

Minutes

302.24 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG – Gray

Asia Patrick and Sofia Cummins
Walker-Winter Elementary School, Kristen Brickey, Principal

303.24 ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE – Hines

Board members present: LeWanna Abney-Mitchell, Bradley Gray,
Melandie Hines, Kimberly R. May, Mark F. Neal, Frederick L. Weaver, Th.D.

Board members absent: David R. Cox

304.24 ADJOURNMENT TO A CLOSED SESSION – Gray

NOTE: There may or may not be action taken by the Board following the closed session

Resolved, that the Board of Education will adjourn to a closed session at 6:04 p.m. according to 8(c)... [to consult with its attorney regarding the purpose of strategy and negotiation sessions connected with a collective bargaining agreement...] according to the Open Meetings Act. Motion by M. Hines, support by L. Abney-Mitchell.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 6
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1 (Cox)

MOTION PASSED

305.24 ADJOURNMENT TO AN OPEN MEETING – Gray

Resolved, that the Board of Education adjourn to an open meeting at 7:05 p.m. Motion by F. Weaver, support by K. May.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 6
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

MOTION PASSED

306.24 RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS – Curry

I. Wayne RESA Proposed Budget - Drew McMechan

Daveda J. Colbert, Ph.D., Superintendent, Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA), introduced Drew McMechan.

Drew McMechan, Assistant Superintendent of Financial Services at Wayne RESA, presented a PowerPoint outlining the proposed budget for the RESA general fund.

The proposed 2024-25 budget was presented to Wayne RESA's Board of Education on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 and sent to voting districts on April 30, 2024. Voting districts must accept or deny it and send their written recommendation by June 1, 2024.

Mr. McMechan gave an overview of the Wayne RESA Budget, including General, Enhancement, Act 18, Coop, Funded, Special Education, Medicaid, and CAP Projects. \$587 million (78.8%) of Wayne RESA's total funds (\$745 million) are directly distributed to school districts.

\$25.8 million is directly distributed to Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

The funding includes:

- County Act 18
 - Paraprofessionals
 - Special Education Programs
 - Special Education Transportation
- Federal Special Education IDEA
- Medicaid
- Other
- Regional Enhancement Millage
- State
 - Early Literacy Grant
 - Preschool GSRP

Wayne RESA's Operating Funds:

- Represent 5.75% of the total funds (\$745 million)
 - General Fund
 - Cooperative Fund
 - Capital Projects Fund
 - Special Education Operating Fund
- 28% Indirect Services and Administration costs
 - Board of Education
 - Administration
 - Human Resources
 - Payroll
 - Finance
 - Local Area Network (IT) Team
 - Capital Projects
- 72% Direct Services
 - Education Consultants
 - Special Education Consultants
 - Events Services
 - Assistive Technology
 - Transportation Services
 - IT Consortium
 - Field Services

A detailed snapshot was provided of the General Fund and included a link for those who would like to examine it further.

General Fund Budget:

- Revenues = \$25.1 million
- Expenditures = \$26.6 million
 - Includes \$6.8 million in subsidy of the Cooperative Fund
- Budgeted Fund Balance at June 30, 2025
 - \$20.8 million
 - Represents a decrease of \$1.5 million in fund balance
- Total Operating Funds = \$42.8 million

The board has been very intentional with using the fund balance and spending.

M. Hines asked if the renewal millage would be on the ballot in August or November.

D. McMechan explained that RESA could not act until at least 50% of local districts have voted to add the millage to the ballot. He projected that it would go on the November ballot.

D. Covert explained that RESA would send another resolution for the millage renewal. If the millage renewal is not supported the districts will no longer receive those funds.

Cooperative Fund Budget:

- Revenues = \$15.6 million
 - \$8.7 million fees; \$6.8 million subsidized by GF
- Expenditures = \$17.1 million
- Fund balance is being used for enhancements to products and document storage solutions

Enhancement Millage Fund Budget:

- Revenues = \$106 million
- Expenditures = \$106 million
 - 100% of funds are directly distributed to LEAs/PSAs
 - Approximately 256,000 students in Wayne County
 - Distributed proportionally based on student count

Act 18 Fund Budget:

- Revenues = \$224.2 million
- Expenditures = \$276.9 million
 - \$55 million in “One-Time” payments to districts
 - Unreimbursed Special Education Costs (SE-4096)
 - Unreimbursed SE Transportation Costs (SE-4094)
 - 3% Discretionary Funds for Center Program Operators
- Budgeted Fund Balance at June 30, 2025
 - Represents a decrease of \$52.6 million in fund balance

Additional RESA Budgets:

- Special Education Operating Fund Budget - \$5.9 million
- Medicaid Fund - \$18.3 million
- Funded Projects Fund - \$354.2 million
 - All Federal, State, and Local grants
- Capital Projects - \$2.9 million

M. Hines asked if there has been an increase in IEPs due to COVID-19 learning loss and an increase in behavioral issues. If so, did this affect the RESA budget at all?

D. McMechan shared that the cost increased overall and stated that the RESA budget is focused on center-based programs.

II. Legacy Project Winners – Brohl, Grove, Pawlukiewicz

Kate Brohl, Executive Director of Elementary Curriculum & Instruction; Sheri Grove, Executive Director of Middle School Curriculum and Instruction; and Kimberly Pawlukiewicz, Executive Director of High School Curriculum and Instruction and State and Federal Programs, presented a PowerPoint and awards honoring the Legacy Project Winners.

Students in grades 5, 8, and 12 were able to apply for their school's Legacy award based on academic performance, leadership, school/community service, and character. Applications were reviewed, and selected students will be celebrated with posters donated by Lifetouch and displayed in each building.

Ms. Brohl introduced the elementary Legacy Project Winners:

Marcus Nieckarz
Alexander Selix
Iden Akoto-Wiafe
Vivian Nuculaj
Sawyer Wietecha
Haley Ritondale
Hendricks Sanford
Jalen Dixon
Jayden Williams
Zoey Boettcher
Ayianna Scott
Ella Reid
Emma Reilly
Kennedy Conover
Asia Patrick
Sofia Cummins
Wyatt Combs
Sophia Moyer

Ms. Grove introduced the Middle School Legacy Project Winners:

Hailey Hensler
Jamal Jackson
DeCarlo Union
Cameron Redd
Alexa Ziolkowski
Jessica Gonzales
Wynter White
Liv Fuqua
Bradley May

Kim Pawlukiewicz introduced High School Legacy Winners:

Regan Neely
Alex Muse
Kaylie Sheppard
Kiersten West
Madison Potton
Aiden Parker
Jessica Guadalupe Cruz Jaramillo
Morgan Woodson
Alyssa Fuller
Filip Nowakowski
Kimberly Barron
Angelo (Fatima) Gomez
Crystal Phan
Dishon White
Ava Williams
Suki Sanchez-Vazquez
Chase Sanders

III. Employee Retirement Recognition – Ofili

Alexander Ofili, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, recognized the 2024 Wayne-Westland Community Schools Retirees.

Cheryl A. Alcorn
Vicki L. Bartek
Kathleen A. Bell
Pamela R. Bishop
Susan K. Caudell
Eudochie Ciupac
Linda R. Coleman
Raymond Doherty
Tina M. Domagalski
Jeanie Down
Chanda A. Eggleston
Linda K. Evanko
Marva L. Foster
Angela A. Frost
Susan L. Griffin
Antoinette M. Griffith
Patricia A. Glassmeyer
Charles D. Hallman
Kimberly A. Lepish
Dawn M. Montagano
Paul A. Morin
Jennifer F. Morris

Ann M. Myles
Jacqueline Perlman
Julia A. Sluchak-Carlsen
Christine A. Smith
Martin W. Sylvester
Amy J. Thorner
Maureen P. VanHulle
Sheila R. Wofford

IV. Financial Status – Brendan Walsh

Brendan Walsh, Founder of Michigan Benchmark, introduced the company and explained how it can help the board, the district, and the community. Michigan Benchmark assists Michigan Public Schools by enhancing community trust and communication through statistical measures and budget resources. This aims to optimize tax investments, improve student outcomes, and gain support for public education. A 45-minute video outlining this presentation is available online.

Michigan Benchmark puts districts in the optimal position to serve the students. Benchmarking the district's past, present, and future view of its finances, and comparing the district's finances to its own history and districts across the state. What is normal, and what is not normal?

- Past: using past data to identify financial or operational conditions that present problems or opportunities.
- Present: comparing expenses and revenues to the budget.
- Future: projecting a four-year budget.

WWCSD Internal results from 2012-2023:

- Operating Results
- Fund Equity
- Fund Equity % of Revenue

WWCSD has overcome more significant challenges in the past. The crucial step is to identify and address the root cause of the 2023 downturn.

WWCSD External benchmarking results for 2023:

- WWCSD cross-reference and compare with districts of similar size within the state.
- WWCSD experienced a negative 10%, which was abnormal for the district compared to similar districts.

Data Model Reference Guide:

- Functional view of school district expenses
 - Instruction
 - Basic Instruction

- Added Needs
 - Support Services
 - Instructional Support
 - School Administration
 - Pupil Services
 - Instructional Support Services
 - Non-Instructional Support
 - General Administration
 - Business Administration
 - Operations and Maintenance
 - Transportation
 - Other Support Services

Proportional Spending Patterns:

- Basic Instruction
- Added Needed Instruction
- Instructional Support
- Non-Instructional Support
- Other Operational Expenditures

Over the last twelve years, the district has seen a low variance in non-instructional support but an imbalance in instructional support and basic instruction.

Compared to other districts, WWCS D showed some abnormalities in other expenditures and instructional support, suggesting that the district may want to review these areas.

Declining Enrollment:

- Long-term revenue impact of declining enrollment
 - WWCS D enrollment has declined by 3,226 students over the last 12 years, resulting in approximately \$30 million in lower revenue.

Revenue and Expenditure Changes 2022 to 2023:

- Revenue Increased by \$35 million
 - Local Revenue - \$1,645,208
 - State Sources - \$20,811,612
 - Federal Sources - \$12,428,787
- Expenses Increased by \$53 million
 - Basic Instruction - \$22.3M
 - Added Needs Instruction - \$5.9M
 - Pupil Services - \$1.9M
 - School Administration - \$1.9M
 - Instructional Staff Services - \$4.6M
 - General Administration - \$669.2K
 - Transportation - \$122.3K

- Business Administration - \$1.6M
- Operations and Maintenance – \$3.6M
- Other Support Services – \$2.0M
- Total Outgoing Transfers – \$3.6M
- Revenues (\$35M) – Expenditures (\$53) = Shortfall of \$18M

General Education Enrollment Compared to Teaching Staff:

- Internal View
 - 2014-2023 student to teacher ratio was reduced from 26.2 to 21.2
 - WWCS D employs 91 more teachers (proportionally) than it did nine years ago
- External
 - 2023 average of student to teacher ratio of similar districts is 22.6
 - WWCS D student-to-teacher ratio is 21.2 (1.4% lower than the average)
 - If WWCS D had the same average, they would employ about 26 fewer teachers

WWCS D Z-Score Summary:

- The Z-Score analysis compares expenditures by category to similar districts. The closer the score to zero, the closer the district is to the average. (It is rare for the Z-Score to be (+) or (-) 1 or higher.)
 - Annual Operating – (-2.97)
 - Instructional Support – 2.07
 - Non-Instructional Support – 1.17
 - Pupil Support – 1.17
 - School Administration – (-0.11)
 - Instructional Staff – 2.22
 - Business Administration (-1.19)
 - General Administration – 1.35
 - Transportation – 0.74
 - Operations and Maintenance – 1.40
 - Other Support – 0.18
- The question is, where are expenditures out of alignment?

The Board of Education should receive a monthly report comparing expenditures to the adopted budget for review. School budgets are difficult to change once they have been accepted.

Mr. Walsh shared that he has helped navigate districts through challenging times, fostering unity among the district, board, and community.

M. Neal asked where the budget information for these reports was obtained.

B. Walsh shared that the information was obtained by the historical data through the State of Michigan and the district data through the SMART system that the district utilizes.

M. Neal inquired whether Mr. Walsh could see the current situation in which the pass-through mistake was inputted into revenue but never deducted from expenditures in the SMART system.

B. Walsh explained that the Michigan Public School Employee Retirement (MPSER) revenue has a specific code, and unless it were miscoded, it would be caught.

M. Neal asked if, by reading the information sources mentioned, if Mr. Walsh could identify that something was wrong.

B. Walsh shared that in that instance, for the sake of discussion, if the district budgeted for that money not to be directed to MPSERS and it was put into the general fund, there would have been a mismatch between what the budget expected and what the actual results were showing.

M. Neal asked Mr. Walsh if he could see it, considering the board could not. He wondered if Mr. Walsh could detect a code indicating the funds didn't get moved as expected.

B. Walsh suspected that the district was like most districts, where they might assume that additional funds from the state or federal sources would be distributed to local districts late in the year. It would be clear that these were uniquely sourced funds intended for a specific purpose. The funds should have been redirected accordingly, with amendments made to the budget. There should have been multiple checks to ensure it was the MPSERS money.

M. Hines thanked Mr. Walsh for the presentation and shared that his explanation made it easier to understand.

B. Walsh shared that he tried to offer different variations to help everyone understand. He emphasized the significance of budget amendments, suggesting that there should be a minimum of two per year due to the changing variables.

M. Hines mentioned that the bond construction costs are higher than expected and that the Headlee millage needs to pass. She also stressed the importance of adequately funding staff, gaining community support, and regularly checking the budget status.

K. May thanked Mr. Walsh for the detailed presentation and inquired about his policy review practices. She specifically asked if he had examined the district's policies and whether he had any suggestions based on his review.

B. Walsh expressed the importance of the board authority, which begins and ends with policy. He recommended that the Policy Committee review two or three policies, focusing on budget processes. He emphasized the importance of defining what works for the board, suggesting policies such as budget development parameters to guide decisions, like maintaining class sizes.

L. Abney-Mitchell was thankful for the presentation; as a visual learner, the colorful charts were helpful.

B. Walsh stated that his goal was to help the board understand.

M. Neal asked how the bond expenditures are differentiated from the other budgets.

B. Walsh explained that the SMART system has unique codes for different funds, enabling the differentiation of bond expenditures from other budgets. He clarified that all the reports viewed for this presentation pertained to the general fund.

B. Gray asked Mr. Walsh if he could share the cost of the service, which is an ongoing service.

B. Walsh stated that the cost would be under \$10,000 per year.

B. Gray asked if Mr. Walsh would provide presentations often.

B. Walsh stated that would be possible.

K. May asked Mr. Walsh to clarify if that would be an annual fee.

B. Walsh confirmed that would be an annual cost.

V. ELA Resource Selection and Recommendation – Brohl, Schulz, Shaffer

Kate Brohl, Executive Director of Elementary Curriculum & Instruction, mentioned that 80 staff members participated in the Literacy Task Force.

Jenelle Schaffer, Coach on Special Assignment, recommended that the board approve the purchase of Bookworms. The funding would be covered by the 35j Grant, which improves literacy instructional practices by investing in quality research-based best practices and professional learning. The grant has been approved, and funds were received in the May State Aid payment.

Ms. Schaffer shared the Literacy Task Force background, Core Values, Essential Instructional Practices in Literacy, Literacy Essential Timeline, and

Tool Alignment Timeline for 2023-2027, a visual aid of how brains learn to read, and the Resource Review Process.

Heather Denis, Teacher, shared the Bookworm Structure, Teacher Editions, Trade Books, Student Workbooks, Teacher Slides, Assessment, Shared Reading Structures, and ELA blocks.

Janelle Shaffer shared that the 35j Grant covers professional development and all teachers will receive Bookworms training.

M. Hines pointed out that Wayne-Westland has the fifth-highest homelessness rate and has transient students. She asked if homeless and transient students have an impact on this program, specifically asking if they add additional costs.

J. Schaffer shared that since all buildings now use the same programs, if a student moves from one building to another, the buildings can tailor the program to meet the student's specific needs.

M. Neal stressed the significance of reading, writing, comprehension, and vocabulary and thanked the task force for their contributions.

F. Weaver asked what the district has been doing and why this program is better.

J. Schaffer explained that teachers used Wonders, but implementation during COVID-19 was not ideal. Additionally, teachers were using other literacy programs. The effectiveness of the Bookworms program is backed by research aligned with how students learn to read.

F. Weaver questioned the proposed amount would be over a million dollars.

J. Schaffer confirmed that the proposed amount was over a million dollars, noting that the 35j grant would cover it.

F. Weaver suggested that the 35j grant could be utilized to pay staff.

J. Schaffer clarified that the 35j grant is designated explicitly for literacy and must align with the science of reading.

F. Weaver expressed that his understanding is that 35j funds can be used to pay staff members.

N. Schulz offered to investigate further, mentioning that she applied for the grant. She also shared her understanding that 35j grant funds could be utilized for literacy resources and professional learning.

K. May asked if any districts in the area use the program.

J. Schaffer mentioned that Flat Rock has used the program for five or six years. The Literacy Task Force visited Flat Rock and gathered feedback from educators on what works well and what the district might want to do differently.

L. Abney-Mitchell appreciates that all classrooms will be learning the same materials. She also shared her belief that 35j funds are designated for literacy and not staff compensation.

J. Schaffer shared that the information provided on the funding source slide of this presentation regarding the grant was copied directly from the grant website.

N. Schultz clarified that 35j funds can be used to compensate coaches for professional learning purposes but cannot be used for staff salaries.

307.24 CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: AGENDA ITEMS – Gray

Tonya Karpinski acknowledged that the Human Resource section of the agenda does not mention terminations. She is concerned about the possible termination of a Wayne-Westland teacher.

Edward Pruet discussed closed-door sessions, S&P Overview, Superintendent Evaluation, teacher movements, instability, and collective bargaining.

Jennifer Owens reminded the board that they represents staff, community, and students. She addressed budget concerns, hybrid options, reliable transportation, and safety issues. Additionally, she requested an official investigation into the superintendent and asked for him to be placed on administrative leave.

Jessica West commented on the displacement of staff, budget issues, board behavior, and forensic audit.

Kevin Marchi continued Tonya Karpinski's concern about a teacher's termination and requested that the board not approve the termination but reinstate the teacher.

308.24 CONSENT AGENDA

I. MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2024

II. HUMAN RESOURCE ITEMS

- a. Resignations: Administrative, Instructional, Non-Instructional and Non-Affiliated Personnel

Amy Gee
Donal Loomis
Francis Teevin
Natasha Zahor
Cynthia Cichowski
David Ringe
Olivia Simmers
Karen Strobridge
Karlie Eis
Seana Feipel
Jacob Johnson
Brian Laperriere
Ethan Leach
Steven Moore
Moriah Sultes
Cheyenne Trigg
William Wright
Joseph Ziola

b. Placements: Non-Instructional, Non-Affiliated Personnel

Dulce Camacho Garces
Natalie Harmon
Steven Anderson
Amanda Childress
Devin Church
Jason Coleman
Seana Feipel
Allison "Jacob" Hardin
Kimberly Hubbard
Jason Lamar
Wayne McCormick
Tyler McGrath
Michael Saverino

III. BUSINESS & FINANCE ITEMS

- a. Payment of Invoices [under separate cover]
- b. Investment Report [under separate cover]

IV. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

a. Field Trips

- i. Wayne Memorial High School 10-12th Grade Upward Bound – Field Trip – [under separate cover]
- ii. Wayne Memorial High School 9-12th Grade Boys and Girls Track – Field Trip – [under separate cover]

- iii. Adams Middle School 8th Grade – Field Trip – [under separate cover]
- iv. John Glenn High School 9-12th Grade Marching Band – Field Trip – [under separate cover]
- v. Adams Middle School 8th Grade – Field Trip – [under separate cover]
- vi. William D. Ford Career-Tech 12th Grade – Field Trip – [under separate cover]

Resolved, that the board approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by B. Gray.

MOTION FAILED – No vote was taken

M. Hines expressed her confusion on the Human Resources Items section of the consent agenda because all the separation reasons are together.

B. Gray shares the concern as the recommended motion is that the board approve the motion as presented. The consent agenda states resignations and does not list terminations.

M. Neal mentioned that they are not voting on a termination if it does not state termination.

B. Gray agreed that he felt the same.

There was a discussion about how the agenda was presented, which does not include the word termination.

K. May suggested a motion to remove terminations from the Human Resources Items on the consent agenda and add them to the agenda as a separate vote.

B. Gray requested that in the future, the board would like to add terminations and ensure that the items are separated.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked what it had said in the past.

K. May shared that in the past, it has always said resignations.

Motion Resolved, that the board approve removing terminations from the Human Resources Items on the consent agenda and add them to the agenda as a separate vote. Motion by K. May, support by M. Hines.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 4
 NAYS: 2 (Neal, Weaver)
 ABSTAIN: 0
 ABSENT: 1 (Cox)

MOTION PASSED

Resolved, that the board approve the Consent Agenda without Terminations. Motion by M. Hines, support by L. Abney-Mitchell.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 5
NAYS: 1 (Abney-Mitchell)
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1 (Cox)

MOTION PASSED

309.24 Human Resources Item – Terminations

Resolved, that the board approve Human Resources Items – Terminations. Motion by M. Neal, support by B. Gray.

M. Hines commented that if the board votes yes, they will terminate.

B. Gray explained that the board is responsible for voting on terminations.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 3
NAYS: 3 (May, Abney-Mitchell, Hines)
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1 (Cox)

MOTION FAILED

310.24 BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Gray

I. Finance Committee Report [under separate cover] – May

Ms. May shared the following comments from a prepared statement:

The Finance Committee Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Wayne-Westland Community Schools met on Thursday, May 9, 2024, beginning at 5:00 pm.

Ms. May, Mrs. Abney-Mitchell, and Mr. Gray were present.

Mrs. Brohl and Mrs. Schulz shared a short presentation requesting to purchase Bookworms for the 2024-2025 school year using the 35j Literacy grant. The presentation and request will come before the entire board.

Mrs. Pawlukiewicz requested to purchase books to support the Summer Lit Bus using ESSER funds. In the future, the district is exploring using 31a funds to support the Summer Lit Bus. Mrs. Pawlukiewicz also shared information to support the purchase of SPHERO and SAM Labs for Walker-Winter using Title I funds. This request will come before the entire board.

Ms. Sumara made a request to spend less than initially requested to purchase technology using Title I funds.

Mrs. Campbell shared the results of the bid opening for a Forensic Audit, which was held on April 26, 2024. The results will be shared with the entire board at the May board meeting.

Mrs. Campbell also shared an updated credit rating from S&P Global Rating. This information will be shared with the entire board at the May board meeting.

Mrs. Campbell reviewed both the Investment Report and Check Register. She also shared the updated District Subscription and Renewals spreadsheet.

Both Dr. Dignan and the board members shared closing comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm. The next meeting will be held on June 6, 2024, at 5:00 pm at the Administration Office.

II. Policy Committee Report [under separate cover] – Weaver

Dr. Weaver shared the following comments from a prepared statement:

A Policy Committee Meeting of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Trustees was held on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Weaver and Ms. Hines were present.

The Policy Committee deliberated scheduling multiple meetings to review and revise policies, with a focus on developing a schedule for the 2024-2025 school year by October 2024.

The committee began with a review of Board Operating Procedure Policies and highlighted areas for potential revision.

In addition, the committee identified revisions to the Board Bylaws and Policies, notably Business Office Policies and Title IX Policies.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

III. Superintendent Evaluation Committee Report [under separate cover] – May

Ms. May shared the following comments from a prepared statement:

The Superintendent Evaluation Committee Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Wayne-Westland Community Schools met on Thursday, May 2, 2024, beginning at 4:36 pm.

Ms. May, Mrs. Abney-Mitchell, and Dr. Weaver were present.

Ms. May shared a brief overview of the purpose of the committee as it was operated previously, and the role of MASB in the final evaluation process.

Dr. Dignan shared his draft of goals. The board reviewed them by asking questions and suggesting changes to the goals and measurable outcomes. The committee will reconvene on May 23, 2024, to finalize Dr. Dignan's goals, as he will bring forth amended goals and measurable objectives based upon the conversation and recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm.

311.24 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BUSINESS SERVICE & FINANCE – Campbell

I. Forensic Audit Update

Ms. Campbell gave an update indicating that the public bid opening for the Forensic Audit was held on April 26th, and the Bid Tab was included in the finance packet. The district received seven responses to the RFP, but four were disqualified because they were missing criteria outlined in the RFP. The top three bids, in order of cost, were:

- Archin, New York, NY – \$581,700
- Rehmann, Troy, MI – \$759,500
- UHY Advisors, Farmington Hills, MI – \$1,292,800

Note: UHY Advisors did not include the total cost. However, they provided the staff and salary details. The Business Department calculated the total cost based on the hours listed in the proposal and the hourly rate for each position.

II. S&P Global Rating Overview

Ms. Campbell shared that S&P Global contacted the business office to schedule a meeting. This meeting was held via phone on January 18, 2024, in a question-and-answer format, where the S&P representative asked questions, and the business office provided answers. The board was informed of the call in a weekly informational email from Dr. Dignan, which included a review of district activities.

On May 1, 2024, the district received an email containing a rating letter and report from S&P Global. The letter stated that they were downgrading Wayne-Westland from AA to A-. S&P Global ratings range from AAA to D. Wayne-Westland's rating is considered negative due to the downgrade, which reflects a material change in the district's financial condition.

L. Abney-Mitchell mentioned that Ms. Campbell said the Finance Committee sat down with them.

J. Campbell shared that she did not speak to the Finance Committee.

L. Abney-Mitchell said that she may have heard it wrong.

M. Hines asked if this would have a negative effect on the bond ratings.

J. Campbell shared that the district completes a yearly qualifying statement and submits it to the state. That statement will allow Wayne-Westland to use the State of Michigan's rating for bonds.

M. Hines asked if the district's rating is higher than the State of Michigan.

J. Campbell was unsure but believes the state has a good rating. She explained that this does not mean the district has bad credit but is negative because it went down.

B. Gray clarified that the current rating is not bad. He wanted to know where Ms. Campbell got this information from.

J. Campbell shared that she got the information from the S&P Global website.

B. Gray shared that S&P provided a letter explaining why the district is negative, but the information shared was not in the letter. He felt that Ms. Campbell was simplifying why the district was downgraded. The letter explicitly states negative.

J. Campbell shared that the letter did state negative, and she researched the S&P website to clarify S&P's meaning of negative.

B. Gray asked if S&P provided two pages.

J. Campbell confirmed that S&P provided two pages.

B. Gray asked why she provided information from the website and not the report S&P provided.

J. Campbell explained that she tries to anticipate questions from the Board of Education when presenting information, is proactive, and conducts research in anticipation of these questions.

B. Gray asked why she had not given any of the reasons S&P included in the letter.

J. Campbell explained that the letter had already been provided to the board.

B. Gray mentioned that she is now presenting to the community.

J. Campbell explained that she reports to the board, the documentation is provided to the board ahead of time, and she gives a synopsis during the public meeting.

B. Gray stated that the information shared was not accurate.

J. Campbell asked if Mr. Gray would like her to read the letter.

B. Gray said the letter states that there is a greater chance the district may be downgraded in the future. The information shared by Ms. Campbell contradicts what was stated in the letter.

J. Campbell disagrees that the information shared did not contradict the letter.

B. Gray asked if she had the letter, and he would read it, noting that it says the district is rated negatively because it may be downgraded again in the future.

L. Abney feels that we should refer to the letter in the future. The district owes it to the community to be transparent.

J. Campbell shared that the letter says negative, and she chose to do further research to get S&P's meaning. She felt that negative was misleading because an A- is not necessarily a negative credit score, so she researched the S&P website for a definition.

M. Hines shared that board members are referred to as the whole board. She has shared that the community does not trust the board, and they need to be transparent. Also, Mr. Walsh did a fantastic job explaining the answer that she and the community have been waiting seven months to hear.

M. Neal shared that the committee reviews the detailed documents and provides a summary during the open meeting. They are not hiding anything; they share the information. Board meetings are not set up to read all documents but to provide a summary.

K. May shared that the request was made to the superintendent to share this information, which was left to Ms. Campbell because the superintendent could not make it.

L. Abney-Mitchell stated that information cannot be researched to make the meaning sound better.

M. Hines expressed that the district needs to stop the rumors. As board members, they need to be careful. Having specific information to give to the public is essential.

B. Gray stated a report was provided explaining what negative means. He would have preferred that the report that S&P provided would have been shared without adding a positive spin.

III. Recommendation to Purchase Bookworms Materials and Professional Development for K-5

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item III. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by L. Abney-Mitchell.

F. Weaver shared that the revised school code 380.1281a states that 35j funds are to be used for school safety, security equipment, and security training programs, and in certain circumstances, it can also be used to pay staff.

K. May shared that she believed he read 31aa; 35j is a Literacy Grant and can be used for materials and professional learning.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	5
NAYS:	1 (Weaver)
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	1 (Cox)

MOTION PASSED

IV. Recommendation to Purchase Summer Lit Bus Books

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item IV. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by K. May.

M. Hines feels that the Summer Lit Bus will help with learning loss over the summer.

L. Abney-Mitchell mentioned that the Summer Lit Bus is a positive summer program. The bus visits different schools, providing free books and activities for the students.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 6
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1 (Cox)

MOTION PASSED

V. Recommendation to Purchase SAM Lab Coding Kits and Professional Development

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item V. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by K. May.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 6
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1 (Cox)

MOTION PASSED

VI. Recommendation to Purchase SPHERO Kits and Professional Development

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item VI. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by K. May.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 6
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1 (Cox)

MOTION PASSED

VII. Recommendation to Approve Revision to Building Technology Purchase

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item VII. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by L. Abney-Mitchell.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 6
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1 (Cox)

MOTION PASSED

312.24 CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: NON-AGENDA ITEMS (GENERAL) – Gray

Melinda Harris complimented John Dignan, Kim Markey, Kate Brohl, Matthew Furca, Jana Babyak, and all teachers. She promoted more parent volunteer work and asked staff to open their minds to parent volunteers. Additionally, she shared that trying to get Dr. Dignan fired will not stop staff transfers. She also praised Ms. Swanson for her dedication to the district.

Music/Instrument program and staff concern:

Tracy Pham
Jayce Elmore
Cheri Elmore
Emily Ascencio
Adelaide West
Echo Post

AP Class concerns:

Echo Post
Andrew Raisanen

Staffing concerns:

Adelaide West
Barbra Bovia
Michelle Paich

313.24 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF WAYNE COUNTY REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY (WAYNE RESA) BUDGET RESOLUTION 2024-25 – Gray

Resolved, that the board approve the Wayne RESA 2024-2025 budget and waive the need to read the enclosed resolution. Motion by F.Weaver, support by M. Hines.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 6
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1 (Cox)

MOTION PASSED

314.24 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS – Dignan

No comments

315.24 REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS, BOARD OF EDUCATION – Gray

M. Neal shared the following comments:

- No comments

L. Abney-Mitchell shared the following comments:

- Mentioned that May is mental health month.
- Expressed that there is zero tolerance for bullying.
- Suggested that if someone needs help, they should seek it, emphasizing there is no shame in talking to someone when needed.
- Thanked everyone and gave a special thanks to the teachers.

K. May shared the following comments:

- Thanked the pledge students.
- Congratulated the Legacy Project winners.
- Mentioned that the board meetings have not focused on students, which concerns her.
- Stated that at a past meeting, she requested NWEA data by demographics and expected it this month, hoping to hear it at a later date.
- Congratulated the 2024 Seniors.

M. Hines shared the following comments:

- Thanked everyone for coming and Mr. Walsh for his presentation.
- Mentioned that the retraction at WDF Fire Academy was impressive.
- She was able to tour the Construction Trades home and see their hard work.
- Emphasized that the district needs to get the good news out.
- Spoke about the importance of the music programs, Upward Bound, and AP classes.
- Felt that the Legislative breakfast went very well and mentioned that the district needs funding.
- Expressed excitement about graduation.

- Shared that the Marching Band's performance at Ford Field gave her chills.

F. Weaver shared the following comments:

- Requested board members to make suggested changes to the Policy Committee.
- Thanked Mr. Walsh and asked that he email the suggested policy changes.

B. Gray shared the following comments:

- Thanked the pledge students and Wayne RESA for the presentation.
- Congratulated the Legacy Project winners and retirees.

316.24 ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, that the board adjourn the meeting at 10:42 p.m. Motion by M. Hines, support by L. Abney-Mitchell.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 6
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1 (Cox)

MOTION PASSED



Melandie Hines
Board of Education Secretary
Wayne-Westland Community Schools