



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

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

The Washtenaw Intermediate School District Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 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 5:06 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
LaDawn White, Early Childhood Grant Manager
Ashley Kryscynski, Communications & Public Relations Specialist
Nancy Davis, Teacher Consultant
Laura Kinney, Virtual Classroom YA Young Adult Teacher
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.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Associate Superintendent Brian Marcel reviewed the financial reports for April 2024, noting overall trends and the impact of grant dollars on the budget. Early Childhood Grants Manager LaDawn White reviewed the April 2024 Head Start Financial Reports, noting spending patterns and P-Card expenditures within the department.

Mary Jane Tramontin moved, Theresa Saunders seconded, that the Board of Education approve the April 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 – Tenure Recognition: Deputy Superintendent Cherie Vannatter presented recognition awards to Washtenaw ISD employees who've obtained tenure or continuing tenure during the 2023-2024 school year.

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

- The equity and culture work with Kriseles, Inc. is in its preliminary stages.
- The Washtenaw ISD Cabinet has plans to participate in a guided bus tour through Ypsilanti on June 17 with a tour guide who will offer insights into Ypsilanti's historical narrative from a racialized perspective.

CONSENT AGENDA

Theresa Saunders moved, Mary Jane Tramontin seconded, 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 May 21, 2024, regular meeting.

106-23-24

The Board approved the following employment recommendations:

- Matelyn Yarbrough as a Teacher of Cognitive Impaired Students.
- Trisha Deang as a Physical Therapist

107-23-24

The Board approved the following reclassification requests:

- Sarah Igonin, Special Education Teacher, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Unit II Bargaining, to Special Education Coordinator, 1.0 FTE, 210 Workdays, Unit II Bargaining.
- Ty Kinasz, CI Teacher for Young Adult, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Unit II Bargaining, to Early College Alliance (EAC) Teacher Consultant, 1.0 FTE, 185 Workdays, Unit II Bargaining.

108-22-23

The Board approved the following staff retirement.

- Sayem Khan, effective June 7, 2024.

109-23-24

The Board approved the following staff resignations:

- Ralph Akers, effective May 10, 2024.

110-23-24

The Board accept the Bosch Community Fund Grant from Robert Bosch, LLC in the amount of \$31,500.00.

111-23-24

The Board authorize the administration to approve the contract amendment with Propio Language Services for translation services rendered during the remainder of 2023 – 2024 program year for a total cost not to exceed \$19,318.00.

NEW BUSINESS – Honey Creek Community School Reauthorization: Deputy Superintendent Cherie Vannatter addressed the Board, explaining the extensive reauthorization process for Honey Creek Community School. Deputy Superintendent Vannatter explained that along with this reauthorization, the School Board has requested that the terms be extended from 3 years to 4 years to match many local districts.

Steve Olsen moved, Theresa Saunders seconded, that the Board of Education approve the reauthorization contract for Honey Creek Community School, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Form L-4029 2024 Tax Rate Request: Associate Superintendent Brian Marcel addressed the Board, explaining the need for the updated L-4029 form and the latest recommendations regarding millage rates, along with insights gleaned from the financial advisors' report.

Mary Jane Tramontin moved, Steve Olsen seconded, that the Board of Education approve the Form L-4029 Tax Rate Request as presented, and to have the President and Secretary sign the form subsequent to the meeting to expedite the distribution of the form to the local municipalities, as presented.

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

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS: Board President Diane Hockett spoke about her experience at the Michigan Head Start Association's Early Childhood Conference on May 16-17, 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Naomi Norman spoke about the following:

- Picking dates for the Superintendent Evaluation, the Board Retreat, and the MASB Superintendent Evaluation & Rater Reliability Training.
- The A2Y Chamber Early Edition's Teacher of the Year Breakfast. Superintendent Norman spoke to the character of the Teacher of the Year Winner, Kalli Nowitzke, a special education teacher at Dexter Community Schools who formerly worked for WISD.
- The Eastern Michigan University STEM Institute has been holding interviews for the Director position. Superintendent Norman reflected on serving on the interview panel thus far.

- Superintendent Norman and Deputy Superintendent Vannatter attended the May 21, 2024, PAC Meeting to discuss the Special Education Millage Renewal. The two gained meaningful feedback from the group.
- Superintendent Norman attended the Michigan Works! Southeast open house on May 17, 2024, and was impressed by the organization's new location.
- The Washtenaw Association of School Boards hosted an engaging Legislative Breakfast on May 20, 2024, with a wonderful turnout.
- Superintendent Norman explained all the action that is taking place around the proposed Dyslexia Bill, and the organizations that have publicly not supported and supported this bill. Board members engaged in a conversation with Superintendent Norman and the consensus was that educators and legislators need to work together rather than against each other when it comes to dyslexia and improving literacy statewide.
- The Meaningful Mathematics Showcase took place on May 23, 2024, at Walsh College, and the event was a tremendous success.
- There will be a book reading and giveaway at the Ypsilanti Juneteenth celebration.

Deputy Superintendent Cherie Vannatter spoke about the following:

- Washtenaw ISD will have a table at the Ann Arbor African American Festival on June 1, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Saunders, Secretary
Washtenaw ISD Board of Education