



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

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

The Washtenaw Intermediate School District Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 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
Theresa Saunders, Secretary
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
Edward Manuszak, Executive Director for Early Childhood
Jennifer Banks, Director of Instruction
Sherri Papazoglou, Director of Finance
Nancy Davis, Teacher Consultant
Victoria Westmoreland, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
Executive Director of Honey Creek Community School, Kevin Kelly
Deshawn Leeth, Member of the Public

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.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Director of Finance Sherri Papazoglou reviewed the financial reports for March 2024. Executive Director for Early Childhood, Edward Manuszak reviewed the March 2024 Head Start Financial Reports.

Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Theresa Saunders, that the Board of Education approve the March 2024 Head Start Financial Reports, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – Honey Creek Evaluation Presentation: Deputy Superintendent Cherie Vannatter and Executive Director of Honey Creek Community School Kevin Kelly addressed the Board, sharing findings from the Honey Creek Cultural Survey and providing explanations for certain trends. Kevin Kelly fielded questions from the Board.

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

- The Board of Education is invited to attend the annual Courageous Conversation About Race (CCAR) conference that will be held in October of 2024 in Chicago, IL.
- The ASU + GSV Conference introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbot tools that are designed with a focus on racial consciousness, aiming to produce more racially balanced chatbot responses.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the April 9,2024, regular meeting.

095-23-24

The Board approved the following employment recommendations:

- Megan Bachus as a Teacher Consultant.

096-23-24

The Board approved the following reclassification requests:

- Kathleen Forhan, TA – Red Oak, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Unit I bargaining, to TA – Washtenaw News Young Adult, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Unit I Bargaining.
- Melissa Cischke, Project Specialist – Achievement Initiatives, 1.0, 230 workdays, Non-Affiliated bargaining, to Project Specialist – Technology, 1.0 FTE, 230 workdays, Non-Affiliated bargaining.

097-23-24

The Board approved the following new position requests:

- Speech Language Pathologist (2), 2.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Worksite: Ypsilanti Community Schools, Unit II bargaining.
- School Social Worker (2), 2.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Worksite: Ypsilanti Community Schools, Unit II bargaining.

- Teacher Consultant (2), 2.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Worksite: Ypsilanti Community Schools, Unit II bargaining.

098-22-23

The Board approved the following staff retirement.

- Dawn Gilson, effective August 21, 2024.

099-23-24

The Board motioned to authorize the administration to amend the contract with Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz at a cost of \$10,000.00, for a total amended cost not to exceed \$114,000.00, as presented.

100-22-23

The Board motioned to authorize the administration to amend the contract with Justice Leaders Collaborative to provide social justice professional learning for Dexter Community Schools for a cost not to exceed \$3,000.00, as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Board Policies – Second Read: President Diane Hockett mentioned that necessary changes to the Board Policies were made after the first read on April 9, 2024, at the regular Board of Education meeting.

Motion by Theresa Saunders, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education adopts revised Board Policies #6325 – Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds, and #6520 – Payroll Deductions; and to rescind policy #2410 – Prohibition of Referral or Assistance at second read, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Kalamazoo RESA MiSTEM Sub-Recipient Agreement: Superintendent Naomi Norman presented the Sub-Recipient Agreement on behalf of Washtenaw ISD's MiSTEM Region 2 Director, Scott Heister. Kalamazoo RESA is responsible for selecting the contractor for the mandatory evaluation, with our region obligated to share the evaluation costs in the amount of \$50,000.00. Director of Instruction Jennifer Banks weighed in on the payment timeline and fielded questions from the Board. The Board decided to alter the motion language to articulate that the Board is approving payment for the October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, fiscal year.

Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education authorize the administration to enter into a subrecipient agreement for the October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, fiscal year with Kalamazoo RESA for evaluation services for a cost not to exceed \$50,000.00, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Emdin Support Services, LLC Contract: Director of Instruction Jennifer Banks described the role that the contractor would play at upcoming Tri-County Culturally Responsive Mathematics Institute events.

Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Theresa Saunders, that the Board of Education authorize the administration to contract with Emdin Support Services, LLC. to provide services for the Tri-County Culturally Responsive Mathematics Institute events for a cost not to exceed \$47,500.00, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Milner Consulting Group Contract: Director of Instruction Jennifer Banks described the role that the contractor would play at the upcoming Tri-County Culturally Responsive Mathematics Institute Spring Leadership Conference.

Motion by Theresa Saunders, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education authorize the administration to contract with Milner Consulting Group to provide services for the Tri-County Culturally Responsive Mathematics Institute Spring Leadership Conference for a cost not to exceed \$26,000.00, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Lincoln Consolidated Schools Contract for Services: Director of Instruction Jennifer Banks emphasized the necessity of this contract, explaining that the Newcomer Student, Family & School Supports Coordinator at Washtenaw ISD, Puja Mullins, previously worked at Lincoln Consolidated Schools (LCS). Despite transitioning to her role at Washtenaw ISD, Mullins continues to offer support to the LCS. By formalizing this arrangement, the contract will facilitate compensation to Washtenaw ISD for their shared resource.

Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Theresa Saunders, that the Board of Education authorize the administration to approve a contract with Lincoln Consolidated Schools for reimbursement of the Coordinator of English Learner Supports for a cost not to exceed \$58,127.00, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Authorization of Closed Session: The Board of Education requested a closed session under Sections 1(f) of the Open Meetings Act as the individual at issue has requested the session be closed.

Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Theresa Saunders, that the Board of Education authorize a closed session under Section 1(f), as the individual at issue has requested the session be closed, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into recess for closed session at 6:16 p.m. pursuant to Section 1(f) – as the individual at issue has requested the session be closed.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened to open session at 6:55 p.m.

Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Theresa Saunders, that the Board of Education, after review of relevant policies, approve the individual represented in case number 2024-003, as discussed in closed session, for hire.

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: Trustee Steve Olsen spoke about the following:

- The WISD Washtenaw Association of School Boards (WASB) Annual Budget Presentation that took place on April 18, 2024.
- The upcoming WASB Professional Learning Session on April 25, 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – Superintendent’s Report:

Deputy Superintendent Cherie Vannatter spoke about the following:

- The Local Wellness Policy Tri-Annual Assessment. Deputy Superintendent Vannatter shared the strategies and results of the Local Wellness Policy Tri-annual Assessment. She discussed strategies aimed at enhancing wellness, educational objectives, physical activity initiatives, and nutritional standards within the food services. This assessment serves as the basis for developing new strategies every three years.

Superintendent Naomi Norman spoke about the following:

- Attending the ASU + GSV Conference and AIR Show provided an excellent opportunity for networking, learning about Artificial Intelligence in the educational sector, and gaining inspiration from keynote speakers, most notably Ruby Bridges.
- The Washtenaw Superintendents Association (WSA) Joint Chiefs Meeting on April 12, 2024, was a moving and educational experience as the School Resource Officer from Oxford High School shared school safety lessons from the fateful day that four students lost their lives.
- Toyota visited the Washtenaw ISD TLC Building to film for their Driving Possibilities initiative. During the visit, executive staff from WISD were interviewed.
- The Senate Budget came out. Superintendent Norman shared that she is getting much more involved than originally anticipated and meeting at the state level to be part of these discussions.
- Washtenaw ISD VI Accessible Media Specialist for Blind and Visually Impaired, Becky Starick created a story walk with Braille pages, so the story walk is accessible to blind and visually impaired students. Lori Degman, the author of the story walk book “Just Read!” caught wind of this installation and visited High Point to see it for herself.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Saunders, Secretary
Washtenaw ISD Board of Education