

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
August 17, 2026**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Schulte at 5:59 p.m.in the Board Room of the Administrative Service Center, 12900 Frazho Road Warren, MI.

Roll Call

Members present: Garcia, Hiller, Nitz, Spicer, Fitzpatrick, and Schulte. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassabon, Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker, Director of Facilities and Transportation Don Ball, Executive Director of Academic Services Ian Fredlund, and Executive Assistant Diana Rende.

Oath of Office

President Schulte presented the Oath of Office to Jason Chamberlain who will serve as School Board Trustee for the position that was vacated by Mr. Zannetti.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval

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

Minutes

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Nitz to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of July 27, 2026. The motion carried 6 – 0 with Hiller abstaining due to late arrival at that meeting.

Correspondence

None

Payment of the Bills

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

General Fund	\$ 1,578,407.94
Center Programs	\$ -
Food Service Fund	\$ 34,561.70
Child Care Fund	\$ 4,535.53
Campus Corner	\$ -
Building & Site	\$ -
2020 Bond Series I	\$ -

Payment of the Bills (continued)

2023 Energy Bond	\$ 258,059.15
2025 Capitol Projects Fund	\$ 6,172.73

Mr. Garcia thanked Mr. Cassabon and his team for their hard work and skills allowing the District to front load so that these bills can be paid.

The motion carried 7 – 0.

Old Business

None.

New Business
Reports

Policy Update: Wireless Communication Devices

Executive Director of Academic Services, Ian Fredlund, presented the Board with the revised Wireless Communication Devices (WCD) policy for Warren Woods elementary, middle, and high schools. Mr. Fredlund explained that the revisions align with new Michigan legislation prohibiting smartphone use during instructional time in public and charter K-12 schools, with limited exceptions for emergencies, medical needs, and instructional purposes.

Under the proposed policy, WCDs may not be used or visible during the school day, including passing time and lunch periods. The exception is Warren Woods Tower High School, where students will be permitted to use WCDs during lunch.

Mr. Fredlund also shared building-specific informational flyers outlining the updated policy and the consequences for noncompliance. In response to a question raised at a previous meeting regarding staff expectations, he explained that building administrators will address the importance of professionalism and modeling appropriate device use for students.

Mr. Fitzpatrick inquired if there would be evaluations of progress at any point. Mr. Fredlund explained that the Building Leadership teams meet monthly and will evaluate the progress.

Mr. Garcia thanked Mr. Fredlund for the flyers, stating that it makes the expectations very clear.

Mrs. Spicer expressed her appreciation in the leadership teams setting the example.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to approve the **Policy Update: Wireless Communication Devices**. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Student Handbook Updates

In addition to the changes for the WCDs at all schools Mr. Fredlund presented recommended Handbook changes for the 2026-2027 school year. The WWMS handbook

New Business (continued)

Student Handbook Updates

reflects a change to the Athletic Section. Mr. Fredlund explained that this was implemented to not overly punish athletes who may have multiple contests in one week.

Mr. Garcia inquired if the academic check happens with 1 grade or if it is cumulative. Mr. Fredlund explained that the academic check follows MHSAA guidelines and is not due to one specific assignment but cumulative.

Mrs. Spicer questioned how it would work at the middle school if they do not receive letter grades. Curriculum Director Voelker clarified that the middle school does receive letter grades.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller, to approve and accept the **Student Handbook Updates** as presented. The Motion carried 7-0.

Change Orders: Bid Pack #3 Summer 2026 Renovations

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon explained that the removal and reinstallation of the home bleacher fascia was included in the original bid. However, the site contractor chose to have the work performed by GT Grandstands, Inc., rather than completing it with their own company.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Nitz, to approve and accept the **Change Orders: Bid Pack #3 Summer 2026 Renovations**. The Motion carried 7-0.

Personnel Items

Leaves:

None Requested

New Hires:

Sherry Hicks – Bus Driver – date of hire 8/19/26.

Stacey Mulder – Occupational Therapist – WWT – date of hire 8/19/26

Amanda Newell – WWMS Clerk and Garage Dispatch Clerk – date of hire 8/19/26. A

Omotola Oluwole – CI Teacher – Westwood – date of hire 8/19/26.

Heather Petrus – ECSE Teacher – ECC – date of hire 8/19/26.

Allen Primer – WWT Football Coach & Substitute Teacher – date of hire 7/24/26.

Jennifer Starna – Resource Room Teacher – WWMS – date of hire 8/19/26. J

Alayah Vilayvong – English Teacher – WWT – date of hire 8/19/26.

Personnel Items (continued)

New Hires:

Mr. Fitzpatrick requested clarification on one person working the clerk spot at two buildings and if the bus driver had withdrawn from the position. Superintendent Denewith explained that the Garage position is early in the morning and then the clerk would travel to the middle school to begin her shift there. She also responded that the bus driver had withdrawn from the position.

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

Public Expression

President Schulte welcomed Mr. Chamberlain to the Board and expressed his enthusiasm about working together.

Mr. Garcia wished everyone a successful school year and shared his appreciation for seeing vacant positions throughout the district being filled.

Mr. Hiller expressed gratitude for the opportunity to attend the MASB Summer Institute. He reported attending five sessions, including one focused on trust-building. During the session, he shared that the staff at Warren Woods Public Schools have established a strong culture of trust with one another. According to Mr. Hiller, the instructor remarked that such a level of trust is rare among organizations. Inspired by the experience, Mr. Hiller stated that he wrote a letter to the Board and administration.

Mrs. Nitz shared that she feels a renewed sense of pride in the district and highlighted the outstanding collaboration demonstrated during the recent Board Retreat attended by Board members and administrators.

Adjournment

It was moved by Hiller supported by Chamberlain to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 PM. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Spicer
Secretary