Special Meeting of the Board of Education Wayne-Westland Community Schools Thursday, September 12, 2024 5:30 p.m. 36745 Marquette St, Westland, MI 48185

## Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President, Bradley Gray at 5:31 p.m.

155.25 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG – Gray

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Bradley Gray.

156.25 ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE – Hines

Board members present: LeWanna Abney-Mitchell, Bradley Gray, Melandie Hines (arrived at 6:12 pm), Kimberly R. May, Frederick L. Weaver, Th.D.

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

157.25 CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: AGENDA ITEMS – Gray

There were no public comments.

- 158.25 FINANCE COMMITTEE REVIEW & DISCUSSION
  - I. STRONGER CONNECTIONS GRANT PURCHASE Pawlukiewicz

Kim Pawlukiewicz, Executive Director of HS Curriculum/Instruction and State and Federal Programs shared that Wayne-Westland Community Schools partnered with Wayne RESA for the Stronger Connections Grant. This is a reimbursable grant; the district will cover the cost initially and then submit for reimbursement from Wayne RESA. The district will receive funds for Care Solace, Munetrix, and Attendance Works. Equitable partners such as the private schools in our district will share a portion of this grant.

F. Weaver asked what fund will these purchases come out of.

J. Clair shared that all checks will be issued from the general fund.

F. Weaver asked if the money would go back to the general fund when it is reimbursed.

- J. Clair confirmed that the money would be returned to the general fund.
- K. May questioned if Concentric was used last year for attendance.

K. Pawlukiewicz shared that the contract was expensive and the district choose to go with a different option.

K. May asked if there was any data collected from Concentric and if the board members could see that.

K. Pawlukiewicz shared that there is in data that could be shared.

J. Curry mentioned that Concentric was not cost effective to sustain.

K. Pawlukiewicz shared that all three programs being covered in this grant are less than what the district was paying for Concentric.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked for clarification as to how long this grant will last.

K. Pawlukiewicz shared that the district has Care Solace through February 2025 and this grant will cover the cost through the 2025-2026 school year.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked if the district was paying for it now.

K. Pawlukiewicz shared that it was paid for out of the 31a and now Wayne RESA will pay for it through the 2025-2026 school year.

L. Abney-Mitchell questioned what St. Michaels Lutheran was.

K. Pawlukiewicz shared that St. Mathews, St. Michaels and Hope Christian are all private schools within our districts, and the district has to offer them an equitable share.

## II. SALT TRUCK PURCHASE – Tocco & Montayne

Geno Montayne, Director of Maintenance and Operations, shared information for review and requested approval for the purchase to replace the 2007 salt truck. The purchase has already been included in the budget for this year. Once salt the truck is received we will ask for permission to auction off the 2007 current salt truck and the funds would then be returned to the general fund.

F. Weaver shared that he looked on the internet and seen these trucks starting at \$65,000.

G. Montayne shared that it also includes the spreader, lights and extras in addition to the base model that starts at \$65,000.

F. Weaver asked about the \$14,000.

G. Montane explained that the \$14,000 is the salt spreader itself.

F. Weaver asked if there were other estimates.

G. Montayne shared that he went with Bill Brown Ford.

F. Weaver questioned the price of the truck being \$104,000 before the extras.

G. Montayne shared that is the truck and the aluminum bed.

F. Weaver questioned if it was a dump truck.

G. Montayne confirmed that yes it was a dump truck.

K. May questioned how many salt trucks does the district have now.

G. Montayne shared that the district currently has 2, a 2007 and 2016. At this time, they are requesting the replacement of the 2007, which is near end of life.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked if the truck has other uses.

G. Montayne shared that the salt spreader can be removed, allowing for the use for a dump truck for dirt, trees, and ect.

F. Weaver asked if the truck has a plow.

G. Montayne shared that it does not have a plow, but the district does have plow trucks.

## III. TECHNOLOGY – Sumara & Beebe

a. E-Rate (Informational)

Jacinda Sumara, former Executive Director of Technology and Innovation and Daryl Beebe, Executive Director of Technology and Innovation shared the e-Rate information. This information is being shared at the request of the board that potential bids are shared with the board before going out for RFP. The district has \$763,319 available for e-Rate and the district is required to match 15%. The 15% match can come from general, bond, or sinking funds. The district plans to pursue internal cabling at select properties, specifically secondary buildings due to the age of that equipment. The district will be able to get approximately a million dollars' worth of equipment for about \$150,000.

K. May asked if this is separate from the wireless access points that the district talked about last October.

J. Sumara explained that the district did one project last year and one project this year, splitting it in half. The projects are almost complete.

The access points are in and special passwords will no longer be needed in buildings. The Wi-Fi is stronger and we will have less concern about the internet failing during testing.

K. May asked what cabling is.

J. Sumara explained that there is cabling inside the buildings connecting to the outside access points, the cabling connects the Independent Distribution Frame (IDF) throughout the buildings. There was a 10-year forecast included in this packet that outlines when we should replace cabling.

- b. iPad Carts Elementary
- c. iPad Carts MS
- d. Chromebook Carts MS

J. Sumara shared that b., c., and d. should be grouped together. These items are help address the districts 1:1 initiative. The district has not had the funding to address this properly and has pursued grants trying to obtain the funds. Technology hopes for approval, using ESSER and GEER funds to redistribute technology in the following manner:

- i. iPads have been collected and are going to be distributed to Kindergarten, but they will need iPad carts.
- ii. Chromebooks are going to be distributed 1:1 in elementary buildings. All core subjects will have chromebooks available every day. The elective classes will have access to Chromebook.
- iii. Middle Schools will receive the carts of Chromebook from kindergarten classrooms.
- iv. High School will remain 1:1.

K. May shared that she looked through the technology plan and when we talk about 1:1 device, she would like to know how they will be used in the classrooms.

J. Sumara shared that Technology collaborated with staff to identify their needs. Technology is working with Instruction to get the iPads loaded with the appropriate apps. Some teachers have received training through Apple and technology focused on internal professional development for teacher learning. She mentioned that the STEM Center also has devices for students.

K. May shared that she thinks of devices as a tool and not students using them for apps/websites. She would like to hear how they are using technology for instruction. J. Sumara mentioned that the district is using technology for a creative space. Offering the students, a different way to demonstrate to model their skills.

F. Weaver shared that he has walked by classrooms that had devices out and some that have not. He questioned if there is data that shows how often devices are being used.

J. Samara shared that we can use Clever and Learn Platform to collect data.

F. Weaver questioned if it was fair to say that some teachers do not use them at all

J. Samara shared that would hard to believe that teachers would not use them at all. Testing is all virtual and science has a virtual piece as well.

J. Curry shared that teachers know that having students looking at screens all day long it is not best practice, there is a balance between using technology and not using technology.

B. Gray mentioned that the people that are in the room have shook their head yes, as though there are teachers that do not use them. He also, wanted to know how old are the iPads.

J. Sumara shared two years and feels that they will last another few years. Technology did look into the option of selling the iPads and received quote of \$95.00 apiece. However, the devices cannot be sold for five months due to the grant they were purchased with. The elementary instruction team feel that this is the right device to support their students.

B. Gray shared that new iPads do not use lightening chargers, which the carts being purchased are equipped with. Therefore, if new devices are purchased down the line the cart will not be able to charge them.

J. Sumara shared that there are a few companies that can rewire the carts for a few hundred dollars.

K. May questioned since these devices are heavily used in the class, is there a plan to purchase when they need to be refreshed, since ESSER funds will no longer be available.

J. Sumara shared that the district might consider including technology in the bond proposal.

K. May shared that she did not see it on the plan.

J. Sumara shared that she spaced it throughout several years.

K. May would like to see the plan from curriculum and the data around integration of technology in the classroom. She would like to see the instructional piece of how the devices are being used.

L. Abney-Mitchell would also like to see the learning component and data. She also mentioned the M-Step scores are lower than others school districts in the area. How will technology help the kindergarteners? How do we get past the students thinking that these devices are toys.

M. Hines asked how the district could collect money from the parents for missing and broken devices.

J. Sumara shared that the district was able to recoup some funds. Especially, when a student was about to graduate. These funds were channeled back to the general fund and technology was unaware that these funds were collected. Since then, a new program called Revtrack and an internal account was created for each building to collect funds. She also shared with the leadership team last week a scale showing how much it would cost to repair/replace devices. Revtrack allows the parent/student to pay the fine online and technology would look at the quarterly collections and evaluate what needs to be purchased to replace items for the building.

M. Hines asked if the money would be used to purchase new devices.

M. Sumara share that it would have to be spent on repair and it should be spent in that same year.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked how the district will recover technology from a student that is no longer in the district. Also, do we offer waivers to students that cannot afford the fee.

J. Sumara mentioned that would have to be a leadership decision. Some districts look at their free/reduced lunch forms to offer reduced fees.

L. Abney-Mitchell suggested that maybe the students can work some of the fees off.

K. May would like to see the correlation between curriculum and technology, before voting on these items.

J. Sumara mentioned that the Chromebook carts have the new universal chargers.

## e. Student Devices

J. Sumara shared that technology is requesting to purchase 3,574 Chromebook that come with licenses and no touch service. The no touch service will allow for the devices to be ready for use once the box is open. This will allow for less time to be spent on set up of devices from the technology team. This purchase will allow for enough Chromebook to keep the fleet stable until technology can be added to the bond. This will also fill in the gaps this year, add to repository to replace damage and lost devices. The district no longer has a testing fleet as back up. Since we are getting them in now, they will be all set up, principals will know that these are being delivered and ready to use. Gives more flexibility to welcome students and them have what they need to be successful.

K. May asked how many devices purchased this year and how much was spent.

J. Sumara answered about 3,000.

K. May would like the actual number as a follow up.

J. Sumara that is about right 3,000-4,000 a year.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked about the life of the device.

J. Sumara shared that Google states that they can last up to ten years, but really, they last about four years.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked if every year we should expect to replace about 3,000 devices.

J. Sumara shared that would be advised.

M. Hines asked if there is protection against a cyber-attack.

J. Sumara shared that this is not a huge concern with Chromebook. However, there are things that we have in place to protect us such Fortinet and Harmony.

B. Gray asked if we have looked into the lease options.

J. Shared shared that she likes the lease option, but not really for Chromebook. It would be something to look into the future for staff devices. The district would need a good plan in place because there will probably be some overlap when you start a new lease and the old lease is not up.

f. Resale of Broken Technology Equipment

J. Sumara recommended that the district partner with K-12 Tech. Technology would package up broken devices and send them to K-12 Tech, they will give credit or cash for the devices/parts. If we use the buyback we will recoup \$12 per device.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked what this service would cost.

J. Sumara shared that it does not cost the district anything as K-12 Tech will make their money off the resale of parts they are able salvage.

K. May asked what the 2% is in reference to.

J. Sumara shared that they take 2% off the credit that they would give us.

B. Gray asked for clarification of who does the repairs now.

J. Sumara shared that there is currently a vacant position in technology called Chromebook Repair Lead. Chromebook repair in some districts are done by students in student-based learning or a low-level position. In our district it has been one person at the top of the BOSS pay scale. It is a dead end position that does not allow a person to grow. She would recommend that they take a look at that position.

B. Gray asked if this position has been discussed with BOSS.

A. Ofili shared they would have to work with the union on this position.

B. Gray asked if that needs to be cleared before this is bought to a vote on outsourcing this work.

J. Sumara shared that even if the position is going to be filled, she felt that it would be best not to burden the new employee with this uphill battle.

B. Gray wants to make sure that the union would be in agreeance.

A. Ofili agreed that it would need to be discussed.

g. Staff Devices

J. Sumara is a requesting to purchase staff devices in the amount of \$292,266.02. These devices are at end of life and will help the district get over a gap. Technology and Human Resources have been collaborating with how a staff member is onboarded. After the clearance of the background check, they will then come to technology to get a badge and device assigned to them. Making sure they have all the programs needed for their position and training with equipment.

B. Gray shared that it sounds like a great idea

h. Uninterrupted Power Supplies

J. Sumara is requesting approval for Uninterrupted Power Supplies to protect the independent frames when the power goes out. These would act similar to a generator for the internet. This will be the newest technology and run on lower voltage, it should stay running better than the older technology when power is lost. She also mentioned that batteries in the current units are bulging and that is unsafe.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked how much the cost would be.

J. Sumara share \$254,447.60

L. Abney-Mitchell asked if this is a onetime payment and what fund it was being paid out of.

J. Sumara shared that this being paid out of the ESSER Relief Funds.

i. Lavalier Microphone Replacements

J. Sumara shared that these allow the students to hear the teacher and is under board threshold. The ones the district uses are very nice and even have an emergency button. This will allow the district to also have replacement parts to keep them functioning.

j. Access Points

J. Sumara shared that technology has found a few areas in buildings that could use more coverage and have a few spares for backup.

B. Gray questioned where the funds would be coming from.

J. Sumara shared that it will be coming from ESSER funds and mentioned that everything is coming from grants, except \$150,000.

K. May asked about the virtual days in the event of Act of God days. Is this why we need to be 1-1. Does the district have hotspots for students whom may not have access.

J. Curry shared that if we were doing a virtual day, the new guidelines say that all students would have to use a device. If may be difficult to use these days, we could use them if it was pre-planned.

J. Sumara shared that the district does not have a lot of hotspots. She has monitored the hotspots and they were barely used. There is a challenge to using hot spots, there is a program that has to be used while using a hotspot. As an alternative she recommends that the district comes up with a list of places that offer free access to provide to the parents.

M. Hines shared that at one time they used the buses, how did that work.

S. Tocco shared that we had purchased mobile hotspots and they have since then expired. The was a substantial cost to provide hotspots, it would be difficult moving forward.

K. May shared that the district is asking to spend \$3m on technology but then they cannot be used outside the district. We are not removing barriers for the students.

S. Tocco shared that going 1:1 is going to be difficult for many districts. A lot of text books and materials are located on the devices.

K. May shared that she is not trying to dismiss Ms. Sumara's efforts and appreciates her work.

J. Surmara shared that we are able to make classrooms stable which in turn creates equity and inclusion in the classroom space.

K. May textbooks are on these devices

S. Tocco shared not all textbooks are on the devices but some are.

J. Sumara shared that even if it is not, there are components to support textbooks online.

K. May needs the clear plan and it needs to be presented at the board meeting. We need to be very clear to the community on the plan.

M. Hines asked how are our relationship with Xfinity. Maybe we can get them to share Wi-Fi with the families.

J. Sumara shared that the FRC shares the internet access plan that cost about \$23.99 a month.

M. Hines shared it can be struggle for families who cannot afford it.

J. Sumara shared that maybe we could educate the families about hotspots on their phones.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared that the community does not believe that we are going to be 1-1. We need to be more transparent.

S. Tocco shared that a lot of the purchases were for devices to be used in the classroom. The purchases are needed and they are being used. Students having access to Wi-Fi outside of the buildings is a bigger issue. We have had conversations of not being 1-1 in lower level buildings. We have an issue throughout the country for students to be able to access Wi-Fi outside the buildings.

J. Curry shared that 1-1 would be that every student has access to a device in the buildings. This does not mean that these devices are going home. We need to make sure they are available in the classrooms.

A.Ofili shared that we are having the discussions with the staff to make sure they are the right devices.

M. Hines shared that the homework does not need to be on the device.

- J. Curry shared that we need find a balance between the two.
- J. Sumara turned it over to Mr. Beebe.

D. Beebe thanked Ms. Sumara for helping us out this evening. This will enhance our infrastructure.

## IV. CONSTRUCTION MANAGER RFP – INFORMATIONAL ONLY – Tocco

The district went out for RFP for a Construction Manager in August and held a public bid opening on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had three companies submit proposals. McCarthy & Smith, Inc., provided the lowest bid. Other companies were charging \$50,000 even if the Bond failed. McCarthy & Smith will participate in 10 meetings, they have been with the district for 30 years so they have the knowledge of the buildings. They are already knowledgeable of what needs to be done to keep our students warm safe and dry which is our motto for the next bond.

M. Hines questioned what is the life span of a roof.

S. Tocco shared that a roof on a house lasts about 25-30 years, flat roofs such as our buildings will only last about 10 years. We have about 3-4 roofs left to be replaced.

F. Weaver questioned, once we accept an RFP bid, how much do we allow the company to come back with change orders.

S. Tocco shared that the current bond change orders went through the CFO. The change orders came through primarily due to COVID and unforeseeable circumstances. Going forward he does not foresee that. He will be having very clear conversations on how change orders will take place in the future. The change orders will need to be presented into a logistical way. There will be more oversite in the future in these spaces.

F. Weaver wanted to clarify that moving forward McCarthy & Smith will not be able to just see additional work that needs to be done, do the work without prior approval and then submit a change order for payment.

S. Tocco shared that there will be several signatures on change orders. All change orders that came to us recently have been checked to validate the work.

F. Weaver shared that they are bidding on the project, they have walked the space and know what needs to be done. Why did they not anticipate these issues.

S. Tocco agrees that he is not sure. Change orders are normal, if there is mold or asbestos behind walls for example. Moving forward multiple signatures will be required to make sure the work is being done.

# V. BROKER AGREEMENT – INFORMATIONAL ONLY – Tocco

The Property Committee spoke to the broker we agreed to have them market our properties (Marshall, Hoover, vacant lots), no for sale signs, they will reach out to their circle of business owners, they will limit who can purchase, use targeted groups to market property, no cost to the district unless the property sells. They will take a percentage if they are sold. We have had Hegira take a look at properties. If someone approaches us, we are still able to sell ourselves. If the broker sells the property they would get between 4% - 6%.

B. Gray asked if the board would still need to approve the sale of the property.

S. Tocco shared that board will still vote, it would still go through our attorney and we would follow property protocol. We will still need a vetting process.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared that there was an email that the board received regarding the property Marshall, she questioned if he was the broker.

S. Tocco shared that this a broker from Jonna Group, the Marshall property needs to be demolished. The reality of the building selling is unreal. The property will be more appealing without the building. Marshall is not a turn-key building.

M. Hines shared that she spoke to a person who would be interested in talking with the district.

S. Tocco shared that he should reach out to the district.

## VI. BUDGET UPDATE – Clair

J. Clair shared a budget update indicating that our fund balance has an approximate increase of \$22.8m. The balance will be approximately \$32m. This is due to the fact that the district moved salaries into ESSER. It basically wipes out what happened last year, however the \$20m in salaries are coming back to the general fund this year. In October, the auditors will present the audit and an amended budget will be presented as well. The \$30m borrowed has to be kept for the year. It will be held in an escrow account in which we believe the interest gained will cover the interest charge.

K. May asked Ms. Clair to introduce herself to those who have not met her.

J. Clair shared that she comes in to help the district. She is a retired Wayne RESA employee and she was here last year and had to bear the bad news and is happy to bring more positive news.

F. Weaver thanked Ms. Clair for the work she is doing. He also questioned if it was \$40m that was borrowed.

J. Clair shared that it was going to be \$40m and the board reduced it to \$30m.

L. Abney-Mitchell thanked her and asked where were the ESSER funds at.

B. Gray asked her to go through what happened when she came to the district to assist.

J. Clair explained that when she came in last year there were several factors that were reducing our fund balance. Dr. Dignan jumped when he

was told and they started to explore options. Some districts didn't, we took our current staff and moved them into ESSER and moved software, technology and projects out of ESSER. This was a onetime option. It was very smart and it worked. I was asked to come in and help with the audit this year. When I came in I looked at the system and there was a gain. She brought it forward to Ms. Curry. She has prepared a cashflow for State of Michigan. She will prepare a new budget to present in October. We made approximately \$22m. She anticipates that we may break even at the end of this year.

B. Gray shared that changes were made to use ESSER funds but the change was not reflected in the general fund.

L. Abney-Mitchell questioned if Ms. Clair has seen the money, not just on paper.

J. Clair shared the investment report reflects the fund. We were never in a situation that we were not going to make payroll. She also shared that the board has been provided with bank statements and wants to stress we still need to be careful.

M. Hines shared that is the best information that the board has received.

J. Clair shared that it was the team that came up with this solution.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared that we need to stay transparent.

K. May thanked Ms. Clair for her work and for introducing herself.

K. May asked Ms. Curry, what was the plan for the items that were removed from ESSER to cover the salaries. She wanted to confirm why we went to using the additional funds for Technology and not the items that were taken out of the grant.

J. Curry shared that we were going to pick up additional some bond costs.

S. Tocco shared that we were going to use ESSER money to invest into the buildings. At the time it was a fiscally responsible and an allowable way to utilize ESSER funds, this is what afforded us the opportunity to move the salaries.

K. May confirmed the money being used on technology is not preventing us from getting something else that was put to the side.

J. Curry shared that these funds need to be used by September and we decided to use it to fund technology. She also shared that these are not last-minute funds but as ESSER is coming to an end we want to spend that money completely and in a way that would be best for students.

S. Tocco shared that it is hitting students now, and that was the logic behind the ESSER funds.

J. Curry shared again that we only have until September to use it.

A.Ofili shared that Ms. Sumara misspoke when speaking about taking work from BOSS employees, this would not be work taken from BOSS. They are devices that we are no longer able to use.

S. Tocco shared that the position was needed 5-6 years ago, the position was focused in on fixing white boards, overheads, etc. This position was focused on fixing damaged Chromebook which was physically impossible. We had to outsource to make sure that we had enough devices for students.

#### VII. BUSINESS OFFICE REPORTS - Clair

J. Clair shared State Aid Status Report and the Update.

K. May asked if this state report includes the increases such as the additional 31a funds.

J. Clair shared that this is the last status report from 23-24 and the increases will not be shown until October or November. She also shared that we took the full \$3m hit for the taxes in the one year, so we will only see the payables on the report but we will not have to take the hit again. 31a monies will have a lot more flexibility on how the funds can be spent. No per pupil increase.

# VIII. INVESTMENT REPORT - Clair

J. Clair shared the investment report, stating that the \$30m is reflected in the balance. This will be leaving to go into an escrow account.

## IX. CHECK REGISTER – Clair

J. Clair shared the check register sharing that across all funds 132,153.99 was spent in the month of August.

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

C. Stone shared that she has been the technology secretary since 2003. There was a lot of work that went into choosing the right technology. We have had to purchase refurbished items in the past to get by. These purchases will put the district in a good place

K. Marchi from John Glenn High School shared that he was encouraged that we were spending money out of sinking fund. He shared that grants can be used to keep current costs downs instead of buying the next best thing. He also shared that it would be best that when Ms. Clair is doing the budget that she works to keep the breakeven approach and as staff are cut it becomes a savings. Negotiations will continue and with the increase in the general fund hopefully that will help.

## 160.25 ACTING SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS - Curry

J. Curry thank Ms. Clair, we are grateful she is here and looks forward to continued work with her.

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

L. Abney-Mitchell thanked administration and looks forward to relief for the staff.

K. May thanked presenters, Ms. Clair and Administration. She also shared that the questions are being asked are for clarity for the community to have a common understanding.

M. Hines is ready for football, visiting buildings, and excited that Wayne-Westland Kiwanis is now chartered. Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday monthly.

F. Weaver thanked Ms. Clair, we need to be diligent about right sizing the district. He shared that the millage will not be any additional cost to the district. In 1998 the community was upset that the buildings were is disrepair and the community has been generous with the millages and sinking fund. Please vote yes.

B. Gray wanted to share again that expenses were put into ESSER and then it was also accounted for in the general fund. We will not have a deficit budget, nor a deficit plan, nor the loan. It is being invested to gain interest to offset the interest owed. Mr. Gray thanked Ms. Clair, thanked Ms. Curry and everyone for coming.

## 162.25 ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, that the board adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Motion by M. Hines, support by L. Abney-Mitchell.

# ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES:	4
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	3
ABSENT:	0

Melandie Hines Board of Education Secretary Wayne-Westland Community Schools Special Meeting of the Board of Education Wayne-Westland Community Schools Thursday, September 12, 2024 5:30 p.m. 36745 Marquette St, Westland, MI 48185

## Minutes

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K. Pawlukiewicz shared that it was paid for out of the 31a and now Wayne RESA will pay for it through the 2025-2026 school year.

L. Abney-Mitchell questioned what St. Michaels Lutheran was.

K. Pawlukiewicz shared that St. Mathews, St. Michaels and Hope Christian are all private schools within our districts, and the district has to offer them an equitable share.

# II. SALT TRUCK PURCHASE – Tocco & Montayne

Geno Montayne, Director of Maintenance and Operations, shared information for review and requested approval for the purchase to replace the 2007 salt truck. The purchase has already been included in the budget for this year. Once salt the truck is received we will ask for permission to auction off the 2007 current salt truck and the funds would then be returned to the general fund.

F. Weaver shared that he looked on the internet and seen these trucks starting at \$65,000.

G. Montayne shared that it also includes the spreader, lights and extras in addition to the base model that starts at \$65,000.

F. Weaver asked about the \$14,000.

G. Montane explained that the \$14,000 is the salt spreader itself.

F. Weaver asked if there were other estimates.

G. Montayne shared that he went with Bill Brown Ford.

F. Weaver questioned the price of the truck being \$104,000 before the extras.

G. Montayne shared that is the truck and the aluminum bed.

F. Weaver questioned if it was a dump truck.

G. Montayne confirmed that yes it was a dump truck.

K. May questioned how many salt trucks does the district have now.

G. Montayne shared that the district currently has 2, a 2007 and 2016. At this time, they are requesting the replacement of the 2007, which is near end of life.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked if the truck has other uses.

G. Montayne shared that the salt spreader can be removed, allowing for the use for a dump truck for dirt, trees, and ect.

F. Weaver asked if the truck has a plow.

G. Montayne shared that it does not have a plow, but the district does have plow trucks.

# III. TECHNOLOGY – Sumara & Beebe

a. E-Rate (Informational)

Jacinda Sumara, former Executive Director of Technology and Innovation and Daryl Beebe, Executive Director of Technology and Innovation shared the e-Rate information. This information is being shared at the request of the board that potential bids are shared with the board before going out for RFP. The district has \$763,319 available for e-Rate and the district is required to match 15%. The 15% match can come from general, bond, or sinking funds. The district plans to pursue internal cabling at select properties, specifically secondary buildings due to the age of that equipment. The district will be able to get approximately a million dollars' worth of equipment for about \$150,000.

K. May asked if this is separate from the wireless access points that the district talked about last October.

J. Sumara explained that the district did one project last year and one project this year, splitting it in half. The projects are almost complete.

The access points are in and special passwords will no longer be needed in buildings. The Wi-Fi is stronger and we will have less concern about the internet failing during testing.

K. May asked what cabling is.

J. Sumara explained that there is cabling inside the buildings connecting to the outside access points, the cabling connects the Independent Distribution Frame (IDF) throughout the buildings. There was a 10-year forecast included in this packet that outlines when we should replace cabling.

- b. iPad Carts Elementary
- c. iPad Carts MS
- d. Chromebook Carts MS

J. Sumara shared that b., c., and d. should be grouped together. These items are help address the districts 1:1 initiative. The district has not had the funding to address this properly and has pursued grants trying to obtain the funds. Technology hopes for approval, using ESSER and GEER funds to redistribute technology in the following manner:

- i. iPads have been collected and are going to be distributed to Kindergarten, but they will need iPad carts.
- ii. Chromebooks are going to be distributed 1:1 in elementary buildings. All core subjects will have chromebooks available every day. The elective classes will have access to Chromebook.
- iii. Middle Schools will receive the carts of Chromebook from kindergarten classrooms.
- iv. High School will remain 1:1.

K. May shared that she looked through the technology plan and when we talk about 1:1 device, she would like to know how they will be used in the classrooms.

J. Sumara shared that Technology collaborated with staff to identify their needs. Technology is working with Instruction to get the iPads loaded with the appropriate apps. Some teachers have received training through Apple and technology focused on internal professional development for teacher learning. She mentioned that the STEM Center also has devices for students.

K. May shared that she thinks of devices as a tool and not students using them for apps/websites. She would like to hear how they are using technology for instruction. J. Sumara mentioned that the district is using technology for a creative space. Offering the students, a different way to demonstrate to model their skills.

F. Weaver shared that he has walked by classrooms that had devices out and some that have not. He questioned if there is data that shows how often devices are being used.

J. Samara shared that we can use Clever and Learn Platform to collect data.

F. Weaver questioned if it was fair to say that some teachers do not use them at all

J. Samara shared that would hard to believe that teachers would not use them at all. Testing is all virtual and science has a virtual piece as well.

J. Curry shared that teachers know that having students looking at screens all day long it is not best practice, there is a balance between using technology and not using technology.

B. Gray mentioned that the people that are in the room have shook their head yes, as though there are teachers that do not use them. He also, wanted to know how old are the iPads.

J. Sumara shared two years and feels that they will last another few years. Technology did look into the option of selling the iPads and received quote of \$95.00 apiece. However, the devices cannot be sold for five months due to the grant they were purchased with. The elementary instruction team feel that this is the right device to support their students.

B. Gray shared that new iPads do not use lightening chargers, which the carts being purchased are equipped with. Therefore, if new devices are purchased down the line the cart will not be able to charge them.

J. Sumara shared that there are a few companies that can rewire the carts for a few hundred dollars.

K. May questioned since these devices are heavily used in the class, is there a plan to purchase when they need to be refreshed, since ESSER funds will no longer be available.

J. Sumara shared that the district might consider including technology in the bond proposal.

K. May shared that she did not see it on the plan.

J. Sumara shared that she spaced it throughout several years.

K. May would like to see the plan from curriculum and the data around integration of technology in the classroom. She would like to see the instructional piece of how the devices are being used.

L. Abney-Mitchell would also like to see the learning component and data. She also mentioned the M-Step scores are lower than others school districts in the area. How will technology help the kindergarteners? How do we get past the students thinking that these devices are toys.

M. Hines asked how the district could collect money from the parents for missing and broken devices.

J. Sumara shared that the district was able to recoup some funds. Especially, when a student was about to graduate. These funds were channeled back to the general fund and technology was unaware that these funds were collected. Since then, a new program called Revtrack and an internal account was created for each building to collect funds. She also shared with the leadership team last week a scale showing how much it would cost to repair/replace devices. Revtrack allows the parent/student to pay the fine online and technology would look at the quarterly collections and evaluate what needs to be purchased to replace items for the building.

M. Hines asked if the money would be used to purchase new devices.

M. Sumara share that it would have to be spent on repair and it should be spent in that same year.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked how the district will recover technology from a student that is no longer in the district. Also, do we offer waivers to students that cannot afford the fee.

J. Sumara mentioned that would have to be a leadership decision. Some districts look at their free/reduced lunch forms to offer reduced fees.

L. Abney-Mitchell suggested that maybe the students can work some of the fees off.

K. May would like to see the correlation between curriculum and technology, before voting on these items.

J. Sumara mentioned that the Chromebook carts have the new universal chargers.

## e. Student Devices

J. Sumara shared that technology is requesting to purchase 3,574 Chromebook that come with licenses and no touch service. The no touch service will allow for the devices to be ready for use once the box is open. This will allow for less time to be spent on set up of devices from the technology team. This purchase will allow for enough Chromebook to keep the fleet stable until technology can be added to the bond. This will also fill in the gaps this year, add to repository to replace damage and lost devices. The district no longer has a testing fleet as back up. Since we are getting them in now, they will be all set up, principals will know that these are being delivered and ready to use. Gives more flexibility to welcome students and them have what they need to be successful.

K. May asked how many devices purchased this year and how much was spent.

J. Sumara answered about 3,000.

K. May would like the actual number as a follow up.

J. Sumara that is about right 3,000-4,000 a year.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked about the life of the device.

J. Sumara shared that Google states that they can last up to ten years, but really, they last about four years.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked if every year we should expect to replace about 3,000 devices.

J. Sumara shared that would be advised.

M. Hines asked if there is protection against a cyber-attack.

J. Sumara shared that this is not a huge concern with Chromebook. However, there are things that we have in place to protect us such Fortinet and Harmony.

B. Gray asked if we have looked into the lease options.

J. Shared shared that she likes the lease option, but not really for Chromebook. It would be something to look into the future for staff devices. The district would need a good plan in place because there will probably be some overlap when you start a new lease and the old lease is not up.

f. Resale of Broken Technology Equipment

J. Sumara recommended that the district partner with K-12 Tech. Technology would package up broken devices and send them to K-12 Tech, they will give credit or cash for the devices/parts. If we use the buyback we will recoup \$12 per device.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked what this service would cost.

J. Sumara shared that it does not cost the district anything as K-12 Tech will make their money off the resale of parts they are able salvage.

K. May asked what the 2% is in reference to.

J. Sumara shared that they take 2% off the credit that they would give us.

B. Gray asked for clarification of who does the repairs now.

J. Sumara shared that there is currently a vacant position in technology called Chromebook Repair Lead. Chromebook repair in some districts are done by students in student-based learning or a low-level position. In our district it has been one person at the top of the BOSS pay scale. It is a dead end position that does not allow a person to grow. She would recommend that they take a look at that position.

B. Gray asked if this position has been discussed with BOSS.

A. Ofili shared they would have to work with the union on this position.

B. Gray asked if that needs to be cleared before this is bought to a vote on outsourcing this work.

J. Sumara shared that even if the position is going to be filled, she felt that it would be best not to burden the new employee with this uphill battle.

B. Gray wants to make sure that the union would be in agreeance.

A. Ofili agreed that it would need to be discussed.

g. Staff Devices

J. Sumara is a requesting to purchase staff devices in the amount of \$292,266.02. These devices are at end of life and will help the district get over a gap. Technology and Human Resources have been collaborating with how a staff member is onboarded. After the clearance of the background check, they will then come to technology to get a badge and device assigned to them. Making sure they have all the programs needed for their position and training with equipment.

B. Gray shared that it sounds like a great idea

h. Uninterrupted Power Supplies

J. Sumara is requesting approval for Uninterrupted Power Supplies to protect the independent frames when the power goes out. These would act similar to a generator for the internet. This will be the newest technology and run on lower voltage, it should stay running better than the older technology when power is lost. She also mentioned that batteries in the current units are bulging and that is unsafe.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked how much the cost would be.

J. Sumara share \$254,447.60

L. Abney-Mitchell asked if this is a onetime payment and what fund it was being paid out of.

J. Sumara shared that this being paid out of the ESSER Relief Funds.

i. Lavalier Microphone Replacements

J. Sumara shared that these allow the students to hear the teacher and is under board threshold. The ones the district uses are very nice and even have an emergency button. This will allow the district to also have replacement parts to keep them functioning.

j. Access Points

J. Sumara shared that technology has found a few areas in buildings that could use more coverage and have a few spares for backup.

B. Gray questioned where the funds would be coming from.

J. Sumara shared that it will be coming from ESSER funds and mentioned that everything is coming from grants, except \$150,000.

K. May asked about the virtual days in the event of Act of God days. Is this why we need to be 1-1. Does the district have hotspots for students whom may not have access.

J. Curry shared that if we were doing a virtual day, the new guidelines say that all students would have to use a device. If may be difficult to use these days, we could use them if it was pre-planned.

J. Sumara shared that the district does not have a lot of hotspots. She has monitored the hotspots and they were barely used. There is a challenge to using hot spots, there is a program that has to be used while using a hotspot. As an alternative she recommends that the district comes up with a list of places that offer free access to provide to the parents.

M. Hines shared that at one time they used the buses, how did that work.

S. Tocco shared that we had purchased mobile hotspots and they have since then expired. The was a substantial cost to provide hotspots, it would be difficult moving forward.

K. May shared that the district is asking to spend \$3m on technology but then they cannot be used outside the district. We are not removing barriers for the students.

S. Tocco shared that going 1:1 is going to be difficult for many districts. A lot of text books and materials are located on the devices.

K. May shared that she is not trying to dismiss Ms. Sumara's efforts and appreciates her work.

J. Surmara shared that we are able to make classrooms stable which in turn creates equity and inclusion in the classroom space.

K. May textbooks are on these devices

S. Tocco shared not all textbooks are on the devices but some are.

J. Sumara shared that even if it is not, there are components to support textbooks online.

K. May needs the clear plan and it needs to be presented at the board meeting. We need to be very clear to the community on the plan.

M. Hines asked how are our relationship with Xfinity. Maybe we can get them to share Wi-Fi with the families.

J. Sumara shared that the FRC shares the internet access plan that cost about \$23.99 a month.

M. Hines shared it can be struggle for families who cannot afford it.

J. Sumara shared that maybe we could educate the families about hotspots on their phones.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared that the community does not believe that we are going to be 1-1. We need to be more transparent.

S. Tocco shared that a lot of the purchases were for devices to be used in the classroom. The purchases are needed and they are being used. Students having access to Wi-Fi outside of the buildings is a bigger issue. We have had conversations of not being 1-1 in lower level buildings. We have an issue throughout the country for students to be able to access Wi-Fi outside the buildings.

J. Curry shared that 1-1 would be that every student has access to a device in the buildings. This does not mean that these devices are going home. We need to make sure they are available in the classrooms.

A.Ofili shared that we are having the discussions with the staff to make sure they are the right devices.

M. Hines shared that the homework does not need to be on the device.

J. Curry shared that we need find a balance between the two.

J. Sumara turned it over to Mr. Beebe.

D. Beebe thanked Ms. Sumara for helping us out this evening. This will enhance our infrastructure.

## IV. CONSTRUCTION MANAGER RFP – INFORMATIONAL ONLY – Tocco

The district went out for RFP for a Construction Manager in August and held a public bid opening on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had three companies submit proposals. McCarthy & Smith, Inc., provided the lowest bid. Other companies were charging \$50,000 even if the Bond failed. McCarthy & Smith will participate in 10 meetings, they have been with the district for 30 years so they have the knowledge of the buildings. They are already knowledgeable of what needs to be done to keep our students warm safe and dry which is our motto for the next bond.

M. Hines questioned what is the life span of a roof.

S. Tocco shared that a roof on a house lasts about 25-30 years, flat roofs such as our buildings will only last about 10 years. We have about 3-4 roofs left to be replaced.

F. Weaver questioned, once we accept an RFP bid, how much do we allow the company to come back with change orders.

S. Tocco shared that the current bond change orders went through the CFO. The change orders came through primarily due to COVID and unforeseeable circumstances. Going forward he does not foresee that. He will be having very clear conversations on how change orders will take place in the future. The change orders will need to be presented into a logistical way. There will be more oversite in the future in these spaces.

F. Weaver wanted to clarify that moving forward McCarthy & Smith will not be able to just see additional work that needs to be done, do the work without prior approval and then submit a change order for payment.

S. Tocco shared that there will be several signatures on change orders. All change orders that came to us recently have been checked to validate the work.

F. Weaver shared that they are bidding on the project, they have walked the space and know what needs to be done. Why did they not anticipate these issues.

S. Tocco agrees that he is not sure. Change orders are normal, if there is mold or asbestos behind walls for example. Moving forward multiple signatures will be required to make sure the work is being done.

# V. BROKER AGREEMENT – INFORMATIONAL ONLY – Tocco

The Property Committee spoke to the broker we agreed to have them market our properties (Marshall, Hoover, vacant lots), no for sale signs, they will reach out to their circle of business owners, they will limit who can purchase, use targeted groups to market property, no cost to the district unless the property sells. They will take a percentage if they are sold. We have had Hegira take a look at properties. If someone approaches us, we are still able to sell ourselves. If the broker sells the property they would get between 4% - 6%.

B. Gray asked if the board would still need to approve the sale of the property.

S. Tocco shared that board will still vote, it would still go through our attorney and we would follow property protocol. We will still need a vetting process.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared that there was an email that the board received regarding the property Marshall, she questioned if he was the broker.

S. Tocco shared that this a broker from Jonna Group, the Marshall property needs to be demolished. The reality of the building selling is unreal. The property will be more appealing without the building. Marshall is not a turn-key building.

M. Hines shared that she spoke to a person who would be interested in talking with the district.

S. Tocco shared that he should reach out to the district.

# VI. BUDGET UPDATE – Clair

J. Clair shared a budget update indicating that our fund balance has an approximate increase of \$22.8m. The balance will be approximately \$32m. This is due to the fact that the district moved salaries into ESSER. It basically wipes out what happened last year, however the \$20m in salaries are coming back to the general fund this year. In October, the auditors will present the audit and an amended budget will be presented as well. The \$30m borrowed has to be kept for the year. It will be held in an escrow account in which we believe the interest gained will cover the interest charge.

K. May asked Ms. Clair to introduce herself to those who have not met her.

J. Clair shared that she comes in to help the district. She is a retired Wayne RESA employee and she was here last year and had to bear the bad news and is happy to bring more positive news.

F. Weaver thanked Ms. Clair for the work she is doing. He also questioned if it was \$40m that was borrowed.

J. Clair shared that it was going to be \$40m and the board reduced it to \$30m.

L. Abney-Mitchell thanked her and asked where were the ESSER funds at.

B. Gray asked her to go through what happened when she came to the district to assist.

J. Clair explained that when she came in last year there were several factors that were reducing our fund balance. Dr. Dignan jumped when he

was told and they started to explore options. Some districts didn't, we took our current staff and moved them into ESSER and moved software, technology and projects out of ESSER. This was a onetime option. It was very smart and it worked. I was asked to come in and help with the audit this year. When I came in I looked at the system and there was a gain. She brought it forward to Ms. Curry. She has prepared a cashflow for State of Michigan. She will prepare a new budget to present in October. We made approximately \$22m. She anticipates that we may break even at the end of this year.

B. Gray shared that changes were made to use ESSER funds but the change was not reflected in the general fund.

L. Abney-Mitchell questioned if Ms. Clair has seen the money, not just on paper.

J. Clair shared the investment report reflects the fund. We were never in a situation that we were not going to make payroll. She also shared that the board has been provided with bank statements and wants to stress we still need to be careful.

M. Hines shared that is the best information that the board has received.

J. Clair shared that it was the team that came up with this solution.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared that we need to stay transparent.

K. May thanked Ms. Clair for her work and for introducing herself.

K. May asked Ms. Curry, what was the plan for the items that were removed from ESSER to cover the salaries. She wanted to confirm why we went to using the additional funds for Technology and not the items that were taken out of the grant.

J. Curry shared that we were going to pick up additional some bond costs.

S. Tocco shared that we were going to use ESSER money to invest into the buildings. At the time it was a fiscally responsible and an allowable way to utilize ESSER funds, this is what afforded us the opportunity to move the salaries.

K. May confirmed the money being used on technology is not preventing us from getting something else that was put to the side.

J. Curry shared that these funds need to be used by September and we decided to use it to fund technology. She also shared that these are not last-minute funds but as ESSER is coming to an end we want to spend that money completely and in a way that would be best for students.

S. Tocco shared that it is hitting students now, and that was the logic behind the ESSER funds.

J. Curry shared again that we only have until September to use it.

A.Ofili shared that Ms. Sumara misspoke when speaking about taking work from BOSS employees, this would not be work taken from BOSS. They are devices that we are no longer able to use.

S. Tocco shared that the position was needed 5-6 years ago, the position was focused in on fixing white boards, overheads, etc. This position was focused on fixing damaged Chromebook which was physically impossible. We had to outsource to make sure that we had enough devices for students.

## VII. BUSINESS OFFICE REPORTS - Clair

J. Clair shared State Aid Status Report and the Update.

K. May asked if this state report includes the increases such as the additional 31a funds.

J. Clair shared that this is the last status report from 23-24 and the increases will not be shown until October or November. She also shared that we took the full \$3m hit for the taxes in the one year, so we will only see the payables on the report but we will not have to take the hit again. 31a monies will have a lot more flexibility on how the funds can be spent. No per pupil increase.

# VIII. INVESTMENT REPORT - Clair

J. Clair shared the investment report, stating that the \$30m is reflected in the balance. This will be leaving to go into an escrow account.

# IX. CHECK REGISTER - Clair

J. Clair shared the check register sharing that across all funds 132,153.99 was spent in the month of August.

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

C. Stone shared that she has been the technology secretary since 2003. There was a lot of work that went into choosing the right technology. We have had to purchase refurbished items in the past to get by. These purchases will put the district in a good place

K. Marchi from John Glenn High School shared that he was encouraged that we were spending money out of sinking fund. He shared that grants can be used to keep current costs downs instead of buying the next best thing. He also shared that it would be best that when Ms. Clair is doing the budget that she works to keep the breakeven approach and as staff are cut it becomes a savings. Negotiations will continue and with the increase in the general fund hopefully that will help.

## 160.25 ACTING SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS - Curry

J. Curry thank Ms. Clair, we are grateful she is here and looks forward to continued work with her.

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

L. Abney-Mitchell thanked administration and looks forward to relief for the staff.

K. May thanked presenters, Ms. Clair and Administration. She also shared that the questions are being asked are for clarity for the community to have a common understanding.

M. Hines is ready for football, visiting buildings, and excited that Wayne-Westland Kiwanis is now chartered. Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday monthly.

F. Weaver thanked Ms. Clair, we need to be diligent about right sizing the district. He shared that the millage will not be any additional cost to the district. In 1998 the community was upset that the buildings were is disrepair and the community has been generous with the millages and sinking fund. Please vote yes.

B. Gray wanted to share again that expenses were put into ESSER and then it was also accounted for in the general fund. We will not have a deficit budget, nor a deficit plan, nor the loan. It is being invested to gain interest to offset the interest owed. Mr. Gray thanked Ms. Clair, thanked Ms. Curry and everyone for coming.

## 162.25 ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, that the board adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Motion by M. Hines, support by L. Abney-Mitchell.

# ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES:	4
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	3
ABSENT:	0

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Melandie Hines Board of Education Secretary Wayne-Westland Community Schools