MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
May 18, 2026

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Schulte at 6:01 p.m.in the Board Room of the Administrative Service Center, 12900 Frazho Road Warren, MI.

Roll Call

Members present: Zannetti, Hiller, Garcia, Nitz, Spicer, Fitzpatrick, and Schulte. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassabon, Curriculum Director Michelle Voelker, Director of Special Services Stacy Sward, Director of Facilities and Transportation Don Ball, Business Supervisor Linda Renno, Human Resources Supervisor Jeanne Portalski, Warren Woods Tower Principal Ian Fredlund, Student Representatives Nataly Chang and Valorie Lee, and Executive Assistant Diana Rende.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Spicer to approve the 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 April 27, 2026 and the Closed Meeting of April 27, 2026 as presented.

The motion carried 7 – 0.

Correspondence

None

Treasurer's Report

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the Treasurer's Report for April 2026. He began with General Fund Revenue consisting mainly of Local tax collections, in addition to Adult Ed tuition, and earnings on investments. State Revenue included payments from State Aid, Wayne Resa, and MISD Preschool reimbursement. Federal Revenue included a payment from the ISD,

Next a review of Food Service Local Revenue reflected investment earnings in addition to some ala carte food sales, while Federal Revenue reflected reimbursement for Federal Free and Reduced lunch.

Finally, a review of the ISD Center Program reflected a report that revenue and expenditure amounts are close to equal.

Payment of the Bills

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

General Fund	$ 853,320.15
Center Programs	$ 2,947.92
Food Service Fund	$ 316,816.66
Child Care Fund	$ 1,334.27
Campus Corner	$ 2,884.78
Building & Site	-
2020 Bond Series I	-
2023 Energy Bond	$ 331,514.55
2025 Capitol Projects Fund	$ 47,706.56

Mr. Garcia directed attention to page six, requesting clarification regarding a $20,000 purchase listed for a cabinet. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon clarified that the $20,000 expenditure was for four fireproof cabinets intended for secure file storage within the Human Resources Department.

Mr. Garcia then referenced page 14 and inquired about approximately 40 Amazon purchases made within a single month. Mr. Cassabon explained that the district's Purchase Order deadline of April 15 resulted in a concentration of orders being submitted within a shortened timeframe.

Mr. Zannetti subsequently requested clarification on the district's process for Amazon purchases. Mr. Cassabon explained that the district utilizes a Business Amazon account, and that all purchases must follow the standard procurement procedures. Specifically, staff members coordinate with their building Administrative Professional Assistant (APA) to obtain approval, secure a purchase order, and complete the ordering process in accordance with district protocols.

Mr. Hiller requested clarification regarding a DTE charge listed within the 2025 Capital Projects Fund. Mr. Cassabon explained that, in preparation for the installation of new lighting in the Briarwood parking lot, the existing fixtures must be removed. As the current fixtures are owned by DTE, the utility company is responsible for completing the removal and, accordingly, has assessed a fee for this service.

The motion carried 7– 0.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Reports

Student Representatives

Student Representative Valorie Lee opened her report by highlighting the upcoming HOSA blood drive scheduled for this week. The organization aims to secure enough donors to raise $1,000, with all collected blood supporting local hospitals within the community.
Valorie also expressed her enthusiasm for last week's Student Council Teacher Appreciation initiative, during which students wrote personalized notes to teachers acknowledging their impact. These messages were then delivered directly to classrooms, creating a meaningful and positive experience for staff and students alike. She concluded the Student Council update by noting that the group recently held its second to last meeting, during which new officers were elected for the upcoming school year.

Continuing with year-end updates, Valorie shared that the National Honor Society recognized 24 graduating seniors for their achievements and also elected new officers to lead the organization next year. She further provided a brief recap of the recent Student Leadership Conference, held in partnership with Mayor Stone, which brought together students, presenters, and community members from across Macomb County at Warren Woods Tower. The event was well attended and highly successful.

Valorie concluded her report by expressing excitement for the Unity Club's end-of-year celebration, scheduled for Tuesday after school.
Student Representative Nataly then reported that Career and Technical Education (CTE) testing is nearing completion, with many students successfully earning state certifications. She attributed their success to the dedicated support and instruction of CTE teachers Ms. Savela and Ms. Tiller. Nataly also noted several upcoming events, including the final choir concert of the year and the approaching last days of school for seniors.

Nataly then took a minute to thank everyone for the opportunity to have been given the position of student representative. She expressed her heartfelt appreciation and how incredibly lucky she has felt to be able to be in this position where she is valued and included.

Valorie joined Nataly in expressing her thankfulness for this opportunity. She expressed that being a part of this team has given her a deeper appreciation for the district she has grown up within. Valorie thanked everyone for being so welcoming, kind, and encouraging during her time as a Student Representative.

School Board President Mike Schulte thanked Nataly and Valorie for being such amazing assets to the Board.

Policy Update: Cell Phones

Warren Woods Tower High School Principal Ian Fredlund presented the Board with the proposed cell phone policy for the 2026–2027 school year. This plan aligns with state legislation

New Business (continued)

signed in February 2026 aimed at reducing student distractions caused by personal electronic devices in schools.

The proposed district policy follows a “bell-to-bell” approach, meaning that personal devices will not be permitted from the start to the end of the school day, including during passing time and lunch periods. This expectation extends to all smart devices, including phones, smartwatches, smart glasses, tablets, and headphones. A medical exemption will be in place for students whose health needs require the use of devices connected to approved medical equipment.

Mr. Fredlund explained that the development of this policy has involved ongoing collaboration with administrative teams both within Warren Woods Public Schools and in neighboring districts to identify best practices for implementation. He emphasized that the plan remains a work in progress and noted that significant preparation and communication efforts will continue throughout the summer in order to ensure a successful rollout at the start of August.

Ms. Spicer wondered how the new policy would affect the students with roles of reporting events occurring in the school. Mr. Fredlund replied that there would be some exceptions for students with the responsibility of documenting major events or assignments at Tower.

Mr. Zannetti expressed the importance of including a reference to the state legislation within parent communications regarding the new policy. Mr. Fredlund acknowledged the suggestion and confirmed that this information can be incorporated.

Mr. Zannetti inquired what would be the expectations for the staff and their cell phones. Mr. Fredlund responded that this is something that needs to be researched and might be a contract issue. He stated that if you are at work then the expectation is that you are to be working.

26-27 Budget Forecast #2

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon provided the Board with an update for the forecasted budget. The State General Fund has more money in the balance and he explained that he is hopeful that this means less will be taken from the public schools and allocated to higher learning. He also noted that interest rates did not decrease as expected which also added additional revenue. There is also an increase in ELL Section 41 funding and Special Education Reimbursement. Mr. Cassabon did mention there would be decreases in Section 61A CTE funding and removal of IDEA funding with an exchange for a County Special Mileage Funding. He also noted that there is an expected increase in bussing costs, IAM teacher reimbursement and dual enrollment costs for the three students enrolled in the HVAC program.

Resolution: MISD Budget

The Board was given an opportunity to ask any question on the information that was presented from Mr. Fitzpatrick and that was available to them at the last Board Meeting.

New Business (continued)
It was moved by Fitzpatrick, supported by Zannetti, to approve the
Resolution: MISD Budget as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Zannetti ✓ Fitzpatrick ✓ Hiller ✓ Garcia ✓

Nitz ✓ Spicer ✓ Schulte ✓ Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion carried 7-0.

Board Meeting Dates 26-27

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the Board with the recommended dates for the 2026-2027 year noting that meetings are typically held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Dates that differ are marked with an asterisk.

Mr. Schulte inquired about having more off-site meeting locations. Ms. Denewith-Fici responded that those locations would be chosen at a later date.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Nitz to approve the

Board Meeting Dates 26-27 as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Child Care Rates 26-27

Mr. Cassabon stated that, as discussed at the previous meeting, increases to minimum wage and childcare staff compensation will necessitate adjustments to childcare rates. He presented three tiers of proposed rate increases, with the most significant increase impacting the infant program. These adjustments also apply to the School Age Child Care (SACC) program.

Mr. Cassabon explained that, based on current projections, the program is expected to continue operating at a deficit. However, he noted that the use of fund balance will allow the district to offset a portion of the deficit and implement a more moderate rate increase. The updated rates will be communicated and posted by the Childcare Center in accordance with standard practice.

Mr. Zannetti inquired at what point the program may no longer be financially sustainable. In response, Mr. Cassabon indicated that the district will continue to closely monitor program viability, particularly in relation to ongoing wage increases.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to approve the

Child Care Rates 26-27 as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Bid Award: Pizza Vendor

Mr. Cassabon presented on behalf of Food Service Director Jon Estrada. After extensive food testing this year Mr. Estrada was proud to report that Hungry Howie's for the 2nd year won the taste

New Business (continued)

test and fortunately this year also was the bid winner. As a result, this upcoming year Mr. Estrada has chosen to go back to Hungry Howie's pizza.

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Nitz to approve the

Bid Award: Pizza Vendor as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Change Order: Summer 25 renovations

Mr. Cassabon stated that he is happy to conclude the Summer 25 renovations so that we can begin the 26 renovations. Thank you to the architect and contract manager as the district will be receiving $440,000 in returned funds from the projects.

Mr. Schulte thanked Mr. Cassabon for his watchful eye.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to approve the

Change Order: Summer 25 Renovations as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Personnel Items

Leaves:

As presented

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Spicer to approve the **Leaves** as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

New Hires:

Kanita Adorno - Childcare Assistant – ECC – date of hire 5/11/26.

Adora Canty - Childcare Assistant – ECC – date of hire 5/13/26.

Nazma Shila - Kitchen Helper – WWT – date of hire 5/12/26.

Kaila Williams – Substitute Teacher – date of hire 5/11/26.

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

Public Expression

Mr. Fredlund exclaimed that WWT is very proud of their Student Representatives.

Mr. Zannetti stated that Valorie and Nataly have continued a great tradition of Student Representatives and wished them Best of Luck

Negotiations

It was moved by Fitzpatrick, supported by Zannetti, that the Board move to

Closed Session for discussion of Negotiations.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Zannetti ✓ Fitzpatrick ✓ Hiller ✓ Garcia ✓

Nitz ✓ Spicer ✓ Schulte ✓ Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion carried 7-0.

The Board moved to Closed Session at 7:00 PM.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick, supported by Zannetti, that the Board return from

Closed Session for discussion of Negotiations at 7:26 PM. The motion carried 7-0

Ratification **Warren Woods APA/Clerks Associations**

It was moved by Hiller, supported by Nitz, to approve the

3-year agreement with the Warren Woods APA and Clerks Association effective

July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Zannetti _____ Fitzpatrick _____Hiller_____ Garcia____

Nitz ✓ Spicer ✓ Schulte ✓ Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to adjourn the meeting at 7:29PM. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Hiller
Secretary