

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
AUGUST 14, 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, Schulte, Walsh, Zannetti, Hiller, and Garcia. Absent with notice: Fitzpatrick.. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassabon, Special Services Director Stacie Sward, and Executive Assistant Jackie Miracle.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Approval**

It was moved by Schulte, supported by Zannetti to approve the Agenda as amended with the following changes: **add Item 9.f. Appointment:** Assistant Principal, delete Item 10.c. Termination, and change Item 10.d. Layoff Recall to Item 10.c. and add Item 10.c.2. The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Minutes**

It was moved by Walsh supported by Hiller to approve the Minutes of the Regular/Organizational Meeting of July 17, 2023 as presented. The motion carried 5 – 0 – 1 with Zannetti abstaining due to absence.

**Correspondence**

**Letter from student re: Summer School**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented an email regarding the 2023 Summer School program. It was moved by Schulte, supported by Walsh to receive and file the correspondence as presented.

**Estimated Board Expenses**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici stated that Vice President Schulte and Trustees Fitzpatrick and Garcia are requesting approval to attend the MASB Leadership Conference at the Lansing Center in Lansing, MI, and to attend several CBA classes at the conference from November 9-12, 2023. It was moved by Walsh, supported by Hiller to approve the Estimated Board Expenses. The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Payment of the Bills**

It was moved by Schulte, supported by Fitzpatrick to pay the following bills as presented:

General Fund	\$	950,233.16
Center Programs		1,360.00

**Payment of the Bills** (continued)

Food Service Fund	\$	53,015.61
Child Care Fund		285,617.18
Campus Corner		3,261.78
Bond 2020 Series I		186,311.26

The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**Reports**

**Facilities Update**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici introduced Director of Facilities and Transportation Matthew Dishman and stated he was here to present a facilities update as requested by Trustee Zannetti.

Mr. Dishman stated tonight’s report would provide the Board with a summary of projects that his department has been working on during the last year and shared an itemized list by building. He explained the process in which work orders are submitted, scheduled and closed out and the division of responsibilities between custodial staff, maintenance staff and contractors. Mr. Dishman introduced “Here Comes the Bus” which is a new tracking app that will allow parents to track their child’s bus and will be rolled out sometime after school starts.

President Green thanked Mr. Dishman for his report and, in Trustee Fitzpatrick’s absence, referred to concerns he has previously expressed regarding curb appeal of district properties. Mr. Dishman acknowledged building appearance was the responsibility of the Maintenance Department and noted the department has had almost a complete turnover in the last eight years and many staff are still in the learning process.

In conclusion, President Green acknowledged some extenuating circumstances and stated for the sake of transparency and fairness, the Board would like to continue to work together and resolve the issues for the betterment of the District.

**Return to Learn/Continuity of Learning Plan**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici stated that tonight’s report is being presented as required to remain in compliance with Federal regulations in order to continue to receive ESSER funding. She noted the plan would remain the same as last year with the only change being the schools will no longer be allowed to perform testing, although tests can be provided for at-home testing.

### **New Business**

#### **Resolution:** Power Purchase Agreement

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the Resolution which extends for 15 years and grants the commitment from WWPS to purchase 25% of the district's annual electricity usage from NorthStar Clean Energy at a fixed rate not to exceed \$0.075/kWh and allows for the installation of an off-site solar energy system that will generate electricity for the district.

It was moved by Walsh supported by Hiller to approved the **Resolution:** Power Purchase Agreement as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Schulte, Walsh, Zannetti, Hiller, Garcia. Green. **Nays:** 0. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Vice President asked if this agreement would be in addition to the panels at WWT and Deputy Superintendent Cassabon replied yes.

Trustee Garcia asked how many districts have to buy into the contract in order to move forward. Mr. Dishman replied he was not sure, however, the energy farm is already in the process of being built.

Mr. Hiller asked what the price difference in kilowatts per hour was and Mr. Cassabon replied we are locked in at \$0.075 vs. \$0.10/hour.

#### **Purchase:** Food Service Furniture

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the recommendation to purchase furniture for the WWT Cafeteria. He stated that the new furniture would update the appearance and replace existing furniture that is beyond repair.

It was moved by Hiller supported by Schulte to approve the **Purchase:** Food Service Furniture. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Mr. Zannetti asked from a safety standpoint, if the chairs and stools were stationary and/or attached and Mr. Schulte added to the question asking if the furniture was self-contained for storage when not in use. Mr. Cassabon replied the stools can be stacked and the bulk of the seats are all attached.

Mr. Hiller asked about the expected delivery and installation timeframe and Mr. Cassabon replied delivery is expected 14-16 weeks after purchase order is received. He added that the hope is to install over Winter Break.

#### **Resolution:** Authorizing Energy Conservation Bonds

Deputy Superintendent presented the resolution which authorizes the sale of bonds and provides parameters regarding interest rates to work within to move forward with the sale and secure funds for the energy bond.

It was moved by Schulte supported by Zannetti to approve the **Resolution:** Authorizing Energy Conservation Bonds as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Schulte, Walsh, Zannetti, Hiller, Garcia. Green. **Nays:** 0. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Mr. Garcia asked if was necessary to purchase bond insurance and Mr. Cassabon replied bond insurance is typically included in the cost of pricing and stated it would be evaluated as the bids are submitted.

#### **Policy Updates:** First Reading

Superintendent Denewith-Fici stated that the Policy Committee met on August 2, 2023 to review in detail the following policies being recommended for adoption: 0144.1, 0175.01, 1615, 3215, 4215, 5512, 7434, 2623, 2419.01, 5330.02, 6325, 6550, 6700, 7540.02, 7540.03,

### **New Business**

#### **Policy Updates:** First Reading (continued)

7540.04, 8300, 8390, 8400, 9160, and 9700.01. She added this is a first reading and no action is necessary at this time.

#### **Appointment:** WWT Assistant Principal

Superintendent Denewith-Fici announced the appointment of Mr. Joshua Thelen to WWT Assistant Principal for the 2023-24 school year. It was moved by Wash supported by Schulte to approve the **Appointment:** WWT Assistant Principal as presented.

Mr. Zannetti inquired about the candidate pool and Superintendent Denewith-Fici replied that Mr. Thelen applied recently and was not in the first pool of applicants due to his recent application. Mr. Thelen is the first choice in a highly qualified new pool of applicants.

### **Personnel Items**

#### **Leaves**

**Nancy Christofferson** – Kitchen Helper – WWMS/EHS – Leave of absence 8/29/23 – 10/11/23.

It was moved by Schulte, supported by Zannetti to approve the Leave as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

#### **New Hires**

**Diana Balgenorth** – Special Education Paraprofessional POHI – WWMS – Date of hire 7/21/23.

**Sandra Elliott** – Special Education Paraprofessional POHI – WWMS – Date of hire 7/27/23.

**Angela Gallihugh** – Kitchen Helper – WWT – Date of hire 08/29/23.

**Melissa Gerard** - Special Education Paraprofessional POHI/VI– WWMS – Date of hire 6/30/23.

**Fahima Hussain** – Special Education Paraprofessional POHI – WWMS – Date of hire 7/17/23.

**Claire Peraino** – Special Education Paraprofessional Inclusion/POHI/VI – WWT – Date of hire 7/13/23.

**Megan Szypula** - Instrumental Teacher – Warren Woods Middle School – Date of hire 08/07/23.

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

**Personnel Items** (continued)

**Layoff Recalls**

**Megan Ciccotte** – CI teacher – Westwood Elementary – Recalled for 2023/24 school year

**Rebecca Hartkop** – .5 LLI – Briarwood Elementary – Recalled for 2023/24 school year

It was moved by Zannetti, supported by Schulte to approve the **Layoff Recalls** as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Public Expression**

Mr. Zannetti referred to an article regarding student absenteeism Superintendent Denewith-Fici shared with the Board and requested a report that would highlight grade level trends.

Mr. Garcia stated that he recently attended the MASB Summer Institute at the ISD and commented specifically on the session he attended regarding the Open Meetings Act. He expressed some concerns at other district's disregard for the OMA and expressed his appreciation for how well the WWPS Board and Administration function.

Mr. Hiller reminded everyone about Schoolapalooza next Wednesday, August 23, 2023.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Walsh to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 PM. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay F. Walsh  
Secretary