



WHITMORE LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
Organizational / Regular Meeting Minutes- DRAFT
January 12, 2026 – High School Barb Huang Library – 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Michelle Kritzman (President), Lindsey Collins (Vice President), Frank Zolenski (Treasurer), Lisa McCully (Secretary), Lee Cole (Trustee), Kelly Henning (Trustee), and John Meadows (Trustee),

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Superintendent, Tom DeKeyser; Assistant Superintendent, Denise Kerrigan; Elementary Principal, Jennifer Petzke; Elementary Instructional Interventionist & Montessori Principal, Cory Woodard; Student Services Director, Melissa Heuker; and Communications & Human Resources Director, Maria Carter-Ewald

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff, students, parents, and members of the community

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Michelle Kritzman.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Ms. Kritzman; supported by Ms. McCully.
Ayes – 7; Nays – 0; motion carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – ELECTION OF OFFICERS (2026)

Ms. Kritzman called for nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Board for the 2026 calendar year.

Mr. Meadows nominated Ms. Kritzman as President, Ms. Collins as Vice President, Mr. Zolenski as Treasurer and Ms. McCully as Secretary. Ms. Kritzman inquired if there were any other nominations.

Motion to close the board officer nominations for the 2026 calendar year was made by Ms. Kritzman; supported by Mr. Cole

Ayes - 7; Nays - 0; motion carried

President

Motion to approve Michelle Kritzman as President was made by Ms. Collins; supported by Mr. Meadows.
Ayes – 7; Nays – 0; motion carried

Vice President

Motion to approve Lindsey Collins as Vice President was made by Ms. Kritzman; supported by Mr. Cole.
Ayes – 7; Nays – 0; motion carried

Secretary

Motion to approve Lisa McCully as Secretary was made by Mr. Meadows; supported by Ms. Collins.
Ayes – 7; Nays – 0; motion carried

Treasurer

Motion to approve Frank Zolenski as Treasurer was made by Ms. Collins; supported by Mr. Cole.
Ayes – 7; Nays – 0; motion carried

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS – SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

In recognition of School Board Appreciation Month, students and staff from across the district presented gifts and messages of appreciation. Representatives from Go Like the Wind Montessori, Whitmore Lake Elementary School, Middle School and High School leadership groups, National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, Student Council, and the Whitmore Lake Education Association participated. Donations included books for classrooms, cards, student artwork, and contributions to the local food pantry.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council President, Jacob Bissonette, shared appreciation for the Board and provided brief updates on Snowcoming planning, including the “Under the Sea” theme, and other upcoming activities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2025 Board of Education Regular meeting, the December 15, 2025 closed session and the December 22, 2025 Board of Education Special meeting was made by Ms. Kritzman; supported by Mr. Cole.

Ayes - 7; Nays -0; motion carried

Motion to approve fund transfer of \$599,197 in payments from Accounts Payable; further to approve the transfer of \$774,967 from Accounts Payable to cover the payrolls of December 15, 2025 and December 31, 2025 was made by Ms. Kritzman; supported by Mr. Cole.

Ayes - 7; Nays -0; motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

School of Choice – 2026-27 First Semester

Motion to approve Whitmore Lake Public Schools as a School of Choice district pursuant to Sections 105 and 105c of the State School Aid Act with unlimited open enrollment for students in grades K-12 for all programs for the first semester of the 2026-27 school year was made by Ms. Kritzman; supported by Ms. Collins.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0; motion carried

Personnel

Motion to approve the transfer of Lindsey (Kathleen) McDonough to Elementary Teacher at Level 4 of the WLEA MA salary schedule, effective January 5, 2026, was made by Mr. Meadows; supported by Ms. Collins.
Ayes – 7; Nays – 0; motion carried

Financial Report

Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Kerrigan provided an update on the General Fund budget, noting amended revenue projections related to mental health funding, upcoming tax revenue receipts, and continued review of expenditures. She also shared preliminary planning considerations related to facilities, the sinking fund, and Community Recreation projects. She then answered all board member questions.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent, Mr. DeKeyser thanked the Board for its service and provided updates on middle school robotics qualifying for world competition, facilities response over winter break, emergency signage updates, lighting improvements, ongoing HVAC commissioning, Community Recreation pool lighting considerations, potential water system replacement at the elementary school, and early discussions with developers regarding a potential pedestrian connection near district property.

OTHER INFORMATION

Personnel

The Board acknowledged the retirement of Kim Bakker, Elementary Teacher effective December 31, 2025.

The Board acknowledged the resignations of Elaina Westphal, MS/HS Paraprofessional, and Stephanie Wilson, ECC Head Start Teacher Assistant, effective December 20, 2025 and January 6, 2026, respectively.

The Board acknowledged the hiring of:

- Laura Canfield, Swim Instructor (Community Recreation)
- Rhianon Ortiz, Bus Driver (Transportation)
- Molly Mileschkowsky, GLTW Montessori Toddler Teacher Assistant
- Averi Weitzmann, GLTW Montessori Primary Teacher Assistant
- Charlotte Henry, Student Success Advocate (MS/HS), effective January 5, 2026

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, February 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Barb Huang Library.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Cole: Shared concerns regarding recent Northfield Township Parks and Recreation Board processes and communication.

Ms. Henning: Reported that the William Wagner family fully funded a Community Scholarship prior to the annual campaign.

Ms. McCully: Expressed appreciation for student and staff recognition efforts during Board Appreciation Month.

Ms. Kritzman: Thanked staff and students for the presentations and acknowledged Kim Bakker's years of service; announced the upcoming legislative breakfast scheduled for 7:30 a.m. January 26, 2026 at the WISD, and the Middle School Drama Club presentation scheduled for February 6th - 8th.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:45 p.m. was made by Ms. Kritzman; supported by Ms. Collins. Ayes – 7; Nays – 0; motion carried