



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

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

The Washtenaw Intermediate School District Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 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
Theresa Saunders, Secretary (left at 6:34)
Steve Olsen, Trustee

The following member was absent:

Sarena Shivers, Treasurer
Mary Jane Tramontin, Vice President

Quorum was met.

Also present:

Naomi Norman, Superintendent
Cherie Vannatter, Deputy Superintendent
Brian Marcel, Associate Superintendent
Edward Manuszak, Executive Director for Early Childhood
Holly Heaviland, Executive Director, Community and School Partnerships
Tanner Rowe, Director of Operations
Sarah Hierman, Grants and Special Projects Coordinator
Victoria Westmoreland, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

Ayes: All.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

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

- The purpose of the Kriseles contract, included in this meeting's agenda, is to co-construct a vision for an inclusive culture at Washtenaw ISD based on responses to an agency-wide culture survey and focus groups, identify actionable steps towards a more racially conscious and inclusive organizational culture, and identify the feedback mechanisms to measure the impact of our efforts.

Superintendent Norman provided background on the effectiveness of this contractor, and how she was connected with the opportunity to work with Kriseles.

CONSENT AGENDA

Theresa Saunders moved, Steve Olsen seconded, 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 April 23,2024, regular and closed session meetings.

101-23-24

The Board approved the following employment recommendations:

- Deshawn Leeth as a Washtenaw My Brother’s Keeper Project Assistant.
- Kimberly McLouth as a Teacher Students Cognitive Impaired.
- Lisa Lewandowski as a Teaching Assistant.
- Mary Eddy as a Flex Teacher.

102-23-24

The Board approved the following reclassification requests:

- Carlene Laskey, Teacher Consultant – Deaf/Hard of Hearing, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Unit II Bargaining, to Early Intervention Teacher Consultant, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Unit II Bargaining.

103-22-23

The Board approved the following staff retirement.

- Christine Teff, effective August 31, 2024.

104-23-24

The Board approved the following staff resignations:

- Ghufuran Al-Sheemary, effective April 26, 2024.

105-22-23

The Board accepted the following layoff notification:

- Radu Iacoban, effective June 30, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS – CMHPSM Substance Use Prevention Grant: Grants and Special Projects Coordinator Sarah Hierman addressed the board, clarifying the recognized need for increased substance use prevention and intervention within local districts. This grant marks the program's second phase, with anticipated subsequent phases totaling three to four, all dedicated to addressing substance use prevention. The program is in its data collection phase, which will be followed by a planning phase, leading ultimately to an action phase dedicated to intervention.

Steve Olsen moved, Theresa Saunders seconded, that the Board of Education Motion that the Board of Education authorize the administration to approve the submission of a Substance Use Prevention Block

Grant to the Community Mental Health Partnership of Southeast Michigan (CMHPSM) in the amount of \$108,236.00, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Revised Head Start Selection Criteria: Executive Director for Early Childhood Edward Manuszak addressed the Board, sharing that the Head Start Selection Criteria has been updated to be more inclusive of marginalized students and families that the Early Childhood department serves. The Policy Council approved this change at their April 2, 2024 meeting.

Steve Olsen moved, Theresa Saunders seconded, that the Board of Education approve the new Head Start selection criteria for both center-based and home-based Head Start classrooms, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Kriseles Contract: Superintendent Naomi Norman addressed the Board, expanding on the information she shared during the Equity, Inclusive, and Social Justice (EISJ) portion of the agenda. Superintendent Norman explained the intricacies of the contract and how they will best serve Washtenaw ISD.

Theresa Saunders moved, Steve Olsen seconded, that the Board of Education authorize the administration to approve the contract with Kriseles, Inc. for advisory and consulting services related to Organizational Management, Leadership Development, and Inclusive Practices for a cost not to exceed \$124,000.00 plus travel expenses, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Administration Parking Lot Replacement: Director of Operations Tanner Rowe addressed the Board, sharing that samples of the administration parking lot were taken and accentuated the poor condition of the pavement, and the pertinent need for a replacement. Tanner Rowe explained the anticipated cost breakdown and projected timeline.

Theresa Saunders moved, Steve Olsen seconded, that the Board of Education authorize the administration to approve a contract with Midwestern Consulting for development of pavement reconstruction plans for the East Administration parking lot at the Teaching and Learning Center, with an amount not to exceed \$17,500.00, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Authorization of Closed Session: The Board of Education moved to recess to closed session.

Steve Olsen moved, Theresa Saunders seconded, that the Board of Education authorize a closed session under Section 8(c) for the purpose of strategy and negotiation of a collection bargaining agreement, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into recess for closed session at 5:35 p.m. pursuant to Section 8(a) – for the purpose of conducting the Superintendent’s evaluation.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened to open session at 6:00 p.m.

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS: Trustee Diane Hockett spoke about the following:

- Superintendent Naomi Norman and Associate Superintendent Brian Marcel presented the 2024-2025 Budget at the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education meeting on May 8, 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – Superintendent’s Report:

Superintendent Naomi Norman spoke about the following:

- The April 25, 2024, Washtenaw Association of School Boards professional learning session was a success, and attendees were deeply engaged.
- The April 25, 2024, roundtable session with Attorney General Dana Nessel and parents of children with disabilities. The session was centered around issues related to children and young adults with disabilities and cyber safety.
- The Dyslexia Bill passed in the Senate and is being reviewed by the House Education Committee.
- Planning for Opening Day is in full effect. Opening Day will be held on Monday, August 19, 2024, at Washtenaw Community College.
- Ypsilanti Community Schools Superintendent Alena Zachery-Ross and Superintendent Norman presented together at the Talent Together Teacher Leader Facilitator Retreat on May 7, 2024.
- The House proposed budget included \$42 million for Talent Together.
- The Washtenaw Educational Options Consortium (WEOC) is going through the process of considering unionization.
- Superintendent Norman met with County Administrator Greg Dill and others with knowledge of the aviation industry about the idea of bringing drone training programs to students in Washtenaw County. Several school districts are interested in this kind of program and Washtenaw ISD will be convening meetings to connect the key parties and develop an implementation plan.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Saunders, Secretary
Washtenaw ISD Board of Education