



Whitmore Lake Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2023 – High School Barb Huang Library (Media Center) – 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Frank Zolenski (*Vice President*), John Meadows (*Treasurer*), Lisa McCully (*Secretary*), Lee Cole (*Trustee*), Bob Henry (*Trustee*), and Laura Schwennesen (*Trustee*)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michelle Kritzman (*President*)

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Superintendent, Tom DeKeyser, Director of Finance & Operations, Denise Kerrigan, MS/HS Principal, Jill Henry, Elementary Principal, Heidi Roy-Borland, Student Services Director, Melissa Heuker, and Communications and Human Resources Director, Maria Carter-Ewald.

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff, and members of the community

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:00 p.m. by Vice President Frank Zolenski.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by Mr. Henry; supported by Mr. Cole.
Ayes – 6; Nays – 0, motion carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting was made by Mrs. Schwennesen; supported by Mr. Meadows
Ayes – 6; Nays – 0, motion carried 6 – 0

Motion to approve fund transfer of \$770,083 in payments from Accounts Payable; further to approve the transfer of \$462,836 from Accounts Payable to cover the payrolls of July 14, 2023, and July 31, 2023 was made by Mrs. Schwennesen; supported by Mr. Meadows
Ayes – 6; Nays – 0, motion carried 6 – 0

NEW BUSINESS

Personnel

Motion to approve the hire of Brandy Muscato-Johnson as a part-time English Learner Tutor at Level 2 on the WLEA BA salary scale, and

to approve the hire of Rochelle Chezick as a full time Elementary Kindergarten Elementary Teacher at Level 2 on the WLEA BA salary scale, and

to approve the hire of Kelly Hager as a full time Elementary Social Studies Teacher at Level 4 on the WLEA BA salary scale, and

to approve the hire of Karen Hawk as a full time Elementary Special Education Teacher at Level 4 on the WLEA MA salary scale with a start date of August 23, 2023 was made by Mrs. Schwennesen; supported by Mr. Henry.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0, motion carried 6 – 0

Board of Education Policies

Superintendent DeKeyser shared the policies and administrative regulations change options and updates to 2001 – Admission and Enrollment, 2002-AR – Learning and Achievement, 2007 – Health and Safety, 3002-AR – Parental Involvement, 3003 – Instruction, 4002 & 4002-AR – Employment Considerations, 4004 - Evaluations, Discipline and Discharge, Resignations, 4005 – Other Matters of Employment, 5003 – Purchasing, 5006 – Risk management, 5013 – Use of Electronic Signatures, 6002 & 6002-AR – Safety and Security, 7007-AR – District Support Organizations, 7010 – School Visitors, 7011 – Engagement with Outside Organizations, 8002 & 8002-AR – Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), 8007 & 8007-AR – Discrimination and Harassment, and 8009 – Digital Communications with the Board for a first reading. He answered all questions from Board members and added if there are any additional questions they should be directed to him prior to the September 18, 2023 board meeting, where approval will be recommended.

Superintendent DeKeyser engaged Board members in a discussion regarding an opportunity to enter into a 15 year power purchase agreement for 50% of the district's annual electricity usage at a fixed rate.

Mr. Meadows expressed concerns regarding a long term commitment and the delivery of solar electricity. Mrs. Kerrigan shared information received from MISEC who will oversee the generation and delivery of solar electricity from NorthStar Clean Energy. Mr. DeKeyser then shared NorthStar plans to build the solar field on brownfield property. He also shared the fluctuation in energy rates over the last year and answered all other questions from Board members.

Motion to approve the Michigan Schools Energy Cooperative (MISEC) power purchase agreement resolution was made by Mrs. Schwennesen; supported by Mr. Cole.

Roll call Vote: Mr. Henry – yes, Mrs. McCully – yes, Mr. Meadows – yes, Mrs. Schwennesen – yes, Mr. Zolenski – yes, Mr. Cole – yes
Ayes – 6; Nays – 0, motion carried 6 – 0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Zolenski announced that the committee reports were not listed on the agenda and inquired if they could be added now. With no objections from Board members, he called for committee reports.

Mrs. Schwennesen shared that the Executive Committee met on July 17, 2023. Topics included the LCA mailer, police millage regarding resource officer for district, budgets, EPIC survey, and theater bleacher repair/replacement.

Mr. Zolenski shared that the Finance Committee met on July 26, 2023. Topics included the budget, use of sinking fund expenditures, staffing and projected kindergarten enrollment, pay-to-play fee caps for families, the LCA mailer, EPIC survey, and curriculum purchases.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. DeKeyser introduced Eagle Scout Riley Shappell, from the Dexter Troop 477, who presented an idea to Board members to build a Recycling Center at the high school.

Riley shared his goal is to create a recycling center that benefits both the environment, the community and his school. He added the recycling center would take up to 1-2 parking spaces in the back of the lot at the high school, and he would build and paint the structure at an estimated cost of \$800. He also noted WLHS could use this recycling center as a fundraiser for different school activities.

Board members inquired on the actual size, will it be a permanent placement, the upkeep of the center, and when it would be built. Riley shared the size would be 8'X 6'X 12", it could be built as a movable structure, and he has talked with MS/HS Principal, Jill Henry who has agreed to have the NHS oversee the recycling and return of the cans and bottles as a fundraiser. He then shared he would like to start this project soon but will need the project approved by his Eagle Scout Leaders first.

Superintendent DeKeyser shared the following;

- 1) Enrollment and staffing updates for the 2023-24 school year. An opportunity for 4th grade students to participate in a U of M study called Kids Empowerment. New pay-to play fee caps were added to Athletic Handbook. EPIC survey scheduled to begin October 6, 2023.
- 2) Facilities update - Main Street Campus boiler work is scheduled to be complete this week. State bus inspections are being done this week. Theater bleacher bid package will be reviewed in committee meetings, with a bid opening scheduled for September. Building security evaluations, working with the company to improve areas of concern. Northfield Police will begin interviewing for the Resource Officer position in the District.
- 3) Finance Committee Meeting Scheduled for September 7, 2023.

OTHER INFORMATION

Personnel

The Board acknowledged all the resignations and hiring of staff as listed on the agenda.

MASB Delegate Assembly

Board members acknowledged the MASB Delegate 2023 Assembly taking place at the Lansing Center in Lansing, MI on November 9, 2023. Board members did not announce if they are planning to attend the assembly.

Barb Huang Special Recognition

Board Members acknowledged the special presentation held earlier this evening by Superintendent, Tom DeKeyser, officially dedicating to a former teacher and a decades long advocate for WLPS students with the renaming of the WLHS Media Center to the Barb Huang Library.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Barb Huang Library.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Cole gave a shout-out to Athletic Director, Brad McCormack on raising \$14,000 for the Athletic Department during the Trojan Open Golf Outing Fundraiser.

Mrs. Schwennesen shared that she recently attended the MASB virtual event 2023 Back to School Legal Workshop. She shared topics included LGBTQ student rights and parental rights, and the Open Meeting Act laws. She also offered Board members to contact her if they would like to review the slides.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:29 p.m. made by Mrs. Schwennesen; supported by Mr. Meadows.

Ayes - 6; Nays - 0, motion carried 6 - 0.



*Lisa C. McCully, Secretary, Board of Education
Whitmore Lake Public Schools*

9/18/2023
Date