

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
JANUARY 9, 2023**

Oath of Office

Board of Education incumbents President Jere Green and Trustee Mike Fitzpatrick elected on November 8, 2022, were sworn in by Superintendent Denewith-Fici and took the Oath of Office. Their terms expire in December 2028.

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, Fitzpatrick, Hiller and Garcia. Also present were Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Deputy Superintendent Neil Cassabon, Special Services Director Stacie Sward, Technology Director Kevin Hustek, WWMS Principal Donny Sikora, Student Representatives Natalya Bonkowski and Isabella Burke and Executive Assistant Jackie Miracle.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval

It was moved by Fitzpatrick, supported by Walsh to approve the Agenda as amended with the following change: Add **Item 9. A. 4. Student Achievement**. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Minutes

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Schulte to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2022 and the Closed Session Minutes of December 12, 2022 as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Correspondence

Superintendent Denewith Fici presented the first item of Correspondence regarding a WWT scholarship. It was moved by Fitzpatrick, supported by Zannetti to receive and file the correspondence as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

The second item of correspondence was regarding an incident at a WWT Basketball game on December 8, 2022. It was moved by Hiller supported by Fitzpatrick to receive and file the correspondence as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

The third and final item of correspondence was from a former employee sharing some recent research on literacy. It was moved by Walsh supported by Fitzpatrick to receive and file the correspondence as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the Treasurer's Report for November 2022. He began with General Fund Local Revenue consisting of earnings on investments, local tax collections, Adult Ed tuition. Next, he reviewed State revenue which included State Aid, and Adult Ed Section 107 and GSRP from MISD. Federal revenue was comprised of Federal grant reimbursements including reimbursement for ESSER II and Perkins funds, and a review of

Treasurer’s Report (continued)

Incoming transfers reflected an Enhancement Millage payment from the MISD. Food Service Local Revenue included earnings on investments, local food sales and a State Aid payment, and Federal Revenue which reflected Free and Reduced breakfast and lunch claims. Lastly, Mr. Cassabon reviewed the ISD Centers program which reflected payment from the MISD in addition to a State Aid payment.

Payment of the Bills

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

General Fund	\$	937,514.69
Center Programs		12,142.20
Food Service Fund		107,665.33
Child Care Fund		25,098.89
Campus Corner		4,974.57
Bond 2020 Series I		12,535.35

Mr. Garcia had several questions regarding General Fund clarifications. First, Mr. Garcia asked about a payment to Imagine Learning LLC and if it was a fee for usage or licensing. Mr. Cassabon replied that it was a fee per class. Next, Mr. Garcia inquired about charges for NWEA and asked if they were correct and if it had gone up significantly. Mr. Cassabon replied yes, the charges are correct and they have basically remained consistent. He added that the district would be applying for a grant to cover a portion of the cost. Mr. Garcia then inquired about a payment to Learning A – Z and Ms. Beal replied it was for licensing renewal. Lastly, Trustee Garcia inquired about a payment to Edmentum and Mr. Cassabon explained it was used for virtual learning in Adult Ed.

Mr. Zannetti inquired about an energy coop payment and asked if utilities were up and Mr. Cassabon responded that all utilities are up from the past and noted price increases were factored in; however, he anticipates an even larger increase in next month’s gas bill. Mr. Zannetti asked if a payment to Mechanical Systems was related to the pipe bursts that occurred over Winter Break at Pinewood and the ASC. Mr. Cassabon replied that most were related to HVAC repairs throughout various buildings. Mr. Zannetti followed up asking if these were start-up charges at the beginning of the winter and Mr. Cassabon answered the charges were for repairs.

The motion carried 7 – 0.

Old Business

None

New Business **Reports**

Student Representatives

Superintendent Denewith-Fici introduced Student Representatives Natalya and Isabella and asked for an update on activities at WWT.

Bella began by stating students were currently preparing for mid terms and wrapping up the semester. Next, she stated 10 students recently participated in DECA districts and five students placed, while written participants are waiting for their results to see if they make it to the state finals. StuCo sponsored a pre-holiday candy cane sale and another candy sale is being planned for Valentine's Day and, finally, Cheer Team came in second place in last week's competition.

Natalya updated the Board on a Community Outreach project in an effort to collect hats, scarves and mittens to donate to a homeless shelter, along with many other StuCo sponsored events during the final week before Winter Break. Students participated in Open-Mic Night, a hot chocolate sale, Secret Santa Staff/Student Breakfast and finally, the WWT Lip Dub which was a huge success with 7.2k views, and a front cover in the Warren Weekly on January 11, 2023. In conclusion, StuCo is preparing to attend Regional Competition next month with several students producing and presenting. Winners of regional competitions will earn money and progress to States.

Student Report

Superintendent Denewith-Fici stated tonight's Student Report was being presented by WWT students Lexi Bussel and Natalya Bonkowski.

The student presenters shared a proposal to provide feminine hygiene products to schools and other institutions through a program titled "Aunt Flow." While these products are available at school, the purpose of this program is to allow more accessibility. They addressed the need and detailed an action plan for the program, including start up and sustainment costs and product roll out. In addition, they reported on how the program would provide support to students who may struggle financially, thus resulting in period poverty and preventing students from focusing on their education. In conclusion, the students stated the program has the support of StuCo, NHS and Interact Club and are asking the Board for their backing as well.

Secretary Walsh thanked the students for bringing attention to this.

Mr. Zannetti asked if any surrounding districts were participating and Lexi replied no. He suggested access points in the athletic areas and Lexi said there would be one located in the gym locker room.

Mr. Schulte asked how they determined the number of refills and Lexi explained students were surveyed for a rough estimate and Aunt Flow provided the formula that was used, in addition to several meetings and help from Ms. Smith.

Board Appreciation

Superintendent Denewith-Fici explained that January is School Board Appreciation Month and the WWPS Board is traditionally recognized this month. She presented the Board with a Resolution, in addition to tokens of recognition from the individual WWPS schools to thank them for their dedicated service to the students, staff and the community.

New Business

Reports (continued)

Student Achievement

Superintendent Denewith-Fici introduced Curriculum Director Kara Beal and stated that she would give the Board an update on the data from the State Accountability Index.

Ms. Beal stated the purpose of tonight's presentation was to explain the purpose of the Accountability Index and the process to access data, in addition to providing support on the analysis of the information.

Ms. Beal began with a brief explanation stating the Accountability Index was launched in 2018 with the purpose of identifying schools that needed additional support. She explained how to access the data on the website and provided an explanation of the components used to achieve final results.

Next, Ms. Beal described the process in which Student Growth Percentile (SGP) scores are used to measure students against students across the state with similar prior achievement scores.

In conclusion, Ms. Beal reviewed baseline goals (2016-17) and long-term goals (2024-25) and stated while the district has not been identified by the State as needing any additional supports; our goal is to exceed the long-term goals originally established and become a county model.

Mr. Zannetti requested Ms. Beal send Board members the QR code.

Resolution: Replacement Operating Millage Proposal

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the Operating Millage Proposal to be submitted for the May 2, 2023 Election Date. He explained that this would replace, restore and extend the district the authority to the full amount of local revenue permitted by the State and allow the district to levy the statutory limit of 18 mills on non-homestead property taxes in the event of future Headlee rollbacks of up to 2.00 mills from years 2023 to 2032.

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Walsh to approve the **Resolution:** Replacement Operating Millage Proposal as presented. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Walsh, Schulte, Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia and Green. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if there was anything else on the May 2 ballot and Mr. Cassabon replied he was not sure, as the deadline for ballot placements was still a month away.

Personnel Items

Leaves:

As presented.

It was moved by Fitzpatrick supported by Hiller to approve the **Leaves** as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

New Hires:

Michael Bach – Afternoon Custodian – Warren Woods Middle School – Hire Date 1/3/23.

Mirriam Baiz – Kindergarten Teacher – Westwood – Hire Date 12/12/22.

It was moved by Zannetti supported by Fitzpatrick to approve the **New Hires** as presented. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Public Expression

WWMS Principal Donny Sikora expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Board for the support they have shown to WWPS students, staff and to him, personally.

Student Representative Bella congratulated Lexi Bussell on what a great job she did on tonight's presentation. The presentation was extremely professional and this project has united the entire school.

Negotiations (Closed Session)

It was moved by Schulte, supported by Fitzpatrick that the Board move to Closed Session for the purpose of discussion of **Negotiations**. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Walsh, Schulte, Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia and Green. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 7 – 0.

The Board moved to Closed Session at 6:51.

The Board returned from Closed Session at 7:10.

Ratification: AFSCME – Local 1675

Deputy Superintendent Cassabon presented the contract stating an agreement had been reached with the AFSCME – Local #1675 on December 14, 2022 and was ratified on December 20, 2022. This contract is effective from January 9, 2023 – June 30, 2025 and provides for an overall 16.02% increase in compensation over the duration of the agreement. It was moved by Walsh, supported by Zannetti to approve the **Ratification: AFSCME – Local 1675**. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Walsh, Schulte, Zannetti, Fitzpatrick, Hiller, Garcia and Green. **Nays:** None. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Superintendent Denewith-Fici thanked Deputy Superintendent Cassabon and the Negotiations Team.

President Green stated the new contract is well-deserved.

Secretary Walsh reiterated her appreciation for all the work AFSCM has done throughout the pandemic.

Adjournment

It was moved by Walsh, supported by Zannetti to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM. The motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay F. Walsh, Secretary