



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

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

The Washtenaw Intermediate School District Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, in Washtenaw ISD's Teaching and Learning Center Board Room at 1819 South Wagner Road in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by President Diane Hockett

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present:

Diane Hockett, President
Mary Jane Tramontin, Vice President
Theresa Saunders, Secretary (left at 6:33pm / returned at 6:58pm)
Steve Olsen, Trustee

The following member was absent:

Sarena Shivers, Treasurer

Quorum was met.

Also present:

Naomi Norman, Superintendent
Cherie Vannatter, Deputy Superintendent
Brian Marcel, Associate Superintendent
Melissa Cischke, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
Jennifer Banks, Director of Instruction
Merri Lynn Colligan, Chief Information Officer
Holly Heaviland, Executive Director, School and Community Partnerships
Deborah Hester-Washington, Executive Director, Special Education
Edward Manuszak, Executive Director, Early Childhood Programs
Tanner Rowe, Director of Operations
LaDawn White, Grants Manager, Early Childhood Programs

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Ayes: All.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: There were no communications.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There was no public participation.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Associate Superintendent Brian Marcel reviewed the financial reports for June and July 2023. Early Childhood Grants Manager LaDawn White reviewed the June 2023 Head Start financial reports. Ms. White fielded questions from the board.

Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Theresa Saunders that the Board of Education approve the June 2023 Head Start Financial Reports, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE DIALOGUE – Superintendent Naomi Norman and Director of Instruction Jennifer Banks gave an update on the EISJ based learning opportunities and organizational commitments that Washtenaw ISD has in place for the 2023-2024 school year. Information was shared about the following: Beyond Diversity, District Equity Leadership Team (DELT), National Summit for Courageous Conversation, Department and Program Equity Teams, Justice Leaders Courses, Leadership Coaching with Leidene King, Responsive Teaching Coalition, Midwest Forum, Archeology of Self with Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz, IDI Assessment, and various organization sponsored book studies. Superintendent Norman and Dr. Banks shared details of each offering, including who the activity was designed for within the organization and greater community.

Superintendent Norman also spoke about WISD Opening Day happenings including the positive response to keynote speaker, JoAnn Chávez, senior vice president and chief legal officer for DTE Energy. The Board of Education shared their thoughts on the virtual Opening Day sessions that took place in the afternoon.

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, Steve Olsen, Diane Hockett, Mary Jane Tramontin

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the August 15, 2023, regular meeting and board retreat.

010-23-24

The board approved the following employment recommendation:

- Henna Shiekh as an Early Intervention Occupational Therapist.

011-23-24

The board approved the following reclassification requests:

- Jenna Blair, CIY School Program Coordinator, 0.2 FTE, 210 Workdays, Salary: Grade 10, Step 7, Non-Affiliated, to CIY School and Interagency Transition Supervisor, 1.0 FTE, 210 Workdays, Salary: Grade 11, Step 6, Non-Affiliated.
- Deborah Hester-Washington, Director of Special Education, Achievement and Compliance, 1.0 FTE, 230 Workdays, Salary: Grade 12, Non-Affiliated, to Executive Director of Special Education, 1.0 FTE, 230 Workdays, Salary: Grade 14, Step 6, Non-Affiliated.

- Vanessa Horning, Accountant, 1.0 FTE, 230 Workdays, Salary: Grade 6, Step 7, Non-Affiliated, to SE Funding Specialist, 1.0 FTE, 230 Workdays, Salary: Grade 9, Step 3, Non-Affiliated.
- Maria Kroeger, TA SCI Young Adult, 1.0 FTE, 205 Workdays, Salary: \$32,976.00, Step 2, Unit I Bargaining, to TA ASD, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Salary: \$29,808.00, Step 2, Unit I Bargaining.
- Megan Lewandowski, Teacher High Point C7, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Salary: \$70,544.00, Unit II Bargaining, to Teacher ASD, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Salary: \$70,544.00, Unit II Bargaining.
- DarNesha Green, School Social Worker, 1.0 FTE, 210 Workdays, Salary: MA Step 10 (0.8FTE), NA 7, Step 6 (0.2 FTE), Non-Affiliated, to Mental Health Clinical Supervisor, 1.0 FTE, 210 Workdays, Salary: Grade 8, Step 6, Non-Affiliated.
- Anthony Ravenga, Teaching Assistant YS SCI (Room 44), 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Salary: \$34,209.00, Unit I Bargaining, ASD TA, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Salary: \$34,893.00, Unit I Bargaining.
- Richele Scalzo, Teacher Assistant at Ann Arbor West, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Salary: \$36,437.00, Unit II Bargaining, ASD Teacher, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Salary: \$49,511.00, Unit II Bargaining.
- Jason Towler, MRS TC (working MRS/YAP), 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Unit II Bargaining, to MRS TC/Whitmore Lake TC, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Unit II Bargaining.
- Rebecca Witham, TA SCI YA-Room 44, 1.0 FTE, 205 Workdays, Salary: \$38,609.00, Unit I Bargaining, to ASD TA, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Salary: \$34,893.00, Unit I Bargaining.
- Shared Position, CIY School Director and Interagency Transition Coordinator, 0.4 FTE, 210 Workdays, Salary: Grade 10, Non-Affiliated, to CIY School and Interagency Transition Supervisor, 1.0 FTE, 210 Workdays, Salary: Grade 11, Non-Affiliated.

012-23-24

The board approved the following staff resignation.

- Amy Burns, effective August 18, 2023.

013-23-24

The board authorized the administration to approve the K12 Insight Contract Renewal.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS – Restorative Practices Training, BFDI Training Institute:

Prior to board action, Community & School Partnerships Executive Director Holly Heaviland explained the details of the BFDI Training Institute contract to the board.

Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Theresa Saunders, that the Board of Education approve the contract with BFDI Training Institute in the amount of \$50,378.96, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – MISEC Choice Solar Board Resolution:

Prior to board action, Associate Superintendent Marcel explained the MISEC Choice Solar Board Resolution, which authorizes MISEC to enter into a 15-year Power Purchase Agreement for 20% of the district's annual electricity usage with NorthStar Clean Energy at a fixed rate not to exceed \$0.075/kWh. Mr. Marcel then informed the board that the district is not limited to a 20%

agreement, and there is no cap on the percentage of the district’s annual electricity usage that the board can agree to. The Board of Education and administration then engaged in a robust discussion around the benefits and possible disadvantages from entering into a 100% agreement. It was then agreed upon that the board would approve the resolution at 75%.

Motion by Diane Hockett, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education approve the resolution authorizing MISEC to enter into a 15-year Power Purchase Agreement for 75% of the district’s annual electricity usage with NorthStar Clean Energy, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Robert Half, Inc – Temporary Contracted Technology Support Services:

Prior to board action, Chief Information Officer Merri Lynn Colligan addressed the board regarding the need for and details surrounding the Robert Half, Inc. contract.

Motion by Theresa Saunders, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education approve the technology support services contract with Robert Half, Inc., in the amount of \$50,000.00, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Washtenaw Community College Young Adult – Lease Recommendation:

Prior to board action, Director of Operations Tanner Rowe addressed the board. Mr. Rowe explained the details of the lease recommendation for the WCC YA program.

Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Theresa Saunders, that the Board of Education authorize the administration to execute the lease agreement with Washtenaw Community College for (3) classrooms, with rent totaling \$31,116.80 for a one-year term, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Chapelle Business Center – Lease Expansion Recommendation:

Prior to board action, Director of Operations Tanner Rowe addressed the board. Mr. Rowe explained the details of, and need for, the lease expansion recommendation for the Chapelle Business Center.

Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Theresa Saunders, that the Board of Education authorize the administration to execute the lease agreement with Ypsilanti Community Schools for 111 S. Wallace Blvd., Ypsilanti, MI 48197, with rent totaling \$7,848.00 for the nine-month term.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Connecting Communities Grant Opportunity:

Prior to board action, Director of Operations Tanner Rowe addressed the board. He explained the guidelines and timeline of the Connecting Communities Grant. Mr. Rowe fielded questions from the board.

Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Theresa Saunders, that the Board of Education authorize the administration to apply for the Connecting Communities Grant in the amount of \$100,000.00, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – LCK Coaching & Consulting, LLC. Contract Amendment:

Prior to board action, Superintendent Norman addressed the board. She reviewed the sessions that LCK Coaching & Consulting, LLC. (Leidene King) provided for WISD administration during the 22-23 school year, and the services that will be provided under the contract for the 23-24 school year. Ms. Norman fielded questions from the board.

Motion by Theresa Saunders, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education authorize the administration to approve the contract amendment with LCK Coaching & Consulting, LLC., in the amount not to exceed \$140,000.00, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Early Childhood Carry Over Funds:

Prior to board action, Early Childhood Programs Executive Director Edward Manuszak addressed the board. He explained the details and reasoning for the carryover funds, including information about specific dollar amounts. Dr. Manuszak, along with Early Childhood Programs Grants Manager LaDawn White fielded questions from the board.

Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Theresa Saunders, that the Board of Education approve the request to carry over unobligated funds from the 2022-2023 fiscal year, up to the amount of \$333,918.06, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Washtenaw Educational Options Consortium (WEOC) Agreement:

Prior to board action, Superintendent Norman addressed the board. She gave a brief historical overview of the WEOC agreement and spoke about the current amended and restated agreement. Ms. Norman fielded questions from the board. Trustee Saunders was present for the majority of the discussion, but had to step out of the meeting at 6:33 p.m. and returned at 6:58 p.m. She was not present for the vote.

Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education approve the Washtenaw Educational Options Consortium Agreement Resolution, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Professional Development Committee:

Prior to board action, Deputy Superintendent Vannatter addressed the board. She spoke about the need to formally appoint a Professional Development Committee for the purpose of identifying annual professional development for ISD student programs, and who would be on said committee.

Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Steve Olsen, that the Board of Education appoint a Professional Development Committee, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS - Special Education Restructure Design:

Deputy Superintendent Vannatter and Special Education Executive Director Deborah Hester-Washington gave a presentation to the board outlining the upcoming changes to the Special Education department structure. They informed the board that the purpose of the modifications are to create more capacity for the future, build leadership pathways for staff, expand perspectives at the leadership level, strengthen team relationships and support, and increase responsiveness to families, children, local districts, and programs. Ms. Vannatter and Ms. Hester-Washington fielded questions from the board.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS – There were no Board of Education reports.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Norman gave the board an update on the Talent Together initiative and followed up on some items from the Board Retreat.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Saunders, Secretary
Washtenaw ISD Board of Education