

Agenda

317.24 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG – Gray

The pledge of allegiance was led by President Bradley Gray.

318.24 ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE – Hines

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

Board members absent: David R. Cox, Mark F. Neal

319.24 CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: AGENDA ITEMS – Gray

There were no citizen's comments.

320.24 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 adjourn to a closed session at 5:36 p.m. according to 8(h) [To consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.] according to the Open Meetings Act. Motion by F. Weaver, support by K. May.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2 (Cox, Neal)

MOTION PASSED

321.24 ADJOURNMENT TO AN OPEN MEETING – Gray

Resolved, that the Board of Education adjourn to an open meeting at 8:41 p.m. according to 8(h) [To consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.] according to the Open Meetings Act. Motion by F. Weaver, support by K. May.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2 (Cox, Neal)

MOTION PASSED

322.24 SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS – Dignan

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

- Congrats to the Class of 2024
- Thank you to all the staff who worked on commencements. The graduation ceremonies were incredible.
- Good luck tomorrow and rest of the week for our secondary students on their final exams.
- Families, thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your students. We are not perfect; however, we always have the best interests of our students in our hearts. Your active involvement in your child's learning journey has been instrumental in their growth and success. Whether volunteering in the classrooms, attending parent-teacher conferences, or supporting school events, your commitment to your child's education has been remarkable. Your encouragement and partnership have created a positive environment for our students. We would like to recognize our staff for their outstanding work each day working with our students on academic achievement and building positive student behaviors.
- Educators, you are the unsung heroes who ignite the flames of curiosity and knowledge in young minds. Your passion for teaching and commitment to fostering lifelong learning have left an indelible mark on our students. Thank you.
- We hope everyone has wonderful summer break.

323.24 CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: NON-AGENDA ITEMS – Gray

There were no citizen's comments.

B. Gray recommended the board follow 5.3 from the Code of Ethical Relationships for the Board of Education Members, 5.0 Principal V: Commitment to Serve Others Above Self, when mutual trust does not exist between the board and superintendent and when the board has adequately apprised the superintendent of any irreconcilable differences, a mutually acceptable termination is in order.

Motion Resolved, the board approve 5.3 from the Code of Ethical Relationships for the Board of Education Members to consult with the board's attorney to come to a mutually acceptable termination. Motion by B. Gray, support by F. Weaver.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked if Dr. Dignan would continue to work.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2 (Cox, Neal)

MOTION PASSED

Motion Resolved, the board approve placing Dr. Dignan on administrative leave until an agreement has been reached. Motion by B. Gray, support by K. May.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked what does that look like. Is he walked out and are his laptop and cell phone taken?

F. Weaver shared that there should be no communication.

B. Gray mentioned that he believes that Dr. Dignan uses his personal cell phone.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked about his access to the buildings.

B. Gray shared that typically, employees who are placed on administrative leave are not allowed on the premises.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2 (Cox, Neal)

MOTION PASSED

A. Ofili suggested that the board communicate openly with the executive team and asked what the next steps are.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared that the board would have to select an interim superintendent.

K. May suggested appointing Jen Curry as acting Interim superintendent.

Motion Resolved, that the Board of Education approve appointing Jennifer Curry as acting Interim Superintendent until one has been named. Motion by K. May, support by B. Gray.

M. Hines asked Ms. Curry if she would be willing to accept the position if the board votes to appoint her.

J. Curry said she would accept.

M. Hines shared that Ms. Curry has been in the district for a long time, knows the positions, and has confidence in Ms. Curry.

K. May seconded Ms. Hines's sentiments.

L. Abney-Mitchell also felt that Ms. Curry would do a great job and expressed that the board did not want to do this.

M. Hines shared that they have been getting a lot of comments from the community and this is the worst she has ever seen the district.

A. Ofili shared that the executive team was unaware of the expectations of this evening and felt that the board may want to include the executive team in discussions.

S. Tocco mentioned that with all the work the district has coming up, everyone needs to work together.

F. Weaver reminded Ms. Curry that if she is appointed, she is not to reach out to Dr. Dignan.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared that the board will communicate with the district and needs to be transparent. The community needs answers and must work together to move the district forward.

F. Weaver commented that the board has one employee, and some disagreements could not be reconciled. This board cannot operate with a gun to its head, and he hated that it came to this point.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2 (Cox, Neal)

MOTION PASSED

324.24 REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS, BOARD OF EDUCATION – Gray

L. Abney-Mitchell shared the following comments:

- Everyone needs to work together.
- Congratulated the Class of 2024 and complimented the amount of scholarships they received.
- Enjoy summer

K. May shared the following comments:

- Congratulated the Class of 2024
- Wished good luck to middle and high students on finals and hopes that the elementary students enjoy their last days.
- Is hopeful that Wayne-Westland students will take advantage of the summer events offered by the district.
- Shared that the decision made by the board tonight was difficult and the district needs to move forward.
- Thanked Ms. Curry for accepting and thanked the administrative staff.

M. Hines shared the following comments:

- Congratulated the Class of 2024
- The district offers some great summer programs.
- The board made a difficult decision this evening and has experienced a lot of pressure from the community due to financial distress.
- Wayne-Westland is a strong district and we will work together to get through this.

F. Weaver shared the following comments:

- His heart hurts from the decision made this evening.

B. Gray shared the following comments:

- Congratulated the Class of 2024
- The decision tonight was not made lightly and does not reflect upon the Wayne-Westland staff here.
- Appreciated Ms. Curry's acceptance of Interim Superintendent.

325.24 ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, that the board adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion by F. Weaver, support by L. Abney-Mitchell.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	5
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	2 (Cox, Neal)

MOTION PASSED



Melandie Hines
Board of Education Secretary
Wayne-Westland Community Schools