

**MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
JUNE 24, 2025**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Schulte at 6:02 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administrative Service Center, 12900 Frazho Road, Warren, MI.

Roll Call

Members present: Schulte, Zannetti, Hiller, Garcia, Nitz and Spicer. Absent with notice: Fitzpatrick. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassabon, Special Services Director Stacie Sward, Director of Facilities and Transportation Don Ball and Executive Assistant Jackie Miracle.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Nitz to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Minutes

It was moved by Hiller supported by Nitz to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 9, 2025 and the Closed Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2025 as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Correspondence

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented an email from a district parent inquiring about district policy regarding air quality. Ms. Denewith-Fici stated that the parent also contacted her office and the Air Quality Index guidelines provided by the MDHHS were shared with her. It was moved by Zannetti supported by Garcia to receive and file the **Correspondence** as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Treasurer's Report

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the May 2025 Treasurer's Report. He began with General Fund Local Revenue consisting of local tax collections, in addition to Adult Ed tuition, investment earnings, athletic gate receipts and facility rentals. A review of State Revenue included State Aid payment in addition to GSRP funding, while Federal funding consisted of reimbursement for Title I, II, III, IV, IDEA and Perkins grants. Incoming transfers included reimbursement from Chippewa Valley for IAM teachers, and a review of Food Service Local revenue consisted mainly of a la carte food sales, along with some catering revenue. State revenue was comprised of State Aid and Federal revenue was derived from breakfast and lunch reimbursement. Finally, Incoming Transfers included a prior period adjustment from the State and ISD Centers Program consisted of a State Aid payment.

Payment of the Bills

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

Building & Site	\$	175,904.50
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Payment of the Bills (continued)

Bond 2020 Series I	\$ 11,480.45
2023 Energy Bond	643,175.93
2025 Capital Projects Fund	828,893.69

The motion carried 6 – 0.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Resolution: Final 2024-25 Budget

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon reported that the Finance Committee met on June 17, 2025, to thoroughly review the final budget recommendations. He noted that the presentation this evening would serve as a summary of those recommendations.

He began with an overview of General Fund Operations, highlighting that Local Revenue showed an increase due to higher interest earnings, as interest rates remain elevated, along with increased rental revenue for the year. A review of State Revenue indicated a decrease in taxable values and a reduction in declining enrollment funding. Mr. Cassabon confirmed that all unspent state and federal funds will carry over into the 2025–2026 fiscal year.

On the expenditure side, we saw a decrease in expenditures for salary due to many staff being docked for not having enough days to cover their absences, but that was offset by an increase in substitute costs. MPSERS UAL changes are a result of payroll growing faster than the state is providing reimbursement. Tutoring costs were reduced due to lack of applicants to teach and students to participate. Mr. Cassabon also noted higher waste disposal costs resulting from ongoing building construction, as well as increased vehicle repair expenses due to outsourcing repairs. However, energy bond upgrades have helped reduce costs, with tangible savings from the installation of the solar array at WWT, LED lighting, and improved air handling systems.

Secretary Hiller noted that he would be interested in revisiting these funds at a future date to see the overall savings from the energy Bond.

Mr. Cassabon then reviewed adjustments to other funds:

- The Centers Program received a 2% bonus from the ISD for housing and/or hosting County programs.
- Childcare funds reflected increased participation and additional support from the MiLEAP Grant, which provided approximately \$23,000 in grant bonuses.
- The Food Service Fund continues to experience rising food and supply costs, along with expenditures tied to the Titan Terrace renovation project.
- Lastly, Mr. Cassabon noted that, as a result of earning the maximum allowable interest on the 2020 Bond Issue, a portion of those earnings will be returned to the IRS.

Mr. Cassabon thanked Accounting Supervisor Linda Renno stating her efforts are essential and appreciated.

New Business

Resolution: Final 2024-25 Budget

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Garcia to approve the **Resolution:** Final 2024-25 Budget as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Vice President Zannetti commented on a guaranteed savings associated with the Energy Bond and Mr. Cassabon stated we use an owners representative to verify the savings we were guaranteed. In the future we could request a presentation from Ameresco.

Resolution: Commitment of Fund Balance GASB 54

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon stated this is an annual resolution and in conjunction with Policy #6801, the Resolution committing fund balance under GASB Statement #54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions, will allocate \$100,000 for repayment of tax tribunals, and as committed, an amount equal to the year-end value of all year-end compensated absences.

It was moved by Nitz supported by Spicer that the Board approve the Commitment of Fund Balance GASB 54 as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Hiller, Garcia, Spicer, Nitz, Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Budget Hearing – Truth in Budgeting Hearing for 2025/2026 Fiscal Year

President Schulte announced the Budget Hearing was called to order at 6:31 PM.

Mr. Schulte addressed the Board and audience stating public comments would be heard at this time. There were no comments or questions from the audience.

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the operating millage for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, noting that, with the passage of the Non-Homestead Millage, the district will be able to continue levying the full 18 mills on non-homestead properties for the third consecutive year. He also stated that, due to the recent sale of district bonds and the current debt structure, there will be no increase in the community's tax rate.

President Schulte announced that the Budget Hearing was closed at 6:35 PM.

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Nitz that the Board adopt the General Appropriations Resolution Approving the Budget for 2025/2026 as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Hiller, Garcia, Spicer, Nitz, Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Resolution: Original Budget Proposal and Resolution for 2025/2026 Fiscal Year

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the original budget proposal for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, outlining updates to key revenue assumptions and expenditure planning. He emphasized that, due to the absence of an approved State budget, the proposal is based on current assumptions and will require amendment in the fall once finalized State figures are available.

Mr. Cassabon highlighted a proposed \$395 increase in State Aid per pupil, though this is offset by a projected decline in student enrollment. He also noted the elimination of certain Adult Education and Bilingual funding, as well as reductions in County-wide Enhancement and Special Education funding.

On the expenditure side, the proposal reflects fewer teaching positions, the retirement of two APA staff members, and noted contractual changes related to AFSCME and AFT

New Business

Resolution: Original Budget Proposal and Resolution for 2025/2026 Fiscal Year (continued) bargaining units are not included due to pending negotiation outcomes. He also noted the purchase of new middle school math materials to support curriculum updates, and the anticipated adoption of a new high school civics curriculum, pending Board approval this fall.

Additional projected expenses include software application changes and a 33.5% increase in payments to the City of Warren for the School Resource Officer program. For the Centers Program, recommended changes include the reduction of one paraprofessional position and a decrease in health care paraprofessional staffing. Lastly, the Food Service Fund reflects the continued provision of free breakfast and lunch for all students, unless the district is notified otherwise.

It was moved by Hiller supported by Spicer to approve the Budget Proposal and Resolution for 2025/2026 Fiscal Year as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Hiller, Garcia, Spicer, Nitz, Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Policy Adoption: Second Reading

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the policy updates recommended as a result of the Policy Committee Meeting held on May 15, 2025. The following policy updates are being recommended for adoption: 2451, 3120.1, 3120.05, 3120.07, 3220.01, 3220.02, 3440, 0131.1, 2340, 5320, 5330.01, 5500, 7540.09, 8320, 8640. It is recommended the Board approve the

Policy Adoption: Second Reading as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Hiller, Garcia, Spicer, Nitz, Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Resolution: Administrator Contracts

Superintendent Denewith-Fici explained this was an annual action by the Board and the following 19 administrators were being recommended for a 2-year contract ending on or near June 20, 2027:

Kristen Allen	Coordinator – Adult & Community Education
Timothy Baldwin	Coordinator – Enterprise High School
Jennifer Boggio	Assistant principal - WWMS
Heather Brodi	Principal – Pinewood Elementary School
Neil Cassabon	Deputy Superintendent
Craig Cutshaw	Athletic Director
John Estrada	Food Services Director
Ian Fredlund	Principal – WWTHS
Colleen Gruben	Assistant Principal - WWTHS
Kevin Hustek	Director of Technology
Melissa Johnson	Principal – Westwood Elementary School
Steven Kay	Director - SMTEC
Tamara Pawloski	Special Education Supervisor
Linda Renno	Supervisor of Business Services
Stacy Santamaria	Early Childhood Coordinator
Donny Sikora	Principal – WWMS
Stacie Sward	Director of Special Services

New Business

Resolution: Administrator Contracts (continued)

Joshua Thelen

Assistant Principal – WWT

and two administrators being recommended for a one-year probationary contract ending on or near June 30, 2026:

Don Ball

Director – Facilities & Transportation

Beth Mager

Principal – Briarwood Elementary School

In addition to their contracts, the salary increases for each individual administrator was also approved.

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Spicer to approve the **Resolution:** Administrator Contracts as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Hiller, Garcia, Spicer, Nitz, Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Change Order: Bid Package #2 Summer 2025 Renovations

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the Change Order, outlining several project adjustments. These include the cost of a power converter for the WWT staff parking lot liftgate, modifications to the power supply for the new light fixtures in the WWT parking lots, and the replacement of an additional bathroom door in the Hawthorn Daycare area.

It was moved by Nitz supported by Spicer to support the **Change Order:** Bid Package #2 Summer 2025 Renovations as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Personnel Items

None

Public Expression

Vice President Zannetti commented that he recently received his tax assessment and truly appreciates the cost savings and the district being fiscally responsible.

Negotiations (Closed Session)

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Hiller that the Board move to Closed Session for discussion of Negotiations. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Hiller, Garcia, Spicer, Nitz, Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 6 – 0.

The Board moved to Closed Session at 6:58 PM.

The Board returned from Closed Session at 7:14 PM

Ratification

It was moved by Hiller supported by Spicer to approve the 3-year agreement with the members of AFT Michigan – Local #4706 effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Zannetti, Hiller, Garcia, Spicer, Nitz, Schulte. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Ratification

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon thanked the AFT Team for their cooperation and collaboration in reaching an agreement on the contract.

Adjournment

It was moved by Nitz supported by Spicer to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 PM. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Hiller
Secretary