

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DECEMBER 11, 2023**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice 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, Walsh, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, and Zannetti. Absent with notice: Green. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassbon, Curriculum Director Kara Beal, Special Services Director Stacie Sward, Student Representative Isabella Burke and Executive Assistant Jackie Miracle.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval

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

Minutes

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Zannetti to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 27, 2023 as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0

Correspondence

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented one item of Correspondence to the Board from a WWMS parent who had some concerns regarding student behavior and School of Choice. She stated both she and WWMS Principal Mr. Sikora have since spoken with the parent and addressed the issues. It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to receive and file the Correspondence as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Payment of the Bills

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

General Fund	\$	885,459.52
Center Programs		18,736.02
Food Service Fund		114,461.81
Childcare Fund		3,922.35
Campus Corner		3,751.46
Building & Site		61,481.00
Bond 2020 Series I		8,747.73

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Payment of the Bills (continued)

The motion carried 6 – 0.

Mr. Garcia inquired about charges for patching and seal coating parking lots and asked if this was a temporary fix. Deputy Superintendent Cassabon replied that patch work was done at WWT with a plan to do the entire lot during Summer 2025. Stadium patch was used at the WWEC to help maintain the life of the parking lot material.

Mr. Zannetti asked if the newly purchased truck would replace an existing vehicle. Mr. Cassabon replied that it would replace an older truck in the fleet.

Old Business

None

New Business

Reports

Student Representatives

Superintendent Denewith-Fici welcomed Student Representative Isabella Burke and asked for an update on activities at WWT. Bella stated the Band Concert was scheduled for tomorrow night and Campus Corner would be open during the concert with Marketing class students on hand to sell their product with the end goal to break even as their project assignment. Also next week, Peer 2 Peer will have their party, in addition to a field trip to Great Lakes Crossing. Next, Bella stated 18 WWT students qualified to compete at Districts and StuCo was hosting an Open Mic Night this Thursday. In closing, Bella stated the upcoming weeks would be busy at WWT with students preparing for the holidays and Winter Break.

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon asked how students liked the new cafeteria furniture that students saw for the first time today. Bella stated that she had not yet seen it herself, but she heard students were excited about it.

Student Achievement: Secondary Coaching Updates

Superintendent Denewith-Fici stated tonight's update would be presented by Curriculum Director Kara Beal.

Ms. Beal provided the Board with a report on the recent Literacy Conference she and the five Literacy Coaches attended in Troy. She stated that they attended presentations by several noteworthy authors and literacy experts, and it was an opportunity to celebrate the progress made and to identify work still yet to do.

Bid Award: Door Hardware

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the recommendation to award C.E. Door and Hardware the bid to replace door hardware at WWMS, Briarwood Elementary and the Education Center. Mr. Cassabon added that the project would be funded through a combination of School Safety and Bond 2020 Series I funds.

It was moved by Walsh supported by Fitzpatrick to approve the **Bid Award: Door Hardware** as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Trustee Garcia commented on the large difference in the two bids and asked for confirmation that the vendor understood the scope of work. Mr. Cassabon replied that post bid interviews were held with both vendors and C.E. Door was able to verify less overhead costs. In

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New Business

Bid Award: Door Hardware (continued)

In addition, Mr. Cassabon stated that the district architectural firm Wakely has partnered with C.E. Door on various projects and has provided a favorable reference.

Mr. Zannetti asked when the work was scheduled to be done and Mr. Cassabon replied the schedule is not yet fixed, so there is not a start date at this point; however, the work is scheduled to be done on second shift so it is expected to be completed before the end of the 2023-24 school year.

Bid: Selection and Assignment WWT Roof

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the bid recommending dGEN Energy Partners for the design and installation of roof-integrated solar panels at WWT which will produce energy and significantly reduce energy bills. He stated that three bids were received and following a post bid interview, one was disqualified. Mr. Cassabon added that dGEN will work under Amersco, district energy savings consultant, and has previous experience working with DTE.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Walsh to approve the **Bid:** Selection and Assignment WWT Roof. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked when the roof would be completed and Mr. Cassabon replied that the goal is to have the project completed before the start of the 2024-25 school year.

Mr. Hiller asked what vendor was disqualified and Mr. Cassabon replied Ecojive, LLC. Next, Mr. Hiller asked what kind of warranty coverage was included and Mr. Cassabon replied a 30 year warranty and we have included inverter replacement at the 15 year point.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked how long dGEN has been in business and Mr. Cassabon replied he was not exactly sure, however, they have previously worked with Amersco and DTE on a project to energize the Ford Dearborn Plant.

Mr. Hiller asked who the subcontractor on the project was and Mr. Cassabon replied J. Ranck Electric is who dGEN has identified.

Mr. Zannetti asked if any maintenance coverage was included in the warranty. Mr. Cassabon replied full monitoring/alert service is included. He added that once the panels are installed, very little maintenance would be required. Next, Mr. Zannetti asked if there would be extra roof security. Mr. Cassabon replied the roof is not easily accessible so no extra security is planned at this time.

Mr. Hiller asked if district maintenance staff would be responsible for cleaning and Mr. Cassabon replied no, district staff would not be responsible for cleaning and added that day to day dust will not affect performance.

Bid Rejection: Boiler Materials

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the recommendation to reject the bid submitted for high efficiency condensing boilers at WWMS and Westwood. He stated that the recommendation was based on several factors including this being the only bid received, the price of equipment and the lead times indicated.

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Hiller to approve the **Bid Rejection:** Boiler Materials as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

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Appointment: Board Member

Vice President Schulte stated a number of well-qualified candidates submitted credentials in response to apply for the vacancy created by the resignation of President Jere Green. Vice President thanked them for their interest and asked for a motion to appoint.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Zannetti to appoint Jennifer Nitz to the Warren Woods Public Schools Board of Education. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Fitzpatrick, Zannetti, Hiller, and Garcia. **Nays:** Walsh and Schulte. The motion carried 4 – 2.

Personnel Items

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the Personnel Items for Board Approval.

Leaves

As presented.

It was moved by Walsh, supported by Fitzpatrick to approve the **Leaves** as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

New Hires

Natasha Brown – Childcare Assistant - Early Childhood Center – Date of hire 11/29/23.

Kaylee Engle– Childcare Assistant - Early Childhood Center – Date of hire 12/1/23.

Deangenay Harris– Childcare Assistant - Early Childhood Center – Date of hire 11/28/23.

Zhanaria Lee– Childcare Assistant - Early Childhood Center – Date of hire 12/4/23.

Deborah McConnell – Substitute Nurse - District – Date of hire 12/4/23.

It was moved by Hiller supported by Walsh to approve the **New Hires** as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Mr. Fitzpatrick commented on the number of ECC Assistants that were recently hired and Mr. Zannetti asked what could be driving the turnover in that position. Superintendent Denewith-Fici replied that these positions are often occupied by college students who return to school in the fall creating vacancies to be filled during the school year.

Public Expression

Student Representative Isabella reminded all present of tomorrow night's WWT Band Concert at 7:00 PM and the Jazz Band/ Choir Concert on December 18.

Vice President Schulte sent Happy Holiday wishes to all present.

Superintendent Denewith-Fici added the Middle School Band Concert was scheduled for December 14 at 7:00 PM and Briarwood was celebrating with a Cookies and Cakes Fundraiser this Friday at 6:00 PM.

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Adjournment

It was moved by Hiller supported by Fitzpatrick to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 PM. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay F. Walsh
Secretary