



**WASHTENAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

The Washtenaw Intermediate School District Board of Education held a regular board meeting Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at the office of United Way of Washtenaw County, 2305 Platt Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by President Diane Hockett.

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present:

Diane Hockett, President
Mary Jane Tramontin, Vice President
Theresa Saunders, Secretary
Sarena Shivers, Treasurer (left at 9:26am, returned at 11:00am)
Steve Olsen, Trustee

Quorum was met.

Also present:

Naomi Norman, Superintendent
Cherie Vannatter, Deputy Superintendent
Brian Marcel, Associate Superintendent
Melissa Cischke, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
Melissa Brooks-Yip, Supervisor of Instruction
Merri Lynn Colligan, Chief Information Officer
Cassandra Harmon-Higgins, Executive Director, Human Resources and Legal Services
Holly Heaviland, Executive Director, School and Community Partnerships
Deborah Hester-Washington, Director of Special Education, Achievement and Compliance
Edward Manuszak, Executive Director, Early Childhood Programs
Ashley Kryscynski, Communications and Public Relations Specialist
Sherri Papazoglou, Director of Finance
Ryan Rowe, CEPD Administrator and CTE Director

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Board of Education received a sabbatical request from Early Childhood Specialist/Interim Early Childhood Coordinator Althea Wilson. Upon discussion, the board made the decision to add the request under New Business.

Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Steve Olsen, to approve the agenda, as amended.

Ayes: All.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: There were no communications.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There was no public participation.

EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE DIALOGUE: Superintendent Norman notified the board that the Tri-County Culturally Responsive Leadership Fall Conference will be held in-person and virtually. The in-person date will be September 21, 2023, while the virtual date will be September 27, 2023. Keynote speakers include Drs. Rich Milner, Deborah Ball, Chris Emdin, and Bettina Love.

Next, Superintendent Norman updated the board on WISD Leadership Team professional development and retreats. On August 2, 2023, members of the WISD Leadership Team attended the Midwest Forum event. Superintendent Norman gave details regarding the logistics of the event and keynote speakers. On August 3, 2023, the Washtenaw ISD Cabinet gathered for their annual retreat. The meeting was facilitated by Drs. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz and Angel Acosta. The retreat was focused on practices around becoming a healing organization and understanding racial literacy. Members of the Executive Administration, including Naomi Norman, Brian Marcel, Cassandra Harmon-Higgins, Merri Lynn Colligan, Ryan Rowe, and Holly Heaviland, shared their experiences with the board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education approve the minutes and Superintendent's recommendations in the Consent Agenda, as presented.

Voting yes: Theresa Saunders, Mary Jane Tramontin, Steve Olsen, Diane Hockett

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the July 27, 2023, regular session meeting.

007-23-24

The board approved the following employment recommendations:

- Julie Angeli as an Early Intervention Teacher.
- Tara Cote as a Teacher Consultant.
- Melissa Krzysik as a Teacher Assistant.
- Kenneth Nao as a Teacher Assistant in the A2YA Transition Program.
- Sara Roskovensky as an Early Intervention Physical Therapist.
- Ann Stalhandske as an Early Intervention Teacher.
- Alicia Velasco-Romo as a Bilingual Home Visitor (Spanish) for the Early Head Start program.
- Rebecca Wiersma as an Early On Social Worker.
- Mary Wood as a Flex Teacher.

008-23-24

The board approved the following reclassification requests:

- Vacant, Behavior Specialist, 0.5 FTE, 185 Workdays, Salary: \$70,072.00, Unit I Bargaining, to Behavior Specialist, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Salary: \$70,072.00, Unit I Bargaining.

009-23-24

The board approved the following staff resignations.

- EunJeong Lee, effective August 11, 2022.
- Toni Miller, effective August 11, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS – Sunbelt Staffing Contract:

Prior to board action, Deputy Superintendent Vannatter addressed the board regarding the details of the contract with Sunbelt Staffing. Executive Director of Human Resources and Legal Services Cassandra Harmon-Higgins gave additional details on the agreement.

Motion by Theresa Saunders, seconded by Steve Olsen, that the Board of Education approve the contract with Sunbelt Staffing., in the amount not to exceed \$395,000.00, as presented.

Voting yes: Steve Olsen, Diane Hockett, Theresa Saunders, Mary Jane Tramontin

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Althea Wilson Sabbatical Request:

The Board of Education discussed the sabbatical request from Early Childhood Specialist/Interim Early Childhood Coordinator Althea Wilson. Ms. Wilson has been selected as a 2023-2024 National Head Start Fellow. The 12-month fellowship begins on October 16, 2023, and will end in September 2024, and is located in Washington D.C. The National Head Start Fellowship Program (NHSFP) supports and grows early childhood leaders who come from diverse backgrounds, including a range of professional experiences, individual skills, and talents, and across communities. Executive Director of Human Resources and Legal Services Cassandra Harmon-Higgins and Executive Director of Early Childhood Programs Edward Manuszak provided further details regarding the process, guidelines, and language of the sabbatical request. The administration fielded questions from the board.

Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Theresa Saunders, that the Board of Education approve the sabbatical request from Althea Wilson, to begin in October 2023 and to last for one year, as presented.

Voting yes: Steve Olsen, Diane Hockett, Theresa Saunders, Mary Jane Tramontin

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Year End Board Report:

Prior to board action, Superintendent Norman addressed the board regarding the year end board report. She informed the board that the report was organized around three goal areas and was focused on factors directly related to the board goals. Trustee Olsen commented that he appreciated the current format of the report compared to previous years. Board President Hockett gave some suggestions for future reports. The Board of Education discussed the report further during the board retreat portion of the meeting.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS:

Trustee Olsen informed the board that he was registered for the Michigan Association of School Board's Annual Leadership Conference, as the elected WISD Voting Delegate. He will inform the board when he receives the Delegate Assembly Handbook, so they can discuss any issues with proposed resolutions, to better inform Trustee Olsen on how to vote on behalf of WISD.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – Superintendent’s Report:

Superintendent Norman asked board members to consider whether they will be attending the AESA Annual Conference in Anaheim, California from November 29, 2023 – December 1, 2023.

RECESS:

The board went into recess at 9:42 a.m.

RETREAT:

The Washtenaw ISD Board of Education and administration continued with the Board Retreat, calling the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Retreat topics included the Year End Board Report and Organizational Vision, Mission, Values, and Goals.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Saunders, Secretary
Washtenaw ISD Board of Education