



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

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

The Washtenaw Intermediate School District Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 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 5:00 p.m. by President Diane Hockett

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present:

Diane Hockett, President
Mary Jane Tramontin, Vice President (left at 5:52 pm)
Theresa Saunders, Secretary (arrived at 5:09 pm)
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
Ryan Rowe, CTE Director
Holly Heaviland, Executive Director, School and Community Partnerships
Tanner Rowe, Director of Operations
Becky Mullins, Human Resources Supervisor
Victoria Westmoreland, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Theresa Saunders, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Ayes: All.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – Career Technical Education (CTE) and Applied Learning in Washtenaw County:

Superintendent Naomi Norman addressed the Board, giving a brief introduction to CTE Director Ryan Rowe, his role, and the opportunities that have been created through his work. CTE Director Ryan Rowe presented the Career Technical Education (CTE) and Applied Learning in Washtenaw County presentation to the Board. Ryan Rowe fielded questions from the Board and a brief conversation regarding the technicalities of a millage ensued.

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

- A new sticker design that has been developed to showcase the WISD's values.
- Scheduling upcoming EISJ Learning Sessions with the Board.
- Naomi Norman, Diane Hockett, and Mary Jane Tramontin attended the Washtenaw County Literacy Coalition meeting held on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at Washtenaw Community College. She shared her takeaways from participating in this event, pondering what planning and coordinating for future literacy programming at the WISD and the county-level would look like. Board President Diane Hockett chimed in, voicing that the panel at the meeting was quite powerful, and questioned how our staff plays a role in literacy.

CONSENT AGENDA

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: Theresa Saunders, Steve Olsen, Diane Hockett.

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the February 27, 2024, regular meeting.

078-23-24

The Board approved the following employment recommendations:

- Mary Beth DiFranco as a School Social Worker.
- Traci Talley as a Legal Assistant.

079-23-24

The Board approved the following reclassification requests:

- Gregory Myers, EISJ Project Specialist, 1.0 FTE, 230 Workdays, Non-Affiliated bargaining, to EISJ Program Manager, 1.0 FTE, 205 Workdays, Non-Affiliated Bargaining.
- Tiffancy Woods, Early Head Start Home Visitor, 0.5 FTE, 230 Workdays, Unit I bargaining, to Early Head Start Home Visitor, 1.0 FTE, 230 Workdays, Unit I Bargaining.
- Vacant, General Education Social Worker, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Unit II bargaining, to General Education Social Worker, 1.0 FTE, 205 Workdays, Unit II Bargaining.
- Vacant, Technician III – Human Resources, 1.0 FTE, 230 workdays, Salary: NA, Non-affiliated bargaining, to Legal Assistant, 1.0 FTE, 230 workdays, Salary: Grade 7, Step 2, Non-affiliated bargaining.

080-23-24

The Board approved the following new position requests:

- Special Education Coordinator (2), 2.0 FTE, 210 Workdays, Worksite: Teaching & Learning Center, Non-Affiliated bargaining.
- Special Education Supervisor (2), 1.0 FTE, 230 Workdays, Worksite: Teaching & Learning Center, Non-Affiliated bargaining.

081-22-23

The Board approved the following staff retirement.

- Lee O’Neal, effective December 31, 2024.

082-23-24

The Board approved the new WISD Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) appointment, Tara Hayes.

083-23-24

The Board approved the Chapelle Lease Renewal with Ypsilanti Community Schools, in the amount of up to \$20,924.00, as presented.

084-23-24

The Board approved the Early Literacy Coaching Contract with Manchester Community Schools, in the amount of up to \$60,000.00, as presented.

NEW BUSINESS – Ypsilanti Community Schools Supplemental Pilot Plan: Superintendent Naomi Norman opened by saying that sometimes we must do what is best for the students, even if it is out of the ordinary, and this is an example of that. Deputy Superintendent Cherie Vannatter introduced the Ypsilanti Community Schools (YCS) Supplemental Pilot Plan – a plan that is meant to address the staffing and retention needs of YCS by providing staff to deploy IEP services and compensatory services for 237 special education students who are currently not receiving services. Cherie fielded questions from the Board and a conversation regarding the importance of interlinking educational services ensued.

Motion by Theresa Saunders, seconded by Steve Olsen, that the Board of Education approve/authorize the administration to approve the implementation of Supplemental Services as a Pilot Plan with Ypsilanti Community Schools, as presented.

Voting yes: Steve Olsen, Diane Hockett, Theresa Saunders.

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Board Policies – First Read: The Board reviewed the policies and provided feedback regarding language inconsistencies to Human Resources Supervisor Becky Mullins. Becky agreed to make these revisions and provide the updated Board Policies at the March 26, 2024, Board of Education meeting. Board action was not required.

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS: Board President Diane Hockett reminded the Board of the upcoming Washtenaw Association of School Board (WASB) Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 14.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – Superintendent’s Report:

Superintendent Naomi Norman spoke about the following:

- The Chief Information Officer position has been posted and the WISD is coordinating with a recruiting company to fill this role.
- Washtenaw Educational Options Consortium (WEOC) is facing financial challenges resulting in a slew of toxic rumors and misinformation being spread throughout the organization and schools.
- Two local districts are facing major financial challenges at the moment – Whitmore Lake Public Schools with roughly \$1,000,000.00 in debt, and Ann Arbor Public Schools with roughly \$20,000,00.00 in debt. Naomi expressed possibilities for slowing resolving these debts.

- Ann Arbor Public Schools has narrowed down their Superintendent search to six candidates. The Board and Superintendents had a brief discussion about the eligibility of the six candidates.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Saunders, Secretary
Washtenaw ISD Board of Education