

Minutes

100.25 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG – Gray

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Bradley Gray.

101.25 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.

102.25 CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: AGENDA ITEMS – Gray

There were no public comments.

103.25 CONSENT AGENDA

I. MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2024

II. HUMAN RESOURCE ITEMS

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

Carrie Durante
Brian McTaggart
Michael Shank
Ra Mon Watkins
Stephanie Wiersma
Jamel Griffin
Heidi Hinch-Ross
Saltanat Rassylkhan
Erin Bagley
Mary Bean
Joseph Copland Jr
Blake Grove
Keisha Robinson
Ali Saad
Samuel Sidorowicz
Mya Tooson
Darleen Vereeke

b. Placements: Administrative and Non-Affiliated Personnel

Stacie Bukosky
Matthew Furca
Scott Kelley
Mona Mallad
Natalie Kitchen
Ashley Nemeth

III. BUSINESS & FINANCE ITEMS

- a. Payment of Invoices [under separate cover]
- b. Investment Report [under separate cover]
- c. Cooperative Education Program Agreement – (Note: The agreements for the districts listed below are all the same except for changes in the school district name and authorized representative.) William D. Ford Career-Technical Center
 - 1. Allen Park School District
 - 2. Romulus School District
 - 3. Van Buren School District

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

104.25 BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Gray

- I. Policy Committee Report [under separate cover] – Weaver

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

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Trustees held a Policy Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Weaver and Ms. Hines were present.

The Policy Committee reviewed policy changes sent by Miller Johnson, reviewed the Annual Notifications and discussed policies pertaining to the hearing committee and student behavior.

The committee discussed revisions that may be necessary with the Board Operating Procedures and proposed a board workshop facilitated by the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB).

The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

II. 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 Monday, July 8, 2024, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

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

Mr. Montayne advised the committee that the above-ground storage tank soil removal cost will be covered by the insurance company.

Mrs. Pawlukiewicz presented a curricular resource for high school sciences that will be piloted by eight teachers in the fall. The resource is called OpenSciEd. There is a cost associated with the pilot for both consumable and non-consumable materials. Wayne RESA covers the pilot training. This will come before the board this evening.

Mrs. Curry shared the renewal quote for eduCLIMBER. eduCLIMBER was described as a student performance data platform that the district utilizes to disaggregate data, track interventions for academics and behavior. The district has used eduCLIMBER since 2020. The committee inquired about usage expectations and usage fidelity.

Mrs. Curry also shared the renewal of a supplementary resource used in the elementary buildings, Studies Weekly. The resource adapts to meet students' needs in both language and reading levels.

Mrs. Curry shared information regarding the renewal of NWEA, which is the platform we use for benchmark testing. The committee inquired about how the results are used and the testing schedule. The committee requested that the board and community receive multiple presentations regarding student performance data. Mrs. Curry suggested three presentations a year, September, January, and May based upon the test administration schedule.

Mrs. Campbell explained various fiscal reports, including graphs, that are similar in nature to the reports Mr. Walsh presented to the board to assist with monitoring the budget. The committee provided feedback and asked questions about the information presented. Mrs. Campbell also provided the State of Michigan State Aid Financial Status report and the State School Aid Update as a point of reference. The committee asked to receive this information moving forward.

Mrs. Campbell presented the Investment Report and Check Register. Mrs. Campbell also provided an update on the state aid loan process and the food service contracts approval from MDE.

Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. Curry provided a brief update regarding the approved State Aid budget and how our district is impacted. A budget amendment is forthcoming.

Mrs. Curry provided closing remarks.

The committee thanked Mrs. Curry and her team.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

III. Property Committee Committee Report [under separate cover] – Weaver

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

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Trustees held a Property Committee meeting on Monday, July 8, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Weaver was present at the meeting.

The Property Committee brainstormed several different ideas regarding the district's properties and buildings. It was discussed that Marshall is not worth much as it sits. The cost to demolish the building is approximately \$2.8M, and the empty lot would only sell for approximately a little more than \$1M.

The committee also discussed enrollment and staffing pertaining to building utilization.

The next Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

105.25 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BUSINESS SERVICE & FINANCE – Campbell

I. Recommendation to Consult with the Department of Treasury

The State of Michigan Department of Treasury sent a letter stating that due to the potential fiscal distress the district is facing, the district had two options. Option 1: enter into a contract for administrative review with Wayne RESA for a fee, and they would report quarterly to the Department of Treasury. Option 2: Work directly with the Department of Treasury at no cost and report directly to the Department of Treasury. The Department of Treasury will also provide technical support, strategic planning, data research for decision-making, financial analysis and projections, and board training to avoid a future decline in the fund balance. This method will allow the district to improve economic stability quickly. It is recommended that the board approve to consult with the Department of Treasury.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

106.25 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT – Tocco

I. Recommendation to Purchase OpenSciEd - High School Science Kits

S. Tocco asked Ms. Pawlukiewicz to explain the OpenSciEd pilot.

Ms. Pawlukiewicz shared that Wayne RESA initiated the pilot process late, and since most districts have lengthy procedures, we took volunteers for this pilot. Eight out of sixteen John Glenn, Wayne Memorial, and Innovative Academy teachers will participate. The pilot involves Phenomenon-based teaching, which uses storylines and inquiries to challenge students' thinking. Data will be collected and shared to demonstrate the impact on student achievement and clarify results.

Ms. May referred to the strategic plan and asked if the Department Heads could support it.

Ms. Pawlukiewicz shared that the Department Heads will be able to offer support.

Ms. Abney-Mitchell asked when the first set of data would be available.

Ms. Pawlukiewicz shared that the first data points should be available after the first semester, and student survey results will also be provided.

Ms. Abney-Mitchell asked for the cost to continue next year if the pilot goes well.

Ms. Pawlukiewicz shared that next year would be the most expensive due to the purchase of 8 new kits and 16 consumable materials. It might be approximately \$75,000-\$80000.

Dr. Weaver asked why this is needed and how it differs from the current science curriculum.

Ms. Pawlukiewicz shared that the science curriculum is now pieced together, and teachers teach different things. The district would like all teachers to teach the same curriculum continuously. The new style is student-centered instead of just the teacher delivering information.

Ms. May asked Ms. Pawlukiewicz if she could follow up with Wayne RESA to see if they could cover the cost of training the other eight teachers next year.

Ms. Pawlukiewicz explained that she had not done that but definitely could. She also mentioned that, based on her conversation with Wayne RESA consultant, Nathan Spencer, there has been significant interest in the program. Due to this high level of interest, she believes that Wayne RESA will continue the program next year.

Resolved, that the board approve Curriculum, Instruction, And Assessment Item I. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by F. Weaver.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 6
NAYS: 1 (Abney-Mitchell)
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

MOTION PASSED

II. Recommendation to Renew eduClimber

Resolved, that the board approve Curriculum, Instruction, And Assessment Item II. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by K. May.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 6
NAYS: 1 (Abney-Mitchell)

ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

MOTION PASSED

III. Recommendation to purchase Studies Weekly - Elementary Resource

Resolved, that the board approve Curriculum, Instruction, And Assessment Item III. As presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by K. May.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

IV. Recommendation to Renew NWEA

Resolved, that the board approve Curriculum, Instruction, And Assessment Item IV. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by K. May.

F. Weaver asked what NWEA provides to the district.

S. Tocco shared that the NWEA provides benchmark testing for all Kindergarten through Twelfth-Grade students. The State requires Math and Reading benchmark testing. NWEA provides Wayne-Westland with one common testing platform. The Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment team will present data from the testing early this fall to the board and community at an upcoming board meeting.

M. Neal asked what happens if this is not approved.

K. Pawlukiewicz explained that the district needs to conduct benchmark testing to qualify for specific grants. The State usually reimburses 50% of the cost of NWEA testing for Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. The district uses these tests to benchmark the effectiveness of interventions. The NWEA test compares our students to those of similar grades, socioeconomic levels, and ethnicities in the area. The data from NWEA is used for setting IEP goals; Nancy Schultz has shown that the numbers have improved due to the interventions and the platform is also used for teacher evaluations.

F. Weaver asked if tests are the same year after year or if they change.

K. Pawlukiewicz shared that the questions get more complex as students adapt to the questions.

M. Neal questioned whether another benchmark test was available. If there is, would the staff have a steep learning curve?

K. Pawlukiewicz shared that there are other tests; NWEA is used the most in the state and is the one that the teachers are most familiar with.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked if this was a yearly cost.

K. Pawlukiewicz shared that yes, and there are usually some reimbursements from the State.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

107.25 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF HUMAN RESOURCE ITEMS – Ofili

- I. Principal Adams Middle School
Stacie Bukosky

Alexander Ofili, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, read Ms. Bukosky's professional and educational background.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

Ms. Bukowsky shared that she is honored to accept this position and thanked everyone.

- II. Principal Hicks Elementary School
Matthew Furca

Alexander Ofili, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources read Mr. Furca's professional and educational background.

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

M. Hines shared that she is excited about Mr. Furca taking this position.

L. Abney-Mitchell congratulated Mr. Furca and shared her excitement as well.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Furca thanked everyone for the kind comments. He shared that he is happy to work with the Hicks team and students. He thanked Ms. Babyak and Ms. Brohl for their support.

III. Principal John Glenn High School Scott Kelley

Alexander Ofili, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources read Mr. Kelley's professional and educational background.

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

Ms. Hines shared that she is excited about these changes.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

K. Pawlukiewicz spoke on Mr. Kelley's behalf. He was unable to make it to the meeting but is excited about this position. He passed up other employment opportunities, hoping that he would be chosen as the principal at John Glenn.

IV. Executive Director of Special Education
Mona Mallad

Alexander Ofili, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources read Ms. Mallad's professional and educational background.

Resolved, that the board approve Human Resource Item IV. as presented.
Motion by D. Cox, support by F. Weaver.

Ms. Hines is excited to have someone with such expertise accept this position.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

A. Ofili shared that Ms. Mallad was unable to attend.

108.25 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BOARD OF EDUCATION

I. Board Policy Manual and Administrative Regulation Revisions/Updates – Ofili

F. Weaver shared that he had difficulty deciding and asked if the positions had been chosen.

A. Ofili shared that positions can be identified.

K. May asked what the positions are and shared that these positions need to be precise.

L. Abney-Mitchell motioned to table the Board Policy Manual and Administrative Regulation Revisions/Updates until the positions have been filled.

A. Ofili said he could get those positions if they would like to call a recess.

B. Gray asked Ms. Abney-Mitchell if she would like to withdraw her motions so that recess could be called instead.

L. Abney-Mitchell agreed to withdraw her motion.

B. Gray called a 10-minute recess at 7:40 p.m.

B. Gray called the meeting back to order at 7:50 p.m.

Dr. Ofili shared the positions as follows:

- 17.8 – Assistant Superintendant of Human Resources and the Director of Student Services
- 17.10 – Director of Maintenance and Operations (B&G)
- 17.11 - Executive Director of Technology

B. Gray asked for clarification on whether the option language was being accepted.

F. Weaver and A. Ofili agreed that the district would include the optional language.

- 7.13 – Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and the Director of Student Services
- 7.14 – Director of Communications

A. Ofili shared that the board will receive an updated copy of this document by the end of the day tomorrow.

Ms. May thanked everyone involved for putting the position together so quickly.

Resolved, that the board approve Board of Education Item I. as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

- II. Recommendation to Contract Services with Michigan Benchwork for Financial Analytics – May

Ms. May moved the board enter into a contract with Michigan Benchwork for Financial Analytics to improve the district's financial oversight for one year at a cost not exceeding \$10,000.

Resolved, that the board approve Board of Education Item II. as presented.
Motion by M. May, support by D. Cox.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

109.25 2024-2025 STAFF RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION DAYS – Ofili

Resolved, that the board approve the dates listed to recognize individual employee groups for the significant contributions they make to the overall success of our school district. Motion by D. Cox, support by M. Hines.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

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

Steve Conn introduced himself as the new WWEA Union President. WWEA does not have a contract yet; however, bargaining has been in better faith. The union and district are working together to reach a favorable agreement.

Laura DeMarco – shared that she has seen positive changes and attended all three Community Forums last week, expressing her appreciation. She thanked Ms. Curry and complimented her on a fantastic job. The commitment and atmosphere were evident. She also thanked the district for answering questions at the Community Forum. Regarding the reopening of Café Marquette, it was mentioned that a calendar with public dates will be released in the fall.

111.25 ACTING SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS – Curry

Mr. Gray shared that Ms. Curry had a pre-planned vacation but provided the following prepared statement:

I want to thank everyone who has taken the survey and attended our Community Engagement Meetings. This is a challenging time, and your input is invaluable as we work together to make informed decisions. We are committed to being transparent and ensuring that our community is informed every step of the way.

The survey is open until July 19th, and we continue to review all the feedback, assess costs, and evaluate the effectiveness of departments and programs as we plan for the upcoming Board of Education workshop on August 1st. During the workshop, we will review all the feedback, costs of programs, staffing, facilities, and departments to define areas to reduce costs. We will also share this information at the August Board of Education meeting. Additionally, we will continue to add to our FAQ as more questions arise, which you can view on our website.

112.25 REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS, BOARD OF EDUCATION – Gray

K. May shared the following comments:

- Thanked everyone for coming and for the positive comments.
- Congratulated Ms. Bukosky, Mr. Furca, Mr. Kelley, Ms. Mallad, and Mr. Conn on their new positions. She likes the idea that the district is promoting from within.
- She mentioned that it is not easy to decide what curriculum is needed and what the district might be able to wait on.

M. Neal shared the following comments:

- Reminded the community that the deadline for applying to run for the board is in 8 days and encouraged them to apply.

M. Hines shared the following comments:

- Enjoys the positive changes that are taking place:
 - The meetings
 - Committees
 - Café' Marquette
- She likes the possibility of sharing the planetarium with other districts.
- Ms. Hines is also excited to work with the state to get everything back on track.
- Shared that on Thursday's Tatum Park offers free Jazz music and a farmer's market.

D. Cox shared the following comments:

- Congratulated Mr. Conn on his new position and thanked him for the constructive comments.
- Mr. Cox addressed Dr. Weaver and shared that he had a conflict with the time of the last Policy Committee meeting and had asked him to adjust it. He mentioned that he does wish to continue on the Policy Committee.

F. Weaver shared the following comments:

- Thanked the community for moving forward together.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared the following comments:

- There were no comments.

B. Gray shared the following comments:

- Congratulated Ms. Bukosky, Mr. Furca, Mr. Kelley, and Ms. Mallad on their new positions and shared that it was nice to move forward with internal candidates for the open positions.
- Thanked Ms. Curry and team for the hard work being done.
- It was mentioned that Ms. Campbell was able to work with the Department of Education to spread the Canton taxes over four years.
- There were millions of dollars in savings; these were not factored in positions that were factored into the original budget.
- Thanked everyone for coming.

113.25 ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, that the board adjourn the meeting at 8:08p.m. Motion by M.Hines, Support by F. Weaver.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

Melandie Hines
Board of Education Secretary
Wayne-Westland Community Schools