



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

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

The Washtenaw Intermediate School District Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 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
- Steve Olsen, Trustee
- Sarena Shivers, Treasurer (left at 6:05 p.m.)

Quorum was met.

Also present:

- Naomi Norman, Superintendent
- Cherie Vannatter, Deputy Superintendent
- Brian Marcel, Associate Superintendent
- Holly Heaviland, Executive Director of Community & School Partnerships
- Deborah Hester-Washington, Executive Director of Special Education
- Sherri Papazoglou, Director of Finance
- Jennifer Banks, Director of Instruction
- Matthew Cook, Assistant Director of Technology and Data Services
- Celeste Gentile, Teacher Consultant
- Luther Mayfield, Cohort 1 Parapro-to-Teacher Graduate
- Nathalie Ruelle, Cohort 1 Parapro-to-Teacher Graduate
- Melissa Buie, Cohort 1 Parapro-to-Teacher Graduate
- Kevin Sledge, Cohort 1 Parapro-to-Teacher Graduate
- Rana Imseeh, Cohort 1 Parapro-to-Teacher Graduate
- Doris Moton-Spruill, Assistant to Board of Education Secretary Theresa Saunders
- Victoria Westmoreland, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Theresa Saunders, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Ayes: All.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS – Kegel Family Foundation Donation: Superintendent Naomi Norman addressed the Board, sharing a donation letter from the Kegel Family Foundation for \$2,500.00. The Board expressed thanks to the Kegel Family Foundation.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – Board Appreciation: Superintendent Naomi Norman addressed the Board, expressing her joy with the first completion of the Parapro-to-Teacher Program, a program that emerged from WISD's equity work. Deputy Superintendent Cherie Vannatter addressed the Board, providing the timeline and background information of this program and thanking the Board for their support in making these graduates' dreams come true. She introduced five graduates from Cohort 1- Luther Mayfield, Nathalie Ruelle, Melissa Buie, Kevin Sledge, and Rana Imseeh, who each shared a personal statement thanking the Board. The group also shared statements from Cohort 1 students who were unable to attend the meeting. Each Board member personally thanked and congratulated the graduates.

EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE DIALOGUE: Superintendent Naomi Norman facilitated the Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice (EISJ) discussion, sharing about the following:

- WISD held their E-Teams Professional Learning meeting on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, led by Achievement Initiatives Assessment Coordinator Amy Olmstead-Brayton and EISJ Specialist Greg Myers. WISD staff continued to learn and reflect on the role that race plays in their personal and professional behaviors and develop skills and knowledge to improve student performance and eliminate racial achievement disparities. Superintendent Norman then proposed that the Board use some of the WISD E-Teams activities in their continued learning.
- Executive Director of Special Education Deborah Hester-Washington shared the system of accountability that she has built and is implementing in partnership with the local districts to ensure that students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) have those plans appropriately administered and monitored.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the January 24, 2024, regular meeting and the December 12, 2023, and January 9, 2024, closed meetings.

065-23-24

The Board approved the following employment recommendations:

- Kanika Spears as a General Education Social Worker.
- Stacey Fairman as an Occupational Therapist.
- Steven Hall as a General Education Social Worker.

066-23-24

The Board approved the following reclassification requests:

- Patrick Daugherty, TA VCYA, 1.0 FTE, 185 workdays, Salary: \$36,560.00, Unit I Bargaining, to TA Downtown Ypsi YA Out-Center, 1.0 FTE, 185 workdays, Salary: \$36,560.00, Unit I Bargaining.
- Sara Acton, current position: Speech and Language Pathologist, 1.0 FTE, 185 workdays, Salary: no change, Unit II bargaining to Speech and Language Pathologist, 0.9 FTE, 166.5 workdays, Salary: no change, Unit II bargaining.
- Kevin Sledge, current position: TA – Washtenaw News Young Adult, 1.0 FTE, 185 workdays, Salary \$36,560.00, Unit I bargaining to Teacher – WCC Young Adult, 1.0 FTE, 185 workdays, Salary: \$46,255.00, Unit II bargaining.

067-23-24

The Board approved the following new position request:

- HRA – Ypsilanti, 0.4 FTE, 185 workdays, Salary: \$46,255.00 - \$99,821.00, Worksite: Other, Unit II bargaining.

068-22-23

The Board approved the following staff termination:

- Megan Breiner, effective January 19, 2024.

069-23-24

The Board approved the new WISD Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) appointment, Crystal Francis.

070-23-24

The Board accepted the Sexual Education Advisory Board (SEAB) Community Clergy Member resignation, Jack Radcliff.

071-23-24

The Board approved the new Sexual Education Advisory Board (SEAB) Community Clergy Member appointment, Kwaun Reese.

072-23-24

The Board authorized the administration to contract with Wayne RESA to receive reimbursement for funds for the Tri-County Math Initiative up to \$150,000.00.

073-23-24

The Board authorized the administration to approve the contract addendum with Courageous Conversation, LLC. at a cost of \$14,000.00.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS – Core Network Infrastructure Switches Upgrade: Assistant Director of Technology and Data Services Matthew Cook addressed the Board, providing background information on the need for a core network infrastructure switches upgrade to ensure network stability moving forward. He explained the bidding process and how that resulted in the selection People Driven Technology to perform this service.

Motion by Theresa Saunders, seconded by Sarena Shivers, that the Board of Education approve the purchase to People Driven Technology for core network infrastructure upgrades in the amount of \$111,877.07, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – 2023-2024 Budget Amendments: Director of Finance Sherri Papazoglou addressed the Board, presenting the 2023-2024 budget amendments to the following budgets: General Education, Special Education, Food Service, and Cooperative Activities. She fielded questions from the Board, followed by a brief discussion about the financial growth of the organization.

Motion by Theresa Saunders, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education adopt the 2023-2024 Budget Amendments for the following funds: General Education, Special Education, Food Service, and Cooperative Activities, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS: The Board of Education spoke about the following:

- Vice President Mary Jane Tramontin spoke about the WASB Annual Meeting and Professional Learning Session on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at High Point School. She also shared information about the Literacy Coalition meeting being held on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at Washtenaw Community College's Morris Lawrence Building.
- President Diane Hockett spoke about her joyous experience at the Ypsilanti Community Schools Playground Dedications for Ford Early Learning Center and Perry Early Learning Center that took place on Monday, February 12, 2024.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS: Prior to Board action, the Board had a discussion regarding the upcoming Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Board of Directors Election. The Board discussed the eligibility of the Region 7 candidates. The Board selected Ypsilanti Community Schools Board of Education Vice President, Sharon Lee to represent Region 7 for a three-year term.

Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education will cast their vote for Sharon Lee to serve a three-year term on the Michigan Association of School Boards Board of Directors representing Region 7.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Naomi Norman spoke about the following:

- Eastern Michigan University has agreed to be an official partner of Talent Together.
- Superintendent Naomi Norman, Deputy Superintendent Cherie Vannatter, Executive Director of Special Education Deborah Hester-Washington met with a team of educational leaders at Oakland

County Schools to address a special education general supervision issue, specifically around “credible allegations” related to an article in the Detroit Free Press.

- There is a Dyslexia Bill that has been introduced by Senator Jeff Irwin. Superintendent Norman does not support this bill and has shared her thoughts with Senator Irwin and contributed to naming those concerns in an MAISA statement at the House Education Committee hearing.
- It is time for the Honey Creek Community School Charter Renewal. Hanover Research is doing the formal evaluation of the school’s performance and as a part of the evaluation will be including a culture and climate survey. The survey will go to families, staff, and the Honey Creek board. The evaluation will be presented to the WISD Board prior to the reauthorization of the charter contract.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Saunders, Secretary
Washtenaw ISD Board of Education