



Whitmore Lake Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2023 – High School Barb Huang Library – 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Michelle Kritzman (*President*), Frank Zolenski (*Vice President*), John Meadows (*Treasurer*), Lisa McCully (*Secretary*), Lee Cole (*Trustee*), 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, 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 7:00 p.m. by President Michelle Kritzman.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by Mrs. Schwennesen; supported by Mr. Cole.

Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Community member, Jon Gura expressed his skepticism with accountability & transparency from the Board of Education regarding a timeline of accomplishments with the 2019 tax millage for the Community Recreation facilities. He also shared his disappointment with the number of days the pool is available for open swim and not having outdoor lighting around the basketball court at the elementary school.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council President, Natalie Meadows shared they are finalizing plans for the homecoming festivities held on October 6th & 7th. She also shared the theme for float building this year will be Y2K.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Schwennesen reported the Executive Committee met on September 12, 2023. Topics of discussion included administration contracts, board policies from the August 18th first reading, process fundraising requests with an electronic approval system, Adams Billboard contract, and bond dates in order of procedures.

Mr. Henry inquired if any issues were discovered by the committee regarding the policies listed on the agenda this evening for a second reading. Mrs. Schwennesen answered no.

Mr. Meadows reported the Finance Committee met earlier this evening. He shared that they discussed the lease of a new bus and the need to replace other buses over time. Other topics included the Adams Billboard contract, budget update, administration contracts, theater seating repair, and EPIC MRA survey. He also shared that Food Service was opened this week at the Main Street Campus.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting was made by Mr. Henry; supported by Mrs. Schwennesen

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

Motion to approve fund transfer of \$774,730 in payments from Accounts Payable and \$507,345 transfer to Sinking Fund; further to approve the transfer of \$495,323 from Accounts Payable to cover the payrolls of August 15, 2023, and August 31, 2023 was made by Mr. Henry; supported by Mrs. Schwennesen

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

OLD BUSINESS

Board Policies

Superintendent DeKeyser presented 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 for a second reading. He also shared that no changes have been made since the first reading.

Motion to approve the Miller Johnson policies and administrative regulations as presented was made by Mrs. Schwennesen; supported by Mr. Henry.
Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried 7 – 0

NEW BUSINESS

Social Media Litigation

Motion to approve the resolution to authorize and direct the Superintendent to sign the Attorney-Client Fee Contract on behalf of the School District, and to take such other action as necessary to obtain monetary damages and injunctive relief for the School in the lawsuit represented by Frantz Law Group, APLC was made by Mrs. Kritzman; supported by Mr. Henry.

Superintendent DeKeyser shared information outlined in the resolution to join a nationwide class action lawsuit against Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik-Tok, and other social media platforms regarding their marketing and the negative impact it causes on students. He then answered all board member questions.

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

WEOC Agreement Resolution

Motion to approve the amended and restated Washtenaw Educational Options Consortium Agreement and authorize execution was made by Mrs. Kritzman; supported by Mrs. Schwennesen.

Superintendent DeKeyser shared that the WEOC (Washtenaw Educational Options Consortium) governs the Early College Alliance (ECA), Washtenaw International High School and Middle Academy, and the Washtenaw Alliance for Virtual Education (WAVE) alternative education programs. Mr. DeKeyser also shared that WLPS has been a member since the beginning in 2014 and gave a brief summary of the amended agreement with the Board. He then answered all Board member questions.

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

Bus Purchase

Motion to approve the lease purchase for one new school bus through Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc. was made by Mr. Meadows; supported by Mrs. Schwennesen.

Mrs. Schwennesen inquired about the term length and purchase price. Mr. Cole inquired how many miles do buses typically have. Mrs. Kerrigan shared payments will be \$27,860 for five years. She also shared that typically districts turn over buses around 100,000 miles however WLPS buses average 200,000 miles.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent DeKeyser shared the following:

- 1) Recognized and thanked, Recreation and Aquatics Director, Ann Kehn and Community Recreation Coordinator, Kevin LaMont, for doing a great job. He also shared that Ann Kehn has been working with a timeline on creating a facility plan, to include programs and pricing and will update Board Committees.
- 2) Shout out to Transportation Supervisor and Mechanic, Steve Wolk, who earned WLPS another 100% bus rating inspection from the Michigan State Police.

- 3) The Whitmore Lake Health Equity Committees goal was to bring a health clinic into Whitmore Lake to help local residents avoid 25 minutes of travel or more for care. Northfield's Human Services, U of M School of Nursing, and Hamilton Community Health are making it possible in early 2024 with the opening of Whitmore Lake Health Center.
- 4) The October 23, 2023 BOE meeting location may change to the Main Street Campus Library, if the Robotics Team is available for a presentation.

OTHER INFORMATION

Personnel

The Board acknowledged the resignations of Rebecca Calahan and Lindsey Gonchoroff, and the hiring of Alaina Carson, Libby Militello, Mariana (Daniela) Labra, and Olivia Heugh.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Barb Huang Library, unless the location is changed to the Main Street Campus. Notice will be given.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Cole and Mrs. Schwennesen thanked Recreation and Aquatics Director, Ann Kehn and Community Recreation Coordinator, Kevin LaMont for their hard work, and the passion and dedication they bring to the community. Mr. Cole also announced that construction for the Northfield Township Park began today.

Mrs. Schwennesen inquired if Board members would like to participate in the Northfield Human Services Adopt-a-Family again this year to let her know.

Mrs. Kritzman announced November 6th is the last day the Education Foundation will accept Grant proposals from WLPS employees. She also announced that tickets for the Mom Prom fundraiser will go on sale on November 1st and a Euchre Tournament fundraiser is scheduled for November 11, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:39 p.m. made by Mr. Henry; supported by Mrs. Schwennesen.

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



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

10/23/2023

 Date