

Minutes

337.24 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG – Gray

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Bradley Gray.

338.24 ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE – Hines

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

339.24 CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: AGENDA ITEMS – Gray

Ryan Gibbs questioned where he can send his 4-year-old, who is too young for Young 5s, now that the district no longer offers the Sparkey program.

Jennifer Owens expressed her concerns that Act 18 is depleting the general fund. She questioned why there were no proposed cuts on the central office line item. She mentioned the proposed layoffs, asked how the district would obtain staff, and mentioned that the loss of teachers leads to the loss of programs, which will affect students. Jennifer urged the district to think creatively, such as stopping support for the senior center, selling Marshall, cutting central office pay, reducing overstaffed positions starting with the central office, renting out buildings, and using the print shop to generate revenue.

Michele Sample shared that she has not received answers to her questions and comments from previous meetings. She questioned why the district is sitting on \$10 million in the Sinking Fund, what it will be used for, and when the projects will begin. She also inquired why there are no cuts to the central office line item and mentioned that she does not see the tax levy being presented as likely to pass. Michelle requested more detailed numbers to show the progress and decline of the budget.

Laura DeMarco referred to the Michigan Benchmark presentation shared on May 20<sup>th</sup>, mentioning that the presentation made the General Administration spending, specifically Central Administration, not look so bad. She looked at the State of Michigan's school data and noted that 1.61% of the district's general fund is spent on General Administration, including the audit cost. The district spent \$150,000 on the audit, the second-highest amount spent on an audit in Michigan. She calculated a T score of 1.78, indicating that anything over 1.0 warrants attention.

340.24 CONSENT AGENDA

I. MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2024
- b. Special Meeting Minutes – June 04, 2024
- c. Special Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2024

II. HUMAN RESOURCE ITEMS

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

Tara Dreon  
Jon Haupt  
Michele Hunt  
Amanda Markham  
Patricia Ringe  
Michael Schuette  
Mary Sunisloe  
Paul Wilburn  
Diane Back  
Joseph Copland  
Boushra El-Dirani  
Rebecca Fox  
Rebecca Howard  
Dawn Noyes  
Armando Ozuna  
Nancy Urbanski  
Ashley Camarena  
Marlene Dean-Doran  
Sarah Krakowiak  
Valerie Murphy Goodrich  
Steven Rupert  
Wayne Welton

- b. Leave of Absence: Non-Instructional Personnel

Lisa Morales

- c. Placements: Instructional and Non-Affiliated Personnel

Christina Donabedian  
Diane Calderon-Stidham  
Zachary Feltner  
Jaden Johnson  
Gavin Marti

Matthew Richmond Jr  
Michael Smith  
Jessica Syc  
David Weaver  
Nathan Yorke

### III. BUSINESS & FINANCE ITEMS

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

### IV. DONATIONS

The following monetary donations were made to Wayne-Westland Community Schools Family Resource Center for students and families in need in memory of Michele Hunt:

- a. Michael and Nancy Chilcutt
- b. Earl Brown and Bonnie Stefko-Brown
- c. Laurie Alexsy-Weigandt
- d. Linda Merry
- e. Daniel and Amy Lynn Hornback
- f. Denise Gretz Ttee
- g. Laurel Jacobs
- h. Jackie Klein and Teresa Worthy
- i. Mary Rehberg
- j. Mary Wild Sanders
- k. Dennis and Elizabeth Bozyk
- l. Brian Boehne
- m. Klinton and Stephanie Kirshman
- n. William and Donna Sanders

The following donations were made to Wayne-Westland Community Schools Family Resource Center for students and families in need:

- a. We Care Group – Quilts and hygiene bags
- b. Kirk of Our Savior Church – Leggings and joggers
- c. William D. Ford Career Technical Center Students and Staff: Hygiene supplies

The following donation was made to Hamilton Elementary School:

- a. Operation Warm – Shoes for every Young-5, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student

V. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

a. Field Trips

- i. John Glenn High School 9-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Track and Field – Field Trip – [under separate cover]

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 0

MOTION PASSED

341.24 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, June 6, 2024, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. May, Mrs. Abney-Mitchell, and Dr. Weaver were present. Dr. Weaver attended the meeting as a substitute for Mr. Gray.

Mr. Brendan Walsh presented the fees for reports prepared by Michigan Benchmark as presented during the May 20th board meeting.

Mrs. Sumara presented several technology purchases and engaged in dialogue with the committee regarding devices that are close to the end-of-life stage and needing to be replaced. She also discussed the use of the devices at each grade span and the ways in which the district provides safe internet use for our students. The committee also discussed the various funding sources including ESSER, Act 18, 61a, and the general fund.

Mrs. Campbell shared the results of the school bus auction. She also explained the 2024 tax rate request that is coming before the board for approval.

Mrs. Campbell explained the food service contract that is coming before the board for approval. Mrs. Campbell said she would send the contract to committee members once approved by MDE to be reviewed.

Mrs. Campbell reviewed the 2023-2024 final budget by sharing answers to follow-up questions from the June 4th board workshop.

Mrs. Campbell reviewed the 2024-2025 original budget adoption. She also presented the investment report and check register.

Mrs. Campbell also explained information on borrowing through the Michigan Finance Authority.

Mrs. Campbell reviewed district subscriptions and renewals. Acting Superintendent Curry shared closing remarks along with board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

M. Neal asked for the minutes of the Finance Committee to be read into the record.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared that he had an opportunity to attend and excused himself from the board committees.

B. Gray shared that it is under separate cover, and Mr. Neal has a copy of the minutes.

D. Cox agreed and wanted the record to reflect that he wished to read the minutes.

B. Gray asked that the record reflect that Mr. Cox was obstructing the meeting and that three hours of meeting minutes would not be read.

## II. 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 30, 2024, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. May and Dr. Weaver were present.

Dr. Dignan shared a revised goal for K-5 reading. There was an extended discussion regarding the goal target of RIT growth versus projected growth as initially targeted. There was also a discussion regarding the use of the MASB tool and the evaluation process.

Dr. Dignan shared a revised goal for career pathways. There was a lengthy discussion regarding baseline and trend data.

Dr. Dignan asked a clarifying question regarding the necessary artifacts in preparation for the evaluation meeting. Dr. Dignan also expressed concerns regarding the evaluation process. Ms. May explained the process, purpose, and role of MASB as the facilitator since the tool has not been used as intended.

Committee members discussed the importance of working as a team, respecting the consensus, and moving forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

#### 342.24 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BUSINESS SERVICE & FINANCE – Campbell

##### I. Recommendation to Adopt the 2023-2024 General Fund Operating Budget Final Amendment Resolution

Ms. Campbell read the final budget into the record.

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item I. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by F. Weaver.

D. Cox asked Ms. Campbell what the final number would be to comply with the 5% that the state requires.

J. Campbell shared that it would have to be about \$7 million.

D. Cox mentioned that the district is \$4 million shy of meeting the 5%. The district has known about the issue and has done nothing to improve it, and he will not be supporting this budget.

M. Hines shared that the board asked for information for months and months and had not received anything. Since Ms. Curry took over, things have been moving. The district has been as low as 4% before and was able to fix it. To do so, the board must work together and suggested that any board member who cannot align with this effort should consider stepping down.

L. Abney-Mitchell agreed with Ms. Hines sharing that they have gotten a lot further in the last three weeks than they had in the previous year and suggested that any board member who cannot align with this effort should consider stepping down.

M. Neal shared that at least three board members at this meeting and another have asked him and Mr. Cox to leave. He believes this is because some members seek consensus, and not everyone agrees. He mentioned that the original plan to move the district forward financially was unpopular and made

everyone uncomfortable. Neal pointed out that much information has come to light since Dr. Dignan left but has yet to come forward. He emphasized that the board is about to vote on a deficit budget, which is against the law. He stated that while others may want them to leave, he intends to stay until his term expires.

Ms. Hines mentioned that when privatization of transportation was first discussed, she initially thought about kickbacks.

M. Neal pointed out that Ms. Hines suggested that there were kickbacks, but there was no evidence of that.

D. Cox shared that he has not been the board president for six months. There has been plenty of opportunity to take action. The district has known about the issue for a year but has not dealt with it.

L. Abney-Mitchell supports Ms. Hines's statement about privatization, which was suggested to take place in just three weeks without any process laid out. Regarding layoffs, the administration did not disclose how much the district would save. The administration promised community forums for input, but these did not occur. Ms. Abney-Mitchell emphasized that the board is here to serve the community.

K. May referred to the Act 18 funding comment and asked Ms. Campbell if she could address it. She questioned whether the district had to pay Act 18 from the general fund.

J. Campbell explained that a portion of the Act 18 funding is allocated through the district's state aid funding. She clarified that there was no shortage, but the district received the money explicitly for that purpose.

K. May clarified that it is like a flow-through.

B. Gray mentioned that in December, the board voted against two items because there wasn't sufficient information to make an informed decision. There was a presentation outlining steps that did not occur, and no other plans were provided.

M. Neal pointed out that the board is currently working with the acting superintendent and implied they were not working with the current superintendent.

B. Gray pointed out that Mr. Neal does not participate in any committees, attends no special meetings, and is not involved in private meetings with the superintendent.

M. Neal commented that he only missed a special meeting.

F. Weaver agreed with the board president. The superintendent was repeatedly asked for a plan to move forward, and this conversation occurred every week. Dr. Weaver emphasized prioritizing what is best for employees and programs while aligning the budget. He acknowledged that this would take work. Dr. Weaver disagreed with the comment that the board cannot adopt a budget that includes a deficit.

B. Gray shared that the district must adopt a budget by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Ideally, the district is supposed to adopt a budget of at least 5%; however, there is a process for handling a deficit budget.

M. Hines mentioned that there are ways to improve the budget and the board will continue to work on a solution. The budget can be amended at a later date.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

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

#### MOTION PASSED

#### II. Recommendation to Adopt the 2024-2025 General Fund Operating Budget Resolution

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item II. as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by M. Hines.

M. Neal emphasized that adopting the presented budget, which includes a deficit, is not advisable. State law, under Section 380.1220 – A school district, intermediate school district, or public school academy shall not adopt or operate under a deficit budget, and a school district, intermediate school district, or public school academy shall not incur an operating deficit in a fund during a school fiscal year. He suggested the immediate focus should be on programs to address the anticipated \$9 million deficit. Mr. Neal expressed doubt that cost-saving measures throughout the year alone would be sufficient to eliminate the deficit. He cautioned that this would only exacerbate the deficit regarding the proposal to borrow money at 4% interest. Mr. Neal stressed the importance of developing a basic financial plan rather than relying on borrowing. He warned that delaying action would only worsen the deficit, potentially leading to more layoffs.

D. Cox mentioned that many people talked about how the district overspent, but that was not the case. The district was spending money they believed they had, so it was essential to alter the future plan. A year ago, it was made clear



that time was of the essence. One idea was outsourcing transportation, which was declined. If you would like to blame the former board president and former administration for the \$4 million, fine, but the district is now up to \$16 million. The financial mismanagement is now happening and failure to deal with the economic issue has worsened. We could have had a budget that met the state recommendations and still saved. He proposed that the district cut 10% across the proposed budget. That is the appropriate way to address the issue.

Motion

Resolved, that the board approve a 10% cut on the proposed budget. Motion by D. Cox, support by M. Neal.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared that in the meetings about moving the district forward, Mr. Cox and Mr. Neal remained quiet, and then out here, they have all the answers. She mentioned that back in December, she made a motion that the superintendent and his staff take a pay cut and was told that was not allowed due to the fact that they have contracts.

F. Weaver spoke against the motion, ensuring that Mr. Cox and Mr. Neal know that the board has been pushing and shoving for information to make the right decisions. The acting superintendent has done more in three weeks than the board has seen in the last year. Mr. Cox suggested that the district cut 10% across the board without knowing how many departments, teachers, and programs would be affected.

K. May mentioned that Mr. Neal read the law about submitting a deficit budget but not in its entirety. The law also said that if a school district, intermediate school district, or public school academy has an existing deficit fund balance, incurs a deficit fund balance in the most recently completed school fiscal year, or adopts a current year budget that projects a deficit fund balance, then conditions must be met. The district has already begun to comply with the conditions.

M. Neal shared that it is obvious that we are not supposed to do it, but if we do adopt a deficit budget, we need to follow that plan. The minutes from the finance committee stated that the state would find out when we posted it. However, a listed condition was that we notify the state immediately. Mr. Neal hoped the community would not believe he was silent during the closed meetings.

D. Cox shared that he wanted to avoid a point of contention because the administration is providing the board with information. But if the board is indeed intent on taking immediate action, then he suggests that the board adopt a budget that allows the district to meet the requirements outlined by the state. It is irresponsible to adopt the budget as presented.

M. Hines asked if the district needs to submit a budget by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

B. Gray confirmed that the state requires the district to submit a budget by June 30<sup>th</sup>. He shared that it would only be realistic to amend the budget with some oversight. The template that the state requires due to the budget issue does not ask for numbers but a plan on how the district is going to fix the issue. A 10% cut across the board is a fantasy budget; there are probably departments that can use cuts more than others.

M. Neal shared that if we don't like the 10% across the board, let's do the work and figure it out.

B. Gray commented that we would be submitting a fantasy budget by taking a percentage off without a plan.

D. Cox proposed to put the ominous on the board and would have to sit down and do the work.

B. Gray shared that the CFO has made a recommendation to the board and does not understand why the board is questioning the recommendation.

ROLL CALL VOTE - 10% Cut

AYES:	2
NAYS:	5 (Abney-Mitchell, May, Weaver, Hines, Gray)
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION FAILED

Vote that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item II:

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

### III. Recommendation to Approve the State Aid Note Resolution

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item III. and waive the need to read the enclosed resolution. Motion by M. Hines, support by B. Gray.

J. Campbell shared an explanation and timeline for a state aid note.

F. Weaver shared that they sat on the finance committee, and this is the first time that I have heard \$40 million.

J. Campbell explained that he was correct because the workbook was not complete at that time. She was under the impression that, at that time, she did not believe that the district would have board support. This amount was determined by completing the workbook with the attorney. Mr. Crowley, who has presented to the board in the past, and is the attorney that we would use for this process.

M. Hines shared that sometimes you can have a loan and not use it but it can be there if needed for an emergency.

J. Campbell said that is true. As part of the workbook, the district would pay back three installments early if the cash flow allows.

K. May asked if the district would pay interest on the amount borrowed or the total amount of the loan.

J. Campbell shared that it would be for the total amount.

K. May shared her concern about borrowing \$40 million, not knowing if we will actually need it but having to pay the interest on it. She also inquired about who Mr. Crowley presented to.

J. Campbell explained that he presented to the board on another matter, not this particular subject.

K. May asked if the district could ask for less than \$40 million.

J. Campbell said that it can be less and will be less than \$40, possibly \$36 million.

K. May confirmed that the board needs to make a decision now.

J. Campbell shared that if the district plans to proceed with the loan, it needs to be submitted to the state by July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

K. May asked Ms. Campbell if she could share the progress of the workbook with the finance committee.

J. Campbell shared that the workbook stays the same, but she could present this along with the monthly budget.

K. May would like to see the progress of the loan.

D. Cox recognizes this needs to pass but recommends reducing it to \$20 million.

Motion

Resolved, that the board approve reducing the State Aid Note Resolution amount to \$20 million. Motion by D. Cox, support by M. Neal.

L. Abney-Mitchell mentioned that the district was looking to approve this tonight. How much do we need to pay the staff?

J. Campbell shared that there is only one window of opportunity to apply for this loan. The workbook suggests that we need to borrow \$36 million.

D. Cox shared that the \$36 million would be based on the approved budget, but it would be less if changes were made to the budget.

B. Gray clarified that even if there is a plan tomorrow, the district may not see the financial impact of the changes until after September.

M. Neal restated that adopting the deficit budget is a mistake without an immediate plan to eliminate it. We come to a meeting and talk about it, and nothing gets decided.

L. Abney-Mitchell commented that the district cannot make enough changes by June 30<sup>th</sup> to impact the budget.

K. May shared that she has concerns without being able to see the workbook to see what this looks like. With \$1.6 million in interest, I feel like we are blindly voting on it. I don't want to vote on \$20 million without seeing the workbook.

J. Campbell shared that she can get that to the board tonight if they give her a few minutes.

D. Cox agreed to withdraw his motion so the board could table the item and gather further information.

Motion

Resolved, that the board approve to table the Business Service & Finance Item III., Recommendation to Approve the State Aid Note Resolution. Motion by K. May, support by D. Cox.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 0

MOTION PASSED

IV. Recommendation to Approve the 2024-2025 Tax Levy – Resolutions (L-4029)

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	7
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION PASSED

V. Recommendation to Renew Food Service Management Contract contingent on the approval of the Michigan Department of Education.

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

K. May shared that they did not have the letter or the bid sheets. What happens if the state does not approve?

J. Campbell said in the past, if they did not approve by the beginning of the school year, she has filed for a 30-day extension.

K. May shared that she was inclined to request a 30-day extension because they do not have the documents in front of them.

J. Campbell mentioned in her experience that they have never denied, and we provided everything they required from the district. She assured the board would receive the documents momentarily.

D. Cox shared that last year, there was a discussion about our food service provider, but the relationship improved dramatically.

J. Curry believes that the relationship did improve; it was more about the options provided.

J. Campbell shared that, from her understanding, there was an issue with the food service provider shortly before she came to the district. Since then, a new director for Food Services has been hired, and he has been wonderful and responsive to concerns.

L. Abney-Mitchell mentioned that we may need to schedule another meeting.

J. Campbell assured the board that we are getting copies of documents for them.

D. Cox pointed out that the district has had a long relationship with them.

M. Hines highlighted that Aramark was the cheapest of the two bids received.

B. Gray asked what would happen if the board motioned for an extension. Could they decline the extension?

J. Campbell shared that it is too late to ask for an extension because it has to go through the MDE for approval.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked if the district currently uses Aramark and if their bid was included in the budget.

J. Campbell confirmed the district currently uses Aramark and that its cost was included in the budget.

B. Gray asked for clarification on which bid was used in the budget.

J. Campbell shared that Aramark was the bid amount that she included in the budget.

L. Abney-Mitchell mentioned that Aramark was added to the budget but has yet to be voted on; this is how mistakes have happened.

F. Weaver shared that there is a big difference between the budget and the budget projection. It was included in the budget because we need a food service.

B. Gray pointed out that Ms. Campbell has to project. He believed Ms. Campbell assumed the board would choose the cheaper option.

K. May mentioned that Ms. Abney-Mitchell's point was to try not to continue old practices. In the future, the board wants these items to be available ahead of time.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	7
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION PASSED

Motion Motioned for a quick recess at 8:47 p.m.

Motion Motioned to reconvene the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Motion Resolved, that the board approve the previously tabled Business Service & Finance Item III., Recommendation to Approve the State Aid Note Resolution. Motion by D. Cox, support by M. Hines. J. Campbell explained and shared the workbook.

Motion Resolved, that the board approve reducing the State Aid Note Resolution amount to \$20 million. Motion by D. Cox, support by K. May.

D. Cox shared that the district will be paying the loan interest immediately. The district needs to take control of its finances; it is already looking at a deficit of \$16 million and now it is essentially taking out a credit card.

M. Hines mentioned that it would be better to have it than not. The district needs to be able to make payroll.

K. May asked if the district were to borrow \$20 million now, when the next opportunity to apply would be.

J. Campbell shared that the district could apply in May for September. Ideally, we would be applying for a smaller amount.

M. Neal shared that it is not just 4% interest but 4.25%; if the district pays the three set-asides, the district saves \$80,000 in interest. He asked what would happen if the district borrows the \$20 million but does not pay any set-asides.

J. Campbell mentioned that according to the attorney, the state requires the district to pay the set-asides because we have not borrowed in the past.

B. Gray pointed out that the set-aside would be less if the \$20 million is approved.

K. May wants to avoid paying interest on money that the district may not need. She would like to find a happy medium, maybe not \$40 million, but not as low as \$20 million.

B. Gray asked if the district took out another loan next year, the funds would not be available in July?

J. Campbell agreed that he was correct.

M. Hines asked how contract negotiations would work with the budget.

F. Weaver questioned whether Mr. Cox would feel comfortable increasing the amount to \$27 million.

D. Cox said \$27 million is better than \$40 million. Either way the district needs to deal with the financial issue.

M. Hines pointed out that as far as the interest is concerned, the board approves millions of dollars at every meeting.

L. Abney-Mitchell mentioned the paid subscriptions and asked what amount Ms. Campbell recommends the district borrow.

J. Campbell shared that the proposed amount would be \$36 million.

M. Neal thinks it is crazy to borrow instead of making cuts. He feels that many jobs will need to be cut to pay back the additional \$2 million dollars in interest.

B. Gray shared that the budget has been approved and it is time to move on.

L. Abney-Mitchell encouraged the board to trust the CFO.

K. May asked Ms. Campbell, when she states \$36 million dollars, is that with the assumption based on the approved budget not considering any possible cuts?

J. Campbell confirmed that the amount was based on the completed workbook.

B. Gray reminded that the current vote is on the amendment to approve a \$20 million State Aid Note.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE – \$20 Million

AYES:	1
NAYS:	6 (Hines, May, Weaver, Abney, Neal)
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

#### MOTION FAILED

F. Weaver would like to make a motion to reduce the amount to \$36 million with the understanding that we will make necessary cuts.

Motion Resolved, that the board approve the State Aid Note Resolution with the reduced amount not to exceed \$36 million. Motion by F. Weaver, support by K. May.

K. May asked if the district would incur less interest if the loan were repaid early.

J. Campbell shared that the district will save with the set-asides.

K. May asked if that is as low as the district can go.

J. Campbell confirmed that is as low as the district can go.



B. Gray does not support the \$36 million because the district needs to make cuts.

M. Hines inquired about the difference between \$36 million and \$40 million.

J. Campbell shared that the amount borrowed would most likely be \$36 million, and the resolution stated that it would not exceed \$40 million.

M. Hines asked if the board is voting on \$36 million, and if so, they are voting as it was presented.

J. Campbell shared that if the board voted as presented, they would vote not to exceed \$40 million and the amount that goes to the state would most likely be \$36 million.

B. Gray shared that the district has no choice but to make cuts, so he does not support \$36 million.

M. Hines asked for clarification on whether the motion is not to exceed \$36 million.

F. Weaver confirmed that he proposed a motion not to exceed \$36 million.

M. Neal shared that if we borrowed \$36 million and could not give it back to reduce our interest. Since the district is spending money that we do not have, we should focus on the budget cuts.

D. Cox shared that the issue is not the interest; the issue is this time next year; the district will owe \$52 million dollars.

M. Hines shared that the district will lose another \$5 million dollars if Hedlee does not pass.

L. Abney-Mitchell explained that the district is trying to pass this because cuts will take time, and the district needs peace of mind that the bills and staff will be paid. \$52 million next year is a lot, but we are making a plan to make the cuts. The loan application has to be submitted now because it is already late, correct?

J. Campbell shared that the district started the process late. However, the attorney has until July to submit.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE – \$36 Million

AYES:	3
NAYS:	4 (Neal, Hines, Cox, Gray)
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION FAILED

B. Gray proposed to amend the state aid note resolution not to exceed \$30 million.

Motion Resolved that the board approve the State Aid Note Resolution with the reduced amount not to exceed \$30 million. Motion by B. Gray, support by K. May.

ROLL CALL VOTE – \$30 Million

AYES:	4
NAYS:	3 (Cox, Neal, Hines)
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION PASSED

Motion Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item III, Recommendation to Approve the State Aid Note Resolution, which has been amended not to exceed \$30 million dollars and waive the need to read the enclosed resolution. Motion by B. Gray, support by K. May.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Recommendation to Purchase District Technology

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item VI. as presented. Motion by L. Abney-Mitchell, support by K. May.

M. Hines asked if this would touch the general fund.

J. Campbell shared that the funds will all come from ESSER and Act 18.

K. May confirmed that the district will purchase 2,910 devices, not exceeding the \$602,615.66.

A. Ofili confirmed that was correct.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Recommendation to Purchase Building Technology

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item VII. as presented. Motion by D. Cox, support by F. Weaver.

M. Hines asked if this is a one-time purchase or if there are ongoing costs, such as licensing.

A. Ofili explained that he did not have the answer but could have Ms. Sumara get back to the board with that information.

F. Weaver shared that during the finance committee, it was discussed that the district could keep 35 licenses when purchasing these devices; the cost would have been much higher had the district not been able to keep them.

B. Gray asked what other things the grant can be used for.

J. Campbell shared that the grant is restricted to Career-Tech.

J. Curry shared that it can also be spent on required materials such as specific technologies and lab tables.

K. May believes that a portion could be used for salaries.

M. Neal believes that 10% could be used for salaries.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Recommendation to Renew Moysle Mobile Device Management

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item VIII. as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by K. May.

K. May shared that the finance committee had a lengthy discussion about technology approaching its end of life. A lot of testing is now online and the devices must be available.

L. Abney-Mitchell commented that most of the Wayne-Westland Innovative Academy students are online and require devices.

K. May asked who uses the Apple iPads.

J. Curry answered the iPads are for either use for grades 1-4 or K-4.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	4
NAYS:	3 (May, Neal, Gray)
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

#### MOTION PASSED

#### IX. Recommendation to Renew Fortinet, a Network Security Solution

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item IX. as presented. Motion by L. Abney-Mitchell, support by K. May.

M. Hines shared that security is important and asked if this was included in the budget.

J. Campbell explained that this item was not specifically listed but that cybersecurity is built into the budget.

K. May inquired about finding a grant that could fund this next year.

J. Curry shared that there has been discussion about possibly using title funds.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	7
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

#### MOTION PASSED

343.23 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF HUMAN RESOURCE ITEMS – Ofili

I. Layoffs: Instructional Personnel

Resolved, that the board approve Human Resource Item I. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by K. May.

M. Hines asked if the Police and Fire Academy Programs being created would be affected by this.

J. Curry shared that the district is reevaluating all programs and departments, but this item is not directly related to that program.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	5
NAYS:	2 (Abney-Mitchell, Cox)
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION PASSED

344.24 MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (MHSAA) - MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION – Ofili

Resolved, that the Board approve the Michigan High School Athletic Association Membership Resolution and waive the need to read the enclosed resolution. Motion by D. Cox, support by K. May.

K. May asked if there was a fee associated with this.

J. Campbell shared that there is no fee; it is just an annual membership.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	7
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION PASSED

345.24 REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE RESOLUTION – Campbell

Resolved, that the Board approve the Regional Enhancement Millage Resolution and waive the need to read the enclosed resolution. Motion by M. Hines, support by F. Weaver.

## ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 0

## MOTION PASSED

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

Tonya Karpinski shared concerns regarding past budgets and recent financial developments. In June 2023, the board approved a projected fund balance of 11% and a final budget with \$4.85 million expenses over revenue. Tonight's discussion focused on approving a deficit budget. It was mentioned that the board has only one employee, but there has yet to be action or accountability from this employee. The previous budget was approved despite knowing it would fall below the 15% parameter set by the board. Privatization of transportation was not on the agenda tonight or at any other board meeting; however, President Cox mentioned seeking RFPs in his closing comments last year after the audit. RFPs were sent out within 24 hours of his comments.

Laura DeMarco expressed concerns about the timing of board members' questions, transparency, and the renewal of the superintendent's contract, which included the payout of vacation days. She noted that some board members had been recalled from other boards in the past, felt that board members only became concerned when their reputations were at stake, and was disappointed in their behavior. She emphasized that the community has asked for answers, transparency, and better communication.

Jennifer Owens recommended that the board schedule a public forum to address the community's questions and ensure that inquiries receive responses. She acknowledged that some questions might remain unanswered.

Michelle Sample clarified that she misspoke about the tax levy; she intended to discuss the millage. She emphasized that the board of education represents the district and acknowledged community and staff frustration with current management. The community is holding the board accountable and inquired about the start of the superintendent search and potential online surveys. Addressed the dysfunction within the board and suggested it could impact administration, which is unacceptable. Michelle feels that the district's special education services are being destroyed and requested a copy of the report provided to the state for the State Aid Note.

### 347.24 ACTING SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS – Curry

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

Good Evening, last week, our Career-Tech Center hosted camps for elementary and middle school students. This week, BUSTing with Learning will visit district neighborhoods and elementary schools to distribute books, notebooks, and parent resources. In addition, our Food Services Department is coordinating the Meet Up Eat Up Summer Food Program, providing breakfast and lunch at various locations across the district for students. A heartfelt thank you to our staff who make these programs possible.

As we look ahead, we are taking active steps to address our financial situation. We are currently reviewing all programs and departments and will soon send out a survey to gather input from all stakeholders. Additionally, we plan to hold community meetings to gather further input. By late July, our goal is to identify areas for spending reductions based on the feedback from these meetings and the survey.

#### 348.24 REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS, BOARD OF EDUCATION – Gray

M. Neal shared the following comments:

- State law prohibits accepting a deficit budget, but if we do, we must report it immediately.
- In personal finances, borrowing money does not lead to financial improvement; it only exacerbates the financial situation.

D. Cox shared the following comments:

- This evening, the board had constructive discussions.
- He often feels like his voice is shouted down.
- A union representative mentioned this about the jobs in the district, but ultimately, it's about the students.
- The financial burden falls on homeowners.
- Some new homes have sold for \$440,000 in Westland.
- The district's financial situation affects the community.
- The board is committed to diligently working on a solution.
- He did not approve anything to put the district into \$46 million of debt.

F. Weaver shared the following comments:

- The community has expressed that they have been waiting for action and this board has already taken action.
- The board was promised a plan on June 4th and we acted when it did not materialize.
- A 10% budget cut across the board will not work because the board will be unable to predict who will suffer from this type of cut. The board needs to identify where to make the cuts.
- There has been increased transparency to the board in the last three weeks.
- We need to work together to fix the issue.

- When the board makes unpopular decisions, it is necessary to understand that the money has to come from somewhere.

M. Hines shared the following comments:

- Congratulations to Ms. Curry on doing an amazing job. She has been in the district for a long time and knows the history.
- She emphasized the need to think outside of the box.
- She stressed the importance of making decisions with complete information and understanding the whole picture.
- Thanked Ms. Campbell for the thorough job she is doing.
- Acknowledged that patience will be necessary.
- Expressed being impressed by the community and their research efforts.
- Assured that solutions are being actively pursued.

K. May shared the following comments:

- Thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.
- Expressed gratitude to the administrative team for their contributions.
- Noted that the meetings have been highly productive.
- Mentioned that numerous questions were raised during the board workshop and followed up on within days.
- Emphasized the importance of having opinions heard.
- Acknowledged that tough decisions lie ahead.
- Encouraged attendance at upcoming community forums and the community to participate in forthcoming surveys.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared the following comments:

- The board appreciates the support of the community.
- Acknowledged that tough decisions lie ahead.
- Encouraged everyone to take time for themselves and their families to enjoy the summer.
- Highlighted that June is Gun Violence Awareness Month.

B. Gray shared the following comments:

- Thanked Ms. Curry and the team for their efforts.
- Expressed gratitude to everyone for staying tonight.
- Acknowledged that while there isn't a plan yet, they are actively working towards one.
- Encouraged everyone to watch and hold the board accountable.
- Reiterated that the team is dedicated to achieving their goals.

349.24 ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, that the board adjourn the meeting at 10:24 p.m. Motion by M. Hines, support by L. Abney-Mitchell.



ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 0

MOTION PASSED

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Melandie Hines  
Board of Education Secretary  
Wayne-Westland Community Schools

Minutes

337.24 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG – Gray

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Bradley Gray.

338.24 ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE – Hines

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

339.24 CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: AGENDA ITEMS – Gray

Ryan Gibbs questioned where he can send his 4-year-old, who is too young for Young 5s, now that the district no longer offers the Sparkey program.

Jennifer Owens expressed her concerns that Act 18 is depleting the general fund. She questioned why there were no proposed cuts on the central office line item. She mentioned the proposed layoffs, asked how the district would obtain staff, and mentioned that the loss of teachers leads to the loss of programs, which will affect students. Jennifer urged the district to think creatively, such as stopping support for the senior center, selling Marshall, cutting central office pay, reducing overstaffed positions starting with the central office, renting out buildings, and using the print shop to generate revenue.

Michele Sample shared that she has not received answers to her questions and comments from previous meetings. She questioned why the district is sitting on \$10 million in the Sinking Fund, what it will be used for, and when the projects will begin. She also inquired why there are no cuts to the central office line item and mentioned that she does not see the tax levy being presented as likely to pass. Michelle requested more detailed numbers to show the progress and decline of the budget.

Laura DeMarco referred to the Michigan Benchmark presentation shared on May 20<sup>th</sup>, mentioning that the presentation made the General Administration spending, specifically Central Administration, not look so bad. She looked at the State of Michigan's school data and noted that 1.61% of the district's general fund is spent on General Administration, including the audit cost. The district spent \$150,000 on the audit, the second-highest amount spent on an audit in Michigan. She calculated a T score of 1.78, indicating that anything over 1.0 warrants attention.

## 340.24 CONSENT AGENDA

### I. MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2024
- b. Special Meeting Minutes – June 04, 2024
- c. Special Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2024

### II. HUMAN RESOURCE ITEMS

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

Tara Dreon  
Jon Haupt  
Michele Hunt  
Amanda Markham  
Patricia Ringe  
Michael Schuette  
Mary Sunisloe  
Paul Wilburn  
Diane Back  
Joseph Copland  
Boushra El-Dirani  
Rebecca Fox  
Rebecca Howard  
Dawn Noyes  
Armando Ozuna  
Nancy Urbanski  
Ashley Camarena  
Marlene Dean-Doran  
Sarah Krakowiak  
Valerie Murphy Goodrich  
Steven Rupert  
Wayne Welton

- b. Leave of Absence: Non-Instructional Personnel

Lisa Morales

- c. Placements: Instructional and Non-Affiliated Personnel

Christina Donabedian  
Diane Calderon-Stidham  
Zachary Feltner  
Jaden Johnson  
Gavin Marti

Matthew Richmond Jr  
Michael Smith  
Jessica Syc  
David Weaver  
Nathan Yorke

### III. BUSINESS & FINANCE ITEMS

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

### IV. DONATIONS

The following monetary donations were made to Wayne-Westland Community Schools Family Resource Center for students and families in need in memory of Michele Hunt:

- a. Michael and Nancy Chilcutt
- b. Earl Brown and Bonnie Stefko-Brown
- c. Laurie Alexsy-Weigandt
- d. Linda Merry
- e. Daniel and Amy Lynn Hornback
- f. Denise Gretz Ttee
- g. Laurel Jacobs
- h. Jackie Klein and Teresa Worthy
- i. Mary Rehberg
- j. Mary Wild Sanders
- k. Dennis and Elizabeth Bozyk
- l. Brian Boehne
- m. Klinton and Stephanie Kirshman
- n. William and Donna Sanders

The following donations were made to Wayne-Westland Community Schools Family Resource Center for students and families in need:

- a. We Care Group – Quilts and hygiene bags
- b. Kirk of Our Savior Church – Leggings and joggers
- c. William D. Ford Career Technical Center Students and Staff: Hygiene supplies

The following donation was made to Hamilton Elementary School:

- a. Operation Warm – Shoes for every Young-5, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student

V. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

a. Field Trips

- i. John Glenn High School 9-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Track and Field –  
Field Trip – [under separate cover]

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 0

MOTION PASSED

341.24 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, June 6, 2024, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. May, Mrs. Abney-Mitchell, and Dr. Weaver were present. Dr. Weaver attended the meeting as a substitute for Mr. Gray.

Mr. Brendan Walsh presented the fees for reports prepared by Michigan Benchmark as presented during the May 20th board meeting.

Mrs. Sumara presented several technology purchases and engaged in dialogue with the committee regarding devices that are close to the end-of-life stage and needing to be replaced. She also discussed the use of the devices at each grade span and the ways in which the district provides safe internet use for our students. The committee also discussed the various funding sources including ESSER, Act 18, 61a, and the general fund.

Mrs. Campbell shared the results of the school bus auction. She also explained the 2024 tax rate request that is coming before the board for approval.

Mrs. Campbell explained the food service contract that is coming before the board for approval. Mrs. Campbell said she would send the contract to committee members once approved by MDE to be reviewed.

Mrs. Campbell reviewed the 2023-2024 final budget by sharing answers to follow-up questions from the June 4th board workshop.

Mrs. Campbell reviewed the 2024-2025 original budget adoption. She also presented the investment report and check register.

Mrs. Campbell also explained information on borrowing through the Michigan Finance Authority.

Mrs. Campbell reviewed district subscriptions and renewals. Acting Superintendent Curry shared closing remarks along with board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

M. Neal asked for the minutes of the Finance Committee to be read into the record.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared that he had an opportunity to attend and excused himself from the board committees.

B. Gray shared that it is under separate cover, and Mr. Neal has a copy of the minutes.

D. Cox agreed and wanted the record to reflect that he wished to read the minutes.

B. Gray asked that the record reflect that Mr. Cox was obstructing the meeting and that three hours of meeting minutes would not be read.

## II. 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 30, 2024, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. May and Dr. Weaver were present.

Dr. Dignan shared a revised goal for K-5 reading. There was an extended discussion regarding the goal target of RIT growth versus projected growth as initially targeted. There was also a discussion regarding the use of the MASB tool and the evaluation process.

Dr. Dignan shared a revised goal for career pathways. There was a lengthy discussion regarding baseline and trend data.

Dr. Dignan asked a clarifying question regarding the necessary artifacts in preparation for the evaluation meeting. Dr. Dignan also expressed concerns regarding the evaluation process. Ms. May explained the process, purpose, and role of MASB as the facilitator since the tool has not been used as intended.

Committee members discussed the importance of working as a team, respecting the consensus, and moving forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

#### 342.24 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BUSINESS SERVICE & FINANCE – Campbell

##### I. Recommendation to Adopt the 2023-2024 General Fund Operating Budget Final Amendment Resolution

Ms. Campbell read the final budget into the record.

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item I. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by F. Weaver.

D. Cox asked Ms. Campbell what the final number would be to comply with the 5% that the state requires.

J. Campbell shared that it would have to be about \$7 million.

D. Cox mentioned that the district is \$4 million shy of meeting the 5%. The district has known about the issue and has done nothing to improve it, and he will not be supporting this budget.

M. Hines shared that the board asked for information for months and months and had not received anything. Since Ms. Curry took over, things have been moving. The district has been as low as 4% before and was able to fix it. To do so, the board must work together and suggested that any board member who cannot align with this effort should consider stepping down.

L. Abney-Mitchell agreed with Ms. Hines sharing that they have gotten a lot further in the last three weeks than they had in the previous year and suggested that any board member who cannot align with this effort should consider stepping down.

M. Neal shared that at least three board members at this meeting and another have asked him and Mr. Cox to leave. He believes this is because some members seek consensus, and not everyone agrees. He mentioned that the original plan to move the district forward financially was unpopular and made

everyone uncomfortable. Neal pointed out that much information has come to light since Dr. Dignan left but has yet to come forward. He emphasized that the board is about to vote on a deficit budget, which is against the law. He stated that while others may want them to leave, he intends to stay until his term expires.

Ms. Hines mentioned that when privatization of transportation was first discussed, she initially thought about kickbacks.

M. Neal pointed out that Ms. Hines suggested that there were kickbacks, but there was no evidence of that.

D. Cox shared that he has not been the board president for six months. There has been plenty of opportunity to take action. The district has known about the issue for a year but has not dealt with it.

L. Abney-Mitchell supports Ms. Hines's statement about privatization, which was suggested to take place in just three weeks without any process laid out. Regarding layoffs, the administration did not disclose how much the district would save. The administration promised community forums for input, but these did not occur. Ms. Abney-Mitchell emphasized that the board is here to serve the community.

K. May referred to the Act 18 funding comment and asked Ms. Campbell if she could address it. She questioned whether the district had to pay Act 18 from the general fund.

J. Campbell explained that a portion of the Act 18 funding is allocated through the district's state aid funding. She clarified that there was no shortage, but the district received the money explicitly for that purpose.

K. May clarified that it is like a flow-through.

B. Gray mentioned that in December, the board voted against two items because there wasn't sufficient information to make an informed decision. There was a presentation outlining steps that did not occur, and no other plans were provided.

M. Neal pointed out that the board is currently working with the acting superintendent and implied they were not working with the current superintendent.

B. Gray pointed out that Mr. Neal does not participate in any committees, attends no special meetings, and is not involved in private meetings with the superintendent.

M. Neal commented that he only missed a special meeting.



F. Weaver agreed with the board president. The superintendent was repeatedly asked for a plan to move forward, and this conversation occurred every week. Dr. Weaver emphasized prioritizing what is best for employees and programs while aligning the budget. He acknowledged that this would take work. Dr. Weaver disagreed with the comment that the board cannot adopt a budget that includes a deficit.

B. Gray shared that the district must adopt a budget by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Ideally, the district is supposed to adopt a budget of at least 5%; however, there is a process for handling a deficit budget.

M. Hines mentioned that there are ways to improve the budget and the board will continue to work on a solution. The budget can be amended at a later date.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

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

#### MOTION PASSED

## II. Recommendation to Adopt the 2024-2025 General Fund Operating Budget Resolution

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item II. as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by M. Hines.

M. Neal emphasized that adopting the presented budget, which includes a deficit, is not advisable. State law, under Section 380.1220 – A school district, intermediate school district, or public school academy shall not adopt or operate under a deficit budget, and a school district, intermediate school district, or public school academy shall not incur an operating deficit in a fund during a school fiscal year. He suggested the immediate focus should be on programs to address the anticipated \$9 million deficit. Mr. Neal expressed doubt that cost-saving measures throughout the year alone would be sufficient to eliminate the deficit. He cautioned that this would only exacerbate the deficit regarding the proposal to borrow money at 4% interest. Mr. Neal stressed the importance of developing a basic financial plan rather than relying on borrowing. He warned that delaying action would only worsen the deficit, potentially leading to more layoffs.

D. Cox mentioned that many people talked about how the district overspent, but that was not the case. The district was spending money they believed they had, so it was essential to alter the future plan. A year ago, it was made clear

that time was of the essence. One idea was outsourcing transportation, which was declined. If you would like to blame the former board president and former administration for the \$4 million, fine, but the district is now up to \$16 million. The financial mismanagement is now happening and failure to deal with the economic issue has worsened. We could have had a budget that met the state recommendations and still saved. He proposed that the district cut 10% across the proposed budget. That is the appropriate way to address the issue.

Motion

Resolved, that the board approve a 10% cut on the proposed budget. Motion by D. Cox, support by M. Neal.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared that in the meetings about moving the district forward, Mr. Cox and Mr. Neal remained quiet, and then out here, they have all the answers. She mentioned that back in December, she made a motion that the superintendent and his staff take a pay cut and was told that was not allowed due to the fact that they have contracts.

F. Weaver spoke against the motion, ensuring that Mr. Cox and Mr. Neal know that the board has been pushing and shoving for information to make the right decisions. The acting superintendent has done more in three weeks than the board has seen in the last year. Mr. Cox suggested that the district cut 10% across the board without knowing how many departments, teachers, and programs would be affected.

K. May mentioned that Mr. Neal read the law about submitting a deficit budget but not in its entirety. The law also said that if a school district, intermediate school district, or public school academy has an existing deficit fund balance, incurs a deficit fund balance in the most recently completed school fiscal year, or adopts a current year budget that projects a deficit fund balance, then conditions must be met. The district has already begun to comply with the conditions.

M. Neal shared that it is obvious that we are not supposed to do it, but if we do adopt a deficit budget, we need to follow that plan. The minutes from the finance committee stated that the state would find out when we posted it. However, a listed condition was that we notify the state immediately. Mr. Neal hoped the community would not believe he was silent during the closed meetings.

D. Cox shared that he wanted to avoid a point of contention because the administration is providing the board with information. But if the board is indeed intent on taking immediate action, then he suggests that the board adopt a budget that allows the district to meet the requirements outlined by the state. It is irresponsible to adopt the budget as presented.

M. Hines asked if the district needs to submit a budget by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

B. Gray confirmed that the state requires the district to submit a budget by June 30<sup>th</sup>. He shared that it would only be realistic to amend the budget with some oversight. The template that the state requires due to the budget issue does not ask for numbers but a plan on how the district is going to fix the issue. A 10% cut across the board is a fantasy budget; there are probably departments that can use cuts more than others.

M. Neal shared that if we don't like the 10% across the board, let's do the work and figure it out.

B. Gray commented that we would be submitting a fantasy budget by taking a percentage off without a plan.

D. Cox proposed to put the ominous on the board and would have to sit down and do the work.

B. Gray shared that the CFO has made a recommendation to the board and does not understand why the board is questioning the recommendation.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE - 10% Cut

AYES:	2
NAYS:	5 (Abney-Mitchell, May, Weaver, Hines, Gray)
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

#### MOTION FAILED

Vote that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item II:

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

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

#### MOTION PASSED

### III. Recommendation to Approve the State Aid Note Resolution

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item III. and waive the need to read the enclosed resolution. Motion by M. Hines, support by B. Gray.

J. Campbell shared an explanation and timeline for a state aid note.

F. Weaver shared that they sat on the finance committee, and this is the first time that I have heard \$40 million.

J. Campbell explained that he was correct because the workbook was not complete at that time. She was under the impression that, at that time, she did not believe that the district would have board support. This amount was determined by completing the workbook with the attorney. Mr. Crowley, who has presented to the board in the past, and is the attorney that we would use for this process.

M. Hines shared that sometimes you can have a loan and not use it but it can be there if needed for an emergency.

J. Campbell said that is true. As part of the workbook, the district would pay back three installments early if the cash flow allows.

K. May asked if the district would pay interest on the amount borrowed or the total amount of the loan.

J. Campbell shared that it would be for the total amount.

K. May shared her concern about borrowing \$40 million, not knowing if we will actually need it but having to pay the interest on it. She also inquired about who Mr. Crowley presented to.

J. Campbell explained that he presented to the board on another matter, not this particular subject.

K. May asked if the district could ask for less than \$40 million.

J. Campbell said that it can be less and will be less than \$40, possibly \$36 million.

K. May confirmed that the board needs to make a decision now.

J. Campbell shared that if the district plans to proceed with the loan, it needs to be submitted to the state by July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

K. May asked Ms. Campbell if she could share the progress of the workbook with the finance committee.

J. Campbell shared that the workbook stays the same, but she could present this along with the monthly budget.

K. May would like to see the progress of the loan.

D. Cox recognizes this needs to pass but recommends reducing it to \$20 million.

Motion

Resolved, that the board approve reducing the State Aid Note Resolution amount to \$20 million. Motion by D. Cox, support by M. Neal.

L. Abney-Mitchell mentioned that the district was looking to approve this tonight. How much do we need to pay the staff?

J. Campbell shared that there is only one window of opportunity to apply for this loan. The workbook suggests that we need to borrow \$36 million.

D. Cox shared that the \$36 million would be based on the approved budget, but it would be less if changes were made to the budget.

B. Gray clarified that even if there is a plan tomorrow, the district may not see the financial impact of the changes until after September.

M. Neal restated that adopting the deficit budget is a mistake without an immediate plan to eliminate it. We come to a meeting and talk about it, and nothing gets decided.

L. Abney-Mitchell commented that the district cannot make enough changes by June 30<sup>th</sup> to impact the budget.

K. May shared that she has concerns without being able to see the workbook to see what this looks like. With \$1.6 million in interest, I feel like we are blindly voting on it. I don't want to vote on \$20 million without seeing the workbook.

J. Campbell shared that she can get that to the board tonight if they give her a few minutes.

D. Cox agreed to withdraw his motion so the board could table the item and gather further information.

Motion

Resolved, that the board approve to table the Business Service & Finance Item III., Recommendation to Approve the State Aid Note Resolution. Motion by K. May, support by D. Cox.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	7
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION PASSED

IV. Recommendation to Approve the 2024-2025 Tax Levy – Resolutions (L-4029)

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	7
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION PASSED

V. Recommendation to Renew Food Service Management Contract contingent on the approval of the Michigan Department of Education.

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

K. May shared that they did not have the letter or the bid sheets. What happens if the state does not approve?

J. Campbell said in the past, if they did not approve by the beginning of the school year, she has filed for a 30-day extension.

K. May shared that she was inclined to request a 30-day extension because they do not have the documents in front of them.

J. Campbell mentioned in her experience that they have never denied, and we provided everything they required from the district. She assured the board would receive the documents momentarily.

D. Cox shared that last year, there was a discussion about our food service provider, but the relationship improved dramatically.

J. Curry believes that the relationship did improve; it was more about the options provided.

J. Campbell shared that, from her understanding, there was an issue with the food service provider shortly before she came to the district. Since then, a new director for Food Services has been hired, and he has been wonderful and responsive to concerns.

L. Abney-Mitchell mentioned that we may need to schedule another meeting.

J. Campbell assured the board that we are getting copies of documents for them.

D. Cox pointed out that the district has had a long relationship with them.

M. Hines highlighted that Aramark was the cheapest of the two bids received.

B. Gray asked what would happen if the board motioned for an extension. Could they decline the extension?

J. Campbell shared that it is too late to ask for an extension because it has to go through the MDE for approval.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked if the district currently uses Aramark and if their bid was included in the budget.

J. Campbell confirmed the district currently uses Aramark and that its cost was included in the budget.

B. Gray asked for clarification on which bid was used in the budget.

J. Campbell shared that Aramark was the bid amount that she included in the budget.

L. Abney-Mitchell mentioned that Aramark was added to the budget but has yet to be voted on; this is how mistakes have happened.

F. Weaver shared that there is a big difference between the budget and the budget projection. It was included in the budget because we need a food service.

B. Gray pointed out that Ms. Campbell has to project. He believed Ms. Campbell assumed the board would choose the cheaper option.

K. May mentioned that Ms. Abney-Mitchell's point was to try not to continue old practices. In the future, the board wants these items to be available ahead of time.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	7
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION PASSED

Motion Motioned for a quick recess at 8:47 p.m.

Motion Motioned to reconvene the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Motion Resolved, that the board approve the previously tabled Business Service & Finance Item III., Recommendation to Approve the State Aid Note Resolution. Motion by D. Cox, support by M. Hines. J. Campbell explained and shared the workbook.

Motion Resolved, that the board approve reducing the State Aid Note Resolution amount to \$20 million. Motion by D. Cox, support by K. May.

D. Cox shared that the district will be paying the loan interest immediately. The district needs to take control of its finances; it is already looking at a deficit of \$16 million and now it is essentially taking out a credit card.

M. Hines mentioned that it would be better to have it than not. The district needs to be able to make payroll.

K. May asked if the district were to borrow \$20 million now, when the next opportunity to apply would be.

J. Campbell shared that the district could apply in May for September. Ideally, we would be applying for a smaller amount.

M. Neal shared that it is not just 4% interest but 4.25%; if the district pays the three set-asides, the district saves \$80,000 in interest. He asked what would happen if the district borrows the \$20 million but does not pay any set-asides.

J. Campbell mentioned that according to the attorney, the state requires the district to pay the set-asides because we have not borrowed in the past.

B. Gray pointed out that the set-aside would be less if the \$20 million is approved.

K. May wants to avoid paying interest on money that the district may not need. She would like to find a happy medium, maybe not \$40 million, but not as low as \$20 million.

B. Gray asked if the district took out another loan next year, the funds would not be available in July?

J. Campbell agreed that he was correct.

M. Hines asked how contract negotiations would work with the budget.

F. Weaver questioned whether Mr. Cox would feel comfortable increasing the amount to \$27 million.



D. Cox said \$27 million is better than \$40 million. Either way the district needs to deal with the financial issue.

M. Hines pointed out that as far as the interest is concerned, the board approves millions of dollars at every meeting.

L. Abney-Mitchell mentioned the paid subscriptions and asked what amount Ms. Campbell recommends the district borrow.

J. Campbell shared that the proposed amount would be \$36 million.

M. Neal thinks it is crazy to borrow instead of making cuts. He feels that many jobs will need to be cut to pay back the additional \$2 million dollars in interest.

B. Gray shared that the budget has been approved and it is time to move on.

L. Abney-Mitchell encouraged the board to trust the CFO.

K. May asked Ms. Campbell, when she states \$36 million dollars, is that with the assumption based on the approved budget not considering any possible cuts?

J. Campbell confirmed that the amount was based on the completed workbook.

B. Gray reminded that the current vote is on the amendment to approve a \$20 million State Aid Note.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE – \$20 Million

AYES:	1
NAYS:	6 (Hines, May, Weaver, Abney, Neal)
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

#### MOTION FAILED

F. Weaver would like to make a motion to reduce the amount to \$36 million with the understanding that we will make necessary cuts.

Motion Resolved, that the board approve the State Aid Note Resolution with the reduced amount not to exceed \$36 million. Motion by F. Weaver, support by K. May.

K. May asked if the district would incur less interest if the loan were repaid early.

J. Campbell shared that the district will save with the set-asides.

K. May asked if that is as low as the district can go.

J. Campbell confirmed that is as low as the district can go.

B. Gray does not support the \$36 million because the district needs to make cuts.

M. Hines inquired about the difference between \$36 million and \$40 million.

J. Campbell shared that the amount borrowed would most likely be \$36 million, and the resolution stated that it would not exceed \$40 million.

M. Hines asked if the board is voting on \$36 million, and if so, they are voting as it was presented.

J. Campbell shared that if the board voted as presented, they would vote not to exceed \$40 million and the amount that goes to the state would most likely be \$36 million.

B. Gray shared that the district has no choice but to make cuts, so he does not support \$36 million.

M. Hines asked for clarification on whether the motion is not to exceed \$36 million.

F. Weaver confirmed that he proposed a motion not to exceed \$36 million.

M. Neal shared that if we borrowed \$36 million and could not give it back to reduce our interest. Since the district is spending money that we do not have, we should focus on the budget cuts.

D. Cox shared that the issue is not the interest; the issue is this time next year; the district will owe \$52 million dollars.

M. Hines shared that the district will lose another \$5 million dollars if Hedlee does not pass.

L. Abney-Mitchell explained that the district is trying to pass this because cuts will take time, and the district needs peace of mind that the bills and staff will be paid. \$52 million next year is a lot, but we are making a plan to make the cuts. The loan application has to be submitted now because it is already late, correct?

J. Campbell shared that the district started the process late. However, the attorney has until July to submit.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE – \$36 Million

AYES:	3
NAYS:	4 (Neal, Hines, Cox, Gray)
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION FAILED

B. Gray proposed to amend the state aid note resolution not to exceed \$30 million.

Motion Resolved that the board approve the State Aid Note Resolution with the reduced amount not to exceed \$30 million. Motion by B. Gray, support by K. May.

ROLL CALL VOTE – \$30 Million

AYES:	4
NAYS:	3 (Cox, Neal, Hines)
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION PASSED

Motion Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item III, Recommendation to Approve the State Aid Note Resolution, which has been amended not to exceed \$30 million dollars and waive the need to read the enclosed resolution. Motion by B. Gray, support by K. May.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

#### VI. Recommendation to Purchase District Technology

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item VI. as presented. Motion by L. Abney-Mitchell, support by K. May.

M. Hines asked if this would touch the general fund.

J. Campbell shared that the funds will all come from ESSER and Act 18.

K. May confirmed that the district will purchase 2,910 devices, not exceeding the \$602,615.66.

A. Ofili confirmed that was correct.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Recommendation to Purchase Building Technology

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item VII. as presented. Motion by D. Cox, support by F. Weaver.

M. Hines asked if this is a one-time purchase or if there are ongoing costs, such as licensing.

A. Ofili explained that he did not have the answer but could have Ms. Sumara get back to the board with that information.

F. Weaver shared that during the finance committee, it was discussed that the district could keep 35 licenses when purchasing these devices; the cost would have been much higher had the district not been able to keep them.

B. Gray asked what other things the grant can be used for.

J. Campbell shared that the grant is restricted to Career-Tech.

J. Curry shared that it can also be spent on required materials such as specific technologies and lab tables.

K. May believes that a portion could be used for salaries.

M. Neal believes that 10% could be used for salaries.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Recommendation to Renew Moysle Mobile Device Management

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item VIII. as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by K. May.

K. May shared that the finance committee had a lengthy discussion about technology approaching its end of life. A lot of testing is now online and the devices must be available.

L. Abney-Mitchell commented that most of the Wayne-Westland Innovative Academy students are online and require devices.

K. May asked who uses the Apple iPads.

J. Curry answered the iPads are for either use for grades 1-4 or K-4.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	4
NAYS:	3 (May, Neal, Gray)
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

#### MOTION PASSED

#### IX. Recommendation to Renew Fortinet, a Network Security Solution

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item IX. as presented. Motion by L. Abney-Mitchell, support by K. May.

M. Hines shared that security is important and asked if this was included in the budget.

J. Campbell explained that this item was not specifically listed but that cybersecurity is built into the budget.

K. May inquired about finding a grant that could fund this next year.

J. Curry shared that there has been discussion about possibly using title funds.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	7
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

#### MOTION PASSED

343.23 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF HUMAN RESOURCE ITEMS – Ofili

I. Layoffs: Instructional Personnel

Resolved, that the board approve Human Resource Item I. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by K. May.

M. Hines asked if the Police and Fire Academy Programs being created would be affected by this.

J. Curry shared that the district is reevaluating all programs and departments, but this item is not directly related to that program.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	5
NAYS:	2 (Abney-Mitchell, Cox)
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION PASSED

344.24 MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (MHSAA) - MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION – Ofili

Resolved, that the Board approve the Michigan High School Athletic Association Membership Resolution and waive the need to read the enclosed resolution. Motion by D. Cox, support by K. May.

K. May asked if there was a fee associated with this.

J. Campbell shared that there is no fee; it is just an annual membership.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	7
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION PASSED

345.24 REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE RESOLUTION – Campbell

Resolved, that the Board approve the Regional Enhancement Millage Resolution and waive the need to read the enclosed resolution. Motion by M. Hines, support by F. Weaver.

## ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	7
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

## MOTION PASSED

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

Tonya Karpinski shared concerns regarding past budgets and recent financial developments. In June 2023, the board approved a projected fund balance of 11% and a final budget with \$4.85 million expenses over revenue. Tonight's discussion focused on approving a deficit budget. It was mentioned that the board has only one employee, but there has yet to be action or accountability from this employee. The previous budget was approved despite knowing it would fall below the 15% parameter set by the board. Privatization of transportation was not on the agenda tonight or at any other board meeting; however, President Cox mentioned seeking RFPs in his closing comments last year after the audit. RFPs were sent out within 24 hours of his comments.

Laura DeMarco expressed concerns about the timing of board members' questions, transparency, and the renewal of the superintendent's contract, which included the payout of vacation days. She noted that some board members had been recalled from other boards in the past, felt that board members only became concerned when their reputations were at stake, and was disappointed in their behavior. She emphasized that the community has asked for answers, transparency, and better communication.

Jennifer Owens recommended that the board schedule a public forum to address the community's questions and ensure that inquiries receive responses. She acknowledged that some questions might remain unanswered.

Michelle Sample clarified that she misspoke about the tax levy; she intended to discuss the millage. She emphasized that the board of education represents the district and acknowledged community and staff frustration with current management. The community is holding the board accountable and inquired about the start of the superintendent search and potential online surveys. Addressed the dysfunction within the board and suggested it could impact administration, which is unacceptable. Michelle feels that the district's special education services are being destroyed and requested a copy of the report provided to the state for the State Aid Note.

### 347.24 ACTING SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS – Curry

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

Good Evening, last week, our Career-Tech Center hosted camps for elementary and middle school students. This week, BUSTing with Learning will visit district neighborhoods and elementary schools to distribute books, notebooks, and parent resources. In addition, our Food Services Department is coordinating the Meet Up Eat Up Summer Food Program, providing breakfast and lunch at various locations across the district for students. A heartfelt thank you to our staff who make these programs possible.

As we look ahead, we are taking active steps to address our financial situation. We are currently reviewing all programs and departments and will soon send out a survey to gather input from all stakeholders. Additionally, we plan to hold community meetings to gather further input. By late July, our goal is to identify areas for spending reductions based on the feedback from these meetings and the survey.

#### 348.24 REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS, BOARD OF EDUCATION – Gray

M. Neal shared the following comments:

- State law prohibits accepting a deficit budget, but if we do, we must report it immediately.
- In personal finances, borrowing money does not lead to financial improvement; it only exacerbates the financial situation.

D. Cox shared the following comments:

- This evening, the board had constructive discussions.
- He often feels like his voice is shouted down.
- A union representative mentioned this about the jobs in the district, but ultimately, it's about the students.
- The financial burden falls on homeowners.
- Some new homes have sold for \$440,000 in Westland.
- The district's financial situation affects the community.
- The board is committed to diligently working on a solution.
- He did not approve anything to put the district into \$46 million of debt.

F. Weaver shared the following comments:

- The community has expressed that they have been waiting for action and this board has already taken action.
- The board was promised a plan on June 4th and we acted when it did not materialize.
- A 10% budget cut across the board will not work because the board will be unable to predict who will suffer from this type of cut. The board needs to identify where to make the cuts.
- There has been increased transparency to the board in the last three weeks.
- We need to work together to fix the issue.



- When the board makes unpopular decisions, it is necessary to understand that the money has to come from somewhere.

M. Hines shared the following comments:

- Congratulations to Ms. Curry on doing an amazing job. She has been in the district for a long time and knows the history.
- She emphasized the need to think outside of the box.
- She stressed the importance of making decisions with complete information and understanding the whole picture.
- Thanked Ms. Campbell for the thorough job she is doing.
- Acknowledged that patience will be necessary.
- Expressed being impressed by the community and their research efforts.
- Assured that solutions are being actively pursued.

K. May shared the following comments:

- Thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.
- Expressed gratitude to the administrative team for their contributions.
- Noted that the meetings have been highly productive.
- Mentioned that numerous questions were raised during the board workshop and followed up on within days.
- Emphasized the importance of having opinions heard.
- Acknowledged that tough decisions lie ahead.
- Encouraged attendance at upcoming community forums and the community to participate in forthcoming surveys.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared the following comments:

- The board appreciates the support of the community.
- Acknowledged that tough decisions lie ahead.
- Encouraged everyone to take time for themselves and their families to enjoy the summer.
- Highlighted that June is Gun Violence Awareness Month.

B. Gray shared the following comments:

- Thanked Ms. Curry and the team for their efforts.
- Expressed gratitude to everyone for staying tonight.
- Acknowledged that while there isn't a plan yet, they are actively working towards one.
- Encouraged everyone to watch and hold the board accountable.
- Reiterated that the team is dedicated to achieving their goals.

#### 349.24 ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, that the board adjourn the meeting at 10:24 p.m. Motion by M. Hines, support by L. Abney-Mitchell.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 7  
NAYS: 0  
ABSTAIN: 0  
ABSENT: 0

MOTION PASSED



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Melandie Hines  
Board of Education Secretary  
Wayne-Westland Community Schools