moran Representatives Jennifer Chambers and Kristen Stofflett, who were present this evening to share the results.

Ms. Chambers began by outlining the documents provided to the Board and stated that preliminary post audit findings resulted in a “clean” opinion, however, they are waiting for the Federal government to release the final rules to issue their “final” audit, but stressed that the content of their presentation and the deliverables would not change. The wait is simply procedural and once they receive the final word from the federal level, they will remove the “draft” and file the audit as required by law.

New Business

Audit 2024-25 (continued)

In addition, she noted there were no compliance issues identified with bond requirements or the Federal Programs audit which targeted IDEA. Ms. Chambers shared quantitative results which provide a high-level overview of General Fund Revenue, which is the primary operating fund for the district and is comprised primarily of State Aid, local property taxes and Federal funding. She noted that the Foundation Allowance did not change from 2024-25, however, Federal revenue did decline due to tapering off of Covid funds, in addition to a decrease to the per pupil allowance. Ms. Chambers then reviewed the General Fund Revenue by Source, noting the MPSERS stabilization payments, which is a portion of State revenue which is immediately remitted back to the State and considered a flow-through fund, as it is not a guaranteed source of revenue.

Next, Ms. Stofflett presented a review of General Fund Expenditures, offering a high-level overview of how expenses are distributed. She noted a slight overall increase in allocations. A more detailed analysis showed that this increase was primarily due to additional investments in classroom support, specifically through the hiring of instructional support coaches.

In conclusion, Ms. Stofflett reviewed a historical slide noting Student Enrollment and the Foundation Allowance trends. She noted that the district has been experiencing declining enrollment since 2021 and the Foundation allowance had a significant increase in 2023-24 with no increase for 2024 or 2025, but the district has been fiscally responsible.

Mr. Zannetti thanked Ms. Chambers and Ms. Stofflett, in addition to Deputy Superintendent Cassabon, Accounting Supervisor Linda Renno and the Business Office Team for the work and effort they put into the audit every year. He noted the need to acknowledge declining enrollment, even though there is a fund balance cushion. He asked if Plante Moran would have to come back to issue the “clean” opinion after finalization. Deputy Superintendent replied it would not be necessary for them to come back.

Mr. Garcia extended his thanks to the entire team for their in-depth explanation.

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon thanked Plante Moran for being easy to work with. He also thanked Accounting Supervisor Linda Renno for working with Plante Moran on a daily basis and stated the teamwork is appreciated.

President Schulte thanked Mr. Cassabon and the Business Office Team.

It was moved by Zannetti, supported by Garcia to approve and accept the **2024-25 Audit Report**. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Change Order: Bid Package #2 Summer 2025 Renovations

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the Change Order, which included several items related to the roof work at Westwood. First, vent repairs were required due to damage caused by the contractor, resulting in a back charge. Also included was the cost to resurface asphalt damaged by the contractor’s crane during the roof replacement—this, too, resulted in a back charge. Additionally, extra drainage was added to the area on the West side of the school to address ongoing “ponding” issues.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller that the Board approve the **Change Order: Bid Package #2 Summer 2025 Renovations** as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Appointment: 2025 MASB Assembly Delegate

Superintendent Denewith-Fici stated that in addition to attending the MASB Leadership Conference in October, she is recommending the appointment of Mike Schulte as 2025 MASB Assembly Delegate and Paul Zannetti as the alternate.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Nitz that the Board approve the **Appointment:** 2025 MASB Assembly Delegate as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Hiller, Fitzpatrick, Garcia, Nitz, Spicer and Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Personnel Items

Leaves:

As presented

New Hires:

Judith Bryan – Briarwood Clerk – date of hire 8/20/25.

Nevah Cooper-Williams – Childcare Assistant – ECC – date of rehire 9/2/25.

LaKeesha Crouch – Substitute Athletic Trainer - WWT/WWMS – date of hire 8/26/25.

Joselyn Maljak – Substitute Secretary – date of rehire 8/18/25.

Oksana Rosenbrock – Assistant Principal APA – WWMS – date of hire 8/21/25.

Ricky Stanley – Mechanic – date of hire 8/25/25.

Emily Thibault – Special Education Paraprofessional – POHI/VI – WWT – date of hire 8/20/25.

Terri Wisniewski – Kitchen Helper – WWT - date of hire 8/20/25.

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

Ms. Nitz asked about the responsibilities of the athletic trainer and Ms. Denewith-Fici replied that this hire would be subbing as we have done in the past few years.

Mr. Zannetti commented that he was pleased we were able to hire a new mechanic. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon noted that he is also licensed to drive a school bus so he will be able to be a substitute driver.

Public Expression

Trustee Nitz stated she was pleasantly surprised at WWMS drop off and pick up and stated things seem to be improving.

Deputy Superintendent noted that the traffic has also improved at WWT.

Trustee Fitzpatrick commented that the building and grounds looked great for school opening this year. Mr. Cassabon thanked him for his comments and stated that renderings of the new football field would be ready for Homecoming.

Mr. Zannetti asked if the Titan Express was finished yet. Mr. Cassabon replied that work is still in process and it is not yet complete.

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon stated the salvage and staining of the bricks as indicated in the drawings was executed perfectly and the contractor did an excellent job.

Adjournment

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Hiller to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 PM. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Hiller
Secretary