

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
NOVEMBER 13, 2023**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Green at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administrative Service Center, 12900 Frazho Road, Warren, MI.

**Roll Call**

Members present: Green, Walsh, Schulte, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, and Garcia. Absent with notice: Zannetti. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassbon, Curriculum Director Kara Beal, Special Services Director Stacie Sward, Student Representatives Isabella Burke and Natalya Bonkowski, WWMS Principal Donny Sikora, Director of Facilities and Transportation Matthew Dishman and Executive Assistant Jackie Miracle.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Approval**

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

**Minutes**

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Walsh to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 23, 2023 as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0 – 1 with Green abstaining due to absence.

**Correspondence**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented one item of Correspondence to the Board from a parent who has since moved out of the district.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick, supported by Schulte to receive and file the Correspondence as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

**Payment of the Bills**

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

General Fund	\$	948,701.32
Center Programs		10,275.49
Food Service Fund		161,827.64
Childcare Fund		3,141.73
Campus Corner		10,821.29
Bond 2020 Series I		205,340.71

**Payment of the Bills** (continued)

The motion carried 6 – 0.

Mr. Garcia inquired about a payment to Plante Moran and Deputy Superintendent Cassabon replied that it was the final payment for the audit. Next, Mr. Garcia asked about a payment to Dreambox Learning and Curriculum Director Kara Beal stated it was a subscription for Dreambox, which is a digital resource. Mr. Garcia then asked about a payment to Lego Education and Mr. Cassabon replied it was for new kits for the middle school. Mr. Garcia inquired about a payment to the Danielson Group and Superintendent Denewith-Fici explained that it was for Calibration for Evaluation training for administrators. He then asked about a payment to Learning A-Z and Ms. Beal stated that it was a supplemental tool for Dreambox. Finally, Mr. Garcia inquired about a Food Service Fund payment to Fork Farms and Deputy Superintendent Cassabon explained that it was money supplied by a grant for equipment to start a hydroponic operation to grow produce.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**Reports**

**Student Representatives**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici welcomed Student Representatives Natalya Bonkowski and Isabella Burke and asked for an update on activities at WWT. Natalya stated the first quarter ended last week and students who made the honor roll the last semester of 2022-23 were treated to a build-your-own-sundae event. Cheer and Wrestling have started, Dance is still going strong, and tonight is the first Ice Hockey Game with our united team with Fraser and Lakeview. Finally, WWT is holding a fundraiser with the winners reading the daily announcements.

Bella added that last week NHS held their annual Rake and Run which was a big success and the Marketing Classes have been assigned a project to design an accessory to be sold at the school store and students must break even to pass the project. Lastly, she invited everyone to the WWT Booster Craft Show this weekend and stated it was the largest yet with 186 vendors.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if the school store would be open during the Craft Show and Bella stated she would follow up with Ms. Ghattas.

**Student Achievement: Secondary Coaching Updates**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici stated tonight's update would be presented by our District Secondary Math Coach Brandy Fairley, Secondary Instructional Coach Michelle Voelker and Instructional Technology Coach Lisa Meneghin.

Ms. Voelker began the presentation by engaging the Board with a Kagan Pair/Share exercise demonstrating techniques WWPS staff are using in the classroom every day. Next, she shared data confirming the large impact her coaching role has had stating that the Spring 2023 SAT Preparations Update indicated 72% of students increased their score by one or more points after only one year of implementation. Ms. Voelker detailed instructional supports

### **New Business**

#### **Student Achievement:** Secondary Coach Updates (continued)

currently in place and stated what a rewarding opportunity it has been for all involved with the coaches to be able to work individually with teachers and to promote growth in cooperative learning by using the same language and same procedures to support progress.

Secondary Math Coach Brandy Fairley was up next and gave an update on Secondary Math Curriculum Instruction. She began with Lumio, a new math supplement which provides interactive strategies with student engagement required using different methods to find the correct answer which helps boost student confidence. She stated that the current focus across secondary is to ensure math instruction is engaging, allowing students to become “doers”, not “participators.” In conclusion, Ms. Fairley stated the goals moving forward were curriculum alignment, culturally relevant instruction, and using data to inform us of what our next steps should be.

Lastly, Instructional Technology Coach Lisa Meneghin provided an overview of how staff is utilizing technology to support learning. At the secondary level, the focus is on fitting all the technology pieces together and not using them as individual tools. The elementary focus is on standards-based data collection and analysis using Performance Matters. At all levels we are working as a team to make technology meaningful for teachers.

Mr. Hiller asked if engagement at the secondary level has increased and Dr. Fairley stated yes, staff members are utilizing the coaches more this year.

Trustee Fitzpatrick addressed Middle School Teachers Monica Bisha and Liz Mors who were seated in the audience and asked if they had anything they would like to add. Ms. Bisha cited several examples of student engagement, including the increased self-confidence Lumio promotes. Ms. Mors stated that having the coaches right in the classroom allows for time to collaborate with other teachers and Ms. Voelker added that coaches having the ability to be in the classroom definitely has supported growth in the process.

WWMS Principal Donny Sikora thanked the three coaches for tonight’s presentation and stated how proud he was of them and the staff. He added that these coaching positions are critical and ours are doing a phenomenal job.

Trustee Garcia commented on their incredible foresight regarding integration and asked specifically if it has helped with the implementation of the new Science resource, Kessler. Liz Mors responded that Ms. Voelker’s support not only with Kessler Science, but also Performance Matters and Kagan, helped subdue much anxiety.

Vice President Schulte thanked the coaches for being here this evening and stated their enthusiasm and excitement shows.

### **Board Member Attributes**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici stated that packets were provided to the Board with 17 attributes a board member should have and recommended these be adopted as what to look for in individual candidates for next Monday’s 15-minute interviews.

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

### **Purchase: School Bus**

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the recommendation to purchase an IC diesel 65 passenger bus with lift, in alignment with district bus replacement schedule.

**Purchase:** School Bus (continued)

It was moved by Walsh supported by Garcia to approve the **Purchase:** School Bus as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Purchase:** District Vehicle

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the recommendation to purchase a Ford F-250 pick up truck with plow system. The quote was secured through the Michigan MiDeal funds from the Unrestricted Capital Projects fund. Once it arrives the decision will be made as to which vehicle it is replacing.

Mr. Schulte asked about the tornado poly salt hopper option and Mr. Matthew Dishman, Director of Facilities and Transportation, stated the district currently has two so another one is not needed. He added that once it is installed it is very difficult to uninstall.

Mr. Garcia asked about the eight-month lead time and Mr. Dishman replied when the order was placed the Kentucky plant was on strike so he was hopeful it would be sooner.

**Personnel Items**

**Leaves**

As presented.

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

**New Hires**

**Olivia Hiller** – Auditorium worker – District – Date of hire 11/9/23

It was moved by Schulte supported by Fitzpatrick to approve the **New Hire** as presented. The motion carried 5 – 0 – 1 with Trustee Hiller abstaining due to family relation.

**Byrd, Jennifer** – Custodian – WWMS – Date of hire 11/9/23.

**Cammon, Vernita** – Clerk – Pinewood Elementary School – Date of hire 11/9/23.

**Colucci, Andrea** – Intervention Assistant – Pinewood Elementary School – Date of hire 11/1/23.

**Givan, Charlita** – Custodian – WWMS – Date of hire 11/8/23.

**Pienta, Heather** – Lunch Supervisor – Westwood Elementary School – Date of hire 11/1/23.

**Pylar, Sydney** – Substitute Special Education Paraprofessional – District- Date of hire 11/1/23.

**Strother, Siniahh** – Childcare Assistant – Early Childhood Center – Date of hire 10/10/23.

**Personnel Items**

**New Hires** (continued)

**Zannat, Tajkera** – Substitute Teacher – District – Date of hire 11/01/23.

**Thao-Her, Bao** – Media Aide – Pinewood Elementary School – Date of hire 10/26/23.

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

**Public Expression**

Vice President Schulte stated he and Trustees Fitzpatrick and Garcia had the opportunity to attend the MASB Leadership Conference last week. He thanked the Board and Administration for the opportunity to collaborate and stated they participated in a lot of learning and were very pleased to hear a positive legislative report.

Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that MASB will be hosting more classes for board members virtually this December.

Mr. Dishman announced that the Warren Symphony would be performing at WWMS this Saturday at 1:00 PM.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Schulte supported by Fitzpatrick to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay F. Walsh  
Secretary