

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
MAY 8, 2023**

**Call to Order**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Approval**

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

**Minutes**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the Minutes from the April 17, 2023 Regular Meeting. It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2023 as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Correspondence**

**Letter from parent re: polling locations**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented an email along with her response regarding polling locations at school buildings while students are in attendance. It was moved by Zannetti, supported by Fitzpatrick 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	\$	895,955.43
Center Programs		6,315.33
Food Service Fund		61,291.77
Child Care Fund		1,719.22
Campus Corner		588.85
Bond 2018		49,711.95

**Payment of the Bills** (continued)

Bond 2020 Series I                      \$ 54,200.81

The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**Reports**

**Student Representatives**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici introduced Student Representative Isabella Burke and invited her to provide an update on activities at WWT.

Bella reported it was a busy week at WWT. Students are participating in AP testing this week, the traditional Senior vs. Junior Powderpuff Game is tomorrow, and Friday is Prom at Fern Hill. She added the Prom Closet is still open for students to shop and the last day of school for Seniors is May 24. Lastly, Bella said “Bring Your Child to Work Day” was a success with over 50 kids participating in baking, cooking, crafts and gym time.

**Student Achievement**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici reported that students were finishing M-Step testing and NWEA will begin soon. A successful STEM Night was recently celebrated at Briarwood and Ms. Denewith-Fici gave a special thanks to Ms. Jarvie and Ms. Kreger, who coordinated the event.

Next, Ms. Denewith-Fici stated registration is now open for Fall SACC with spots being filled quickly, Summer School information is currently being distributed to students, and information on Credit Recovery will be coming soon.

**Staff Recognition**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici recognized Lisa Grzywacz, Pinewood Elementary Resource Room Teacher, for being nominated for the 2022 MISD PAC “Make a Difference” award. Director of Student Services Stacie Sward shared some statements written by the parent who nominated Ms. Grzywacz.

**2023-2024 Budget Forecast**

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented an update to the Board on the budget development process which was reviewed with the Finance Committee in detail on April 12, 2023. He stated this report would explain assumptions used throughout the development process and stipulated changes would be ongoing until it is officially adopted at the end of June.

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon shared with the Board the Budget Forecast for 2023-24 based on the final 2021-22 audited numbers, the amended numbers for 2022-23, and the forecast for 2023-24. He began with Local revenue noting this report reflects figures as of April 30, which is prior to the May 2 election which now allows the District to levy the full 18 mills; this revenue also includes a five percent increase in property values. He noted changes in revenue including elevated interest rates, increase in rental revenue and an estimated increase of \$400 in the per pupil allocation. Mr. Cassabon detailed other assumptions used to forecast the

**New Business** (continued)

2023-24 budget which include zero FTE changes to the projected enrollment, increases in Special Education, Section 31A At-risk, and Bilingual Education funding, and the shifting of the MPERS and one-time UAAL payments. Current Federal funding for Title I, II, IV, Perkins and WIOA will be maintained; however, COVID funds will discontinue.

Next, Deputy Superintendent Cassabon reviewed expenses including teaching and support group salary increases based on collective bargaining agreements. He noted an increase in health insurance, in addition to increased utilities and building operational supplies.

In conclusion, Mr. Cassabon stated the increased cost needed to fund salary, benefit and utility increases would require a \$642.28 increase per pupil. Currently as forecasted, the budget shows the district deficit spending \$1.7 million. Deputy Superintendent reiterated more changes are anticipated and will be reflected on the district transparency page.

**2023-2024 Substitute Rates**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the 2023-24 substitute teacher rates and stated it is recommended to increase rates to remain competitive with surrounding districts. It was moved by Walsh supported by Fitzpatrick to approve the **2023-24 Substitute Teacher Rates** as presented. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked how substitute coverage has been this year compared to past years and Superintendent Denewith-Fici replied this time of year is always a challenge, however, the buildings take a team approach to providing coverage and this year has been better than most.

**2023-2024 Childcare Rates**

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the recommended 2023-24 childcare rates stating this increase will keep rates competitive but will allow for a salary increase for childcare staff. It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to approve the **2023-2024 Childcare Rates**. The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Resolution: MISD Budget**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici stated Mr. Zannetti recently attended the Budget Hearing on behalf of the district and asked him to provide an update.

Mr. Zannetti gave an overview of the Hearing and stated he was able to have a detailed conversation with MISD Chief Financial Officer Paul Bodiya regarding next steps for the new bond issue and site development, and feels assured that the ISD is on firm footing.

It was moved by Zannetti, supported by Fitzpatrick to approve the **Resolution: MISD Budget** as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Walsh, Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, and Schulte. **Nays:** 0. The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Course Proposal: WWMS**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici presented the Course Adoption information for a quarter-long elective course being offered beginning with the 2023-24 school year. She stated this course was recently approved by DSAT and would be an opportunity to expand offerings to middle school students.

It was moved by Hiller supported by Garcia to approve the **Course Proposal: WWMS** as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Walsh, Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, and Schulte. **Nays:** 0. The motion carried 6 – 0.

**Course Proposal: WWT**

Superintendent Denewith-Fici explained that the addition of this semester-long elective course would provide students with more choices to explore a variety of interests and content in greater depth.

It was moved by Hiller supported by Garcia to approve the **Course Proposal: WWT** as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Walsh, Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, and Schulte. **Nays:** 0. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Mr. Zannetti commented on the importance of an “opt-out” or other alternative to be provided in the case of an objection due to mature content.

Mr. Garcia extended his compliments to DSAT on the extensive vetting process used to outline the course syllabus and added it was a really good way to expose students to Social Studies and History.

**Personnel Items**

**Leaves:**

As presented.

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

**New Hires:**

None

**Public Expression**

Mr. Hiller stated he and Trustee Garcia recently had the opportunity to attend the MASB Spring Institute. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to attend and for the transparency and willingness to share information between the Board and administration.

Mr. Garcia also expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to attend the conference. He commented on other school boards populated by political activists and stated that because the information provided by WWPS district administration is so thorough it allows for collaboration and informed decision making which narrows the areas of disagreement.

**Negotiations**

It was moved by Fitzpatrick, supported by Walsh, that the Board move to Closed Session for discussion of Negotiations. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Walsh, Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia, and Schulte. **Nays:** 0. The motion carried 6 – 0

*The Board moved to closed Session at 7:02 PM.*

*The Board returned from Closed Session at 7:21 PM.*

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**Adjournment**

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Walsh to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay F. Walsh, Secretary