



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

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

The Washtenaw Intermediate School District Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 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 5:00 p.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
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
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
LaDawn White, Grants Manager, Early Childhood Programs

Melissa Heuker, Director of Student Services, Whitmore Lake Public Schools
Elizabeth Alpert, WISD Youth Transitions Manager

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Ayes: All.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: There were no communications.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: There was no public participation.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION - Whitmore Lake Pilot Program Update: Deputy Superintendent Vannatter gave a brief history of the program. Whitmore Lake Public Schools Director of Student Services Melissa Heuker gave a full presentation on the Whitmore Lake Pilot Program. Ms. Heuker fielded questions from the board.

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

Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Theresa Saunders that the Board of Education approve the July and August 2023 Head Start Financial Reports, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE DIALOGUE – Superintendent Norman gave the board an update on the WISD staff that will be attending the National Summit for Courageous Conversation in Austin, Texas.

CONSENT AGENDA

After board approval, Community & School Partnerships Executive Director Holly Heaviland introduced the newly appointed Youth Transitions Manager Elizabeth Alpert, who was in attendance, to the board. The Board of Education welcomed her to Washtenaw ISD.

Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Theresa Saunders, that the Board of Education approve the minutes and Superintendent’s recommendations in the Consent Agenda, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the September 12, 2023, regular meeting.

017-23-24

The board approved the following employment recommendations:

- Elizabeth Alpert as a Youth Transitions Manager.
- Lindsey Clifford as a Speech and Language Pathologist.

018-23-24

The board approved the following reclassification requests:

- Ann Hockenberry from Teacher at Progress Park, to Teacher Consultant at Whitmore Lake School.
- Jessica Klenk from Teacher Consultant – Visually Impaired, to Early Intervention Teacher Consultant – Visually Impaired.
- Sharon Patteri from TA-Red Oak to TA-A2YA.
- Colette Roberts from TA Progress Park, to Music Therapist.

019-23-24

The board approved the following new position request:

- Behavior TA – Eberwhite, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Worksite: Local Based – Eberwhite Elementary, Unit I Bargaining.

020-23-24

The board approved the following staff retirement:

- Lana Stiebe, effective September 30, 2023.

021-23-24

The board approved the new PAC appointment, Ann Babcock, a parent, from Saline Area Schools.

022-23-24

The board approved the contract amendment with Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz, increasing the original contract by \$6,500.00, as presented.

023-23-24

The board authorized the administration to approve purchases from Trace 3, to facilitate the TLC building VM infrastructure upgrade, in the amount of \$38,772.40, as presented.

024-23-24

The board authorized the administration to approve the contracts with Marcia Williams for a total amount of \$35,000.00, as presented.

025-23-24

The board approved the contract with Soliant Health, in the amount up to \$400,000.00, as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS – Propio Language Services:

Prior to board action, Director of Instruction Jennifer Banks addressed the board. First, Dr. Banks informed the board that English Learner Initiatives Coordinator Alyssa Nicol was responsible for coordinating the agreement with Propio Language Services and organizing the board material. She explained in detail the services the company will provide, the process to select the company, and how their services will be distributed. Dr. Banks fielded questions from the board.

Motion by Theresa Saunders, seconded by Steve Olsen, that the Board of Education authorize the administration to approve the agreement with Propio Language Services, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Staff Manual for Non-Affiliated and Early Childhood Personnel:

Prior to board action, Associate Superintendent Brian Marcel informed the board that no terms of the Manual were modified, just the location of specific information within the Manual.

Motion by Sarena Shivers, seconded by Steve Olsen, that the Board of Education approve the proposed modifications to the Staff Manual for Non-Affiliated and Early Childhood Personnel effective July 1, 2023, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Talent Together Consortium Agreement:

Prior to board action, Superintendent Norman addressed the board. She shared detailed information regarding the Talent Together Consortium Agreement. Ms. Norman fielded questions from the board.

Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Theresa Saunders, that the Board of Education approve the Talent Together Consortium Agreement, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS – There were no other items of business.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS:

Trustee Olsen attended the 2023 Head Start Fall Assembly on September 21-22, 2023, in Mackinac Island, MI. He gave the board an overview of his conference experience. Additionally, Trustee Olsen informed the board that he was approaching his final year on the Head Start Policy Council, due to term limits. Trustee Tramontin stated that she had also reached term limits for the council. The board discussed who would be interested in serving on the council in the future.

Board President Hockett and Trustee Olsen met with the consultant that will be writing the Head Start grant application for Washtenaw ISD. They were very impressed with the depth of knowledge and creative ideas the consultant shared. Superintendent Norman suggested that the consultant present to the board prior to submitting the application.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Norman spoke about the following:

- Student Advocacy Center founder Ruth Zweifler is celebrating her 93rd birthday.
- She explained the terms of the separation agreement between Ann Arbor Public Schools and Superintendent Jeanice Swift.
- She gave an overview of her experience at the Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA) conference.
- The Board of Education and Superintendent Norman discussed the WISD Mission Statement drafts. The board selected the draft they felt best embodied the organization and offered some edits for further clarification.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Saunders, Secretary
Washtenaw ISD Board of Education