



Whitmore Lake Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2023 – Main Street Campus Media Center – 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Michelle Kritzman (*President*), Frank Zolenski (*Vice President*), John Meadows (*Treasurer*), Lisa McCully (*Secretary*), Lee Cole (*Trustee*)(*arrived at 7:08 p.m.*), Bob Henry (*Trustee*), and Laura Schwennesen (*Trustee*)

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

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, parents, and members of the community

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:05 p.m. by President Michelle Kritzman.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by Mrs. Kritzman; supported by Mr. Henry.

Ayes – 6; Nays – 0, motion carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Joel Korson from Maner Costerian CPA briefed the Board on the 2022-2023 audit report. He walked the Board through the report sharing it was an unmodified audit. He also shared that the district's noncurrent liabilities declined \$2.4 million due to principal payments and premium amortization on outstanding bonds. Mr. Korson noted that the general fund balance is 6.1% but shared that figure is misleading due to one-time expenses that must be shown in the report.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Superintendent DeKeyser shared the district has been engaged in a facilities assessment with Kingscott and Clark. WLPS has completed many projects using the Sinking Fund however; other items (e.g., parking lots, HVAC, energy consumption, furniture, and potential redesigning of buildings) that are financially not captured by the Sinking Fund necessitate the need for a bond. He then introduced Brendon Pollard from Kingscott Associates and Becky Timberlake from Clark Construction Company.

Brendon Pollard from Kingscott Associates shared a list of goals and a timeline of expectations to meet for a Bond Steering Committee for an August 2024 Bond Planning Process. He also shared that the first meeting would be to discuss the purpose of the Committee, review assessment, review bonding capacity and millage impacts, and review options. Brendon Pollard and Becky Timberlake then answered all Board member questions.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council President Natalie Meadows shared that students enjoyed the Homecoming events held earlier in October. She also updated Board members on upcoming events with students at the Middle/High School, and shared that the Student Council will begin planning for the holiday assembly at their next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Meadows reported the Finance Committee met on October 9, 2023. He shared that they discussed the audit review, student enrollment, community recreation projects, theater seating, an energy bond, Adams Billboard and a presentation from Kingscott & Clark.

Mrs. Schwennesen reported the Executive Committee met earlier this evening. Topics of discussion-included personnel updates, community engagement with Living Water Church, legislature bills in the state regarding evaluations and retirement changes, bond planning with Kingscott, and purpose for a Steering Committee.

Mr. DeKeyser added that the Bond Steering Committee should have no more than three board members, and will include staff, community, and parent involvement. He also shared that the first meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2023.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting was made by Mr. Henry; supported by Mr. Zolenski
Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried 7 – 0

Motion to approve fund transfer of \$612,607 in payments from Accounts Payable; further to approve the transfer of \$621,471 from Accounts Payable to cover the payrolls of September 15, 2023, and September 29, 2023 was made by Mr. Henry; supported by Mr. Zolenski

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried 7 – 0

NEW BUSINESS

Altria Litigation Resolution

Motion to approve the resolution to accept the settlement amount and settle the Lawsuit against, the final Defendants, Altria and to authorize the Superintendent to sign settlement documents pertaining to the Altria Defendants on behalf of the District and to take such other action as necessary as prepared by Thrun Law Firm was made by Mrs. Kritzman; supported by Mr. Cole.

Roll call Vote: *Mr. Henry – yes, Mrs. Kritzman – yes, Mrs. McCully – yes, Mr. Meadows – yes, Mrs. Schwennesen – yes, Mr. Zolenski – yes, Mr. Cole – yes*
Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried 7 – 0

Approval of Theater Bleacher Replacement RFP

Motion to award the bid for the Theater Bleacher Replacement Project to Interkal, LLC for an amount not to exceed \$353,193 was made by Mr. Meadows; supported by Mrs. Schwennesen.

Mr. DeKeyser shared Kingscott's recommendation for Interkal LLC after conducting post bid interviews and receiving alternate modification pricing from all companies. He also shared the cafeteria will be shut down for safety reasons, and an electrical contractor will be needed for the final connections.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried 7 – 0

Adams Outdoors Proposal

Motion to approve the Superintendent to engage in contract negotiations with Adams Outdoors for an easement was made by Mrs. Schwennesen; supported by Mr. Cole.

Mr. DeKeyser updated the Board on the current contract, which expires in 2027 and shared that Adams Outdoors has proposed an easement for twenty years. He then answered all Board member questions and shared the final contract would be brought to the Board for approval.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried 7 – 0

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent DeKeyser shared the following;

- 1) High School News - Congratulations to our WLHS Principal, Mrs. Henry and staff for receiving the 2023 Silver AP School Honor Roll Award from the AP College Board, and to MS/HS Band & Music Teacher, Mrs. Fixler along with Mrs. Henry for being awarded a grant to expand programing and diversify the Arts curriculum.
- 2) WISD has been working on developing a CTE Program in Washtenaw County. The County has hired a Director who will begin in January 2024.
- 3) Updated Board members on the "My Future Fund" that was rolled out last year by the County.

OTHER INFORMATION

Personnel

The Board acknowledged the retirement of LouCinda Atkins, the resignation of Tiffany Ventura, and the hiring of Elizabeth McCullum, Marcela Geddes, Grace Spencer and Kara Laitila.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Barb Huang Library.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

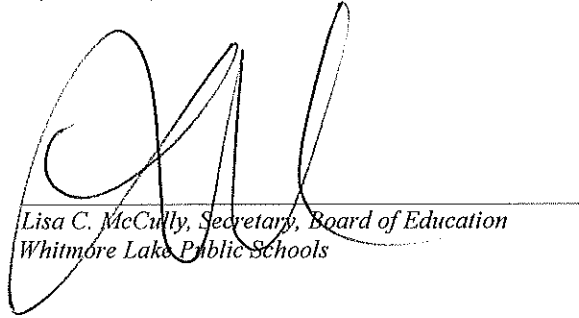
Mr. Zolenski shared that the WLHS Marching Band performed at a football game half-time show with Concordia University Ann Arbor, this past weekend.

Mrs. Kritzman announced the High School Drama Club will present "Clue" this Friday, October 27 through Sunday, October 29, 2023, and the Band-O-Rama Concert will be held on November 2 in the MS/HS Theater. She also announced the Education Foundation, Mom Prom fundraiser tickets will go on sale on November 1, 2023 and a Euchre Tournament fundraiser is scheduled for November 11, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:31 p.m. made by Mrs. Schwennesen; supported by Mr. Henry.

Ayes - 7; Nays - 0, motion carried 7 - 0.



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

11/13/2023
Date