



Whitmore Lake Public Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2024 – 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, 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 7:00 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 – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Joel Korson from Maner Costerisan CPA firm presented the 2023-2024 audit report. He walked the Board through the report sharing it was an unmodified audit, adding that this is the highest level of assurance they can provide as auditors. He shared that the noncurrent liabilities declined \$2.7 million due to principal payment and premium amortization on outstanding bonds, a decrease of \$2.1 million in pension and OPEB liabilities/asset, and found no issues with Federal Awards. Mr. Korson also noted that the general fund balance increased to 8.3%.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council President, Landen Livingston was unable to attend. He will update Board members at the next BOE meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Meadows reported the Finance Committee met on October 14, 2024. Topics included the 2023-24 audit report, revealing an increase in the fund balance, the 2024-25 student enrollment increase, Act 18 and Medicaid reimbursements and GSRP funding increase. He also shared that they discussed the 3% payback and Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) and reviewed the 2024-25 general fund budget regarding the increases to both revenue and expenditures. Mr. DeKeyser shared that the 3% is a charge that some employees are paying for healthcare in retirement, now that it is fully funded there will be a payback, however guidance from the state has not been given as they work out details, and the UAAL will be seen as flow through funds in the budget.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2024 Board of Education Regular Meeting was made by Mr. Henry; supported by Mrs. Kritzman.

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

Motion to approve fund transfer of \$612,527 in payments from Accounts Payable; further to approve the transfer of \$626,667 from Accounts Payable to cover the payrolls of September 13, 2024, and September 30, 2024 was made by Mr. Henry; supported by Mrs. Kritzman.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Report

Director of Finance & Operations, Denise Kerrigan, updated the Board with information regarding the September 30, 2024 financial report. She then answered all board member questions.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. DeKeyser thanked Michigan State Representative, Jennifer Conlin for facilitating the donation, by the NFL Foundation, of a new automated external defibrillator (AED) to the Whitmore Lake High School during Homecoming. He also recognized Elementary Social Worker, Amber Masterson for receiving a Mental Health Grant through the county, and Middle/High School Teacher and MS Volleyball coach, Mike LaNew for going above and beyond coaching, by writing articles to recap the games and posting them to his website.

Academic Assessment

Assessment and Testing Coordinator, Jennifer Petzke shared that the high school offered seven Advanced Placement (AP) program courses during 2023-24, which are run by the College Board and culminate in an end of course assessment. She then shared an overview of the academic performance results in the AP curriculum, and answered all Board member’s questions. Mrs. Petzke also provided an overview of the spring 2024 academic performance results regarding the M-Step scores. Jennifer Petzke, MS/HS Principal, Jill Henry, and Elementary Principal, Heidi Roy-Borland answered all Board member questions.

OTHER INFORMATION

The board acknowledged the resignations of Middle/High School Custodian, Tina Prikasky, and Community Recreation Swim Instructor and Under-18 Lifeguard, Mary Hafner.

The board also acknowledge the hiring of Ella Tillman as Assistant Swim Coach and Lifeguard Under 18, Katelyn Snover as Lifeguard and Aquatic Supervisor, Elizabeth Wright as Bus Driver, Paula Pisaneschi as Montessori Primary Assistant Teacher, and Madalyn Tenace as Montessori Toddler Assistant Teacher.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will meet on Monday, November 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Barb Huang Library.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

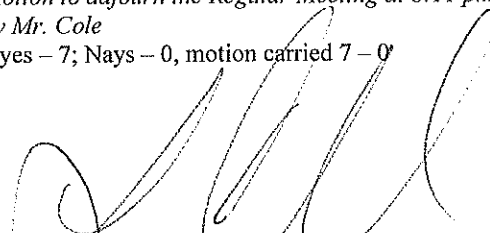
Mrs. Schwennesen announced the Board will participate in the Northfield Human Services Adopt-a-Family again this year, and volunteered to do the shopping. She also announced that the Hamilton Community Health Clinic, offering both medical and behavioral health services has opened in Whitmore Lake and asked if other members would spread the information too.

Mr. Zolenski shared that he recently read a really nice article in the Ann Arbor News aka M-Live, regarding WLHS football and tuba player Gavin Yax.

Mrs. Kritzman shared that she recently attended the Legislative Breakfast at the WISD. Topics of discussion included Special Education staffing issues, the Dyslexia bill, which recently passed, mental health funding and support, and the ISD Special Education millage renewal proposal. Mrs. Kritzman then shared that the Education Foundation Book Bingo for Grown-ups fundraiser was a huge success. She also announced that November 4th is the last day the Education Foundation will accept grant proposals from WLPS employees, tickets will go on sale November 1st for the Mom Prom fundraiser scheduled on February 1, 2025, and the High School Drama Club will present their production of Sherlock Holmes over the weekend beginning November 22, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:11 p.m. was made by Mrs. Kritzman; supported by Mr. Cole
Ayes – 7; Nays – 0, motion carried 7 – 0



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

11/11/2024

Date