

Agenda

163.25 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG – Gray

Faye Edwards, Sophie Gonzalez-Perez, and Makayla Laurie
Edison Elementary, Bennett Tyler.

164.25 ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE – Hines

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

Board Members absent: Bradley Gray

165.25 RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS – Gray

I. Employees of the Year- Ofili

Paraprofessional of the Year: Ann Heinicke
Elementary Teacher of the Year: Andrea Saksa
Secondary Teacher of the Year: Kelly Reinink
Ancillary Employee of the Year: Rachael Hendzell
Central Office Employee of the Year: Kimberly Pawlukiewicz
Principal of the Year: Daniel Calhoun
Secretary of the Year: Bobbie Jo Harper
Skilled Trades Employee of the Year: Jonathan Silver
Food Service Employee of the Year: Amy Kiedrowski
Transportation Employee of the Year: Judith Campbell
Custodian of the Year: Jennifer Bumbalough
Support Services Employee of the Year: Katherine Pruden

II. Extended COVID Learning Plan and Continuity of Services Plan Review – Pawlukiewicz

Kim Pawlukiewicz, Executive Director of High School Curriculum and
Instruction and State and Federal Programs, shared a PowerPoint outlining
the eCOL (Extended COVID Learning Plan) and Continuity of Services Plan
Review. There were no major changes to the plan.

ESSER Requirements

- Review eCOL (Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan) that was
created/adopted in August 2020.
 - Determine if modifications are needed no more than six months
after receiving funds.

- Review our Continuity of Services Plan that was adopted in February 2022.
 - Ensure that the public has input on the contents of the plan
 - Post the plan on the district website
 - Review no more than six months

ESSER III Projects

- Updating band instruments (Middle and High School)
- Summer Programming
- Building and Grounds (HVAC, Generators)
- Technology updates (student/staff devices, back-up batteries)
- Intervention Programs for Students (Amira, Read/Math 180)
- Elementary Staffing for 23-24

ESSER III Completion

- ESSER III funds need to be obligated as of September 30, 2024.
- We have done a complete internal audit of our spending to make sure that we are able to spend down our remaining funds.
- Any remaining funds were allocated to technology to support students, staff and connectivity.

GEER II Funds

In August 2024, MDE reallocated GEER II funds that were not spent back to districts. Wayne-Westland received \$180,000 to be obligated by September 30, 2024.

- OpenSciEd Kits for HS Science Pilot
- iPad Carts for Kindergarten (30)
- Chromebook Carts for MS (10)
- 70 Chromebooks for students

Michigan Kids Back on Track (23g Grant)

- Wayne-Westland Community Schools has been awarded \$1.5 million. Funds have been allocated to:
 - MTSS Interventionist Salaries (24-25 school year)
 - MTSS Intervention Supplies (Decodable Readers/LLI Intervention Materials)
- Reporting requirements:
 - Similar to our ESSER requirements
 - Post our Mi Kids Back on Track Plan on our website
 - Update on our Transparency Page

K. May thanked Ms. Pawlukiewicz and asked about the salary shifts to 23g.

K. Pawlukiewicz shared that some salaries were in 31a and some in 23g. The plan is to allocate them all into 31a next year.

K. May asked if there are any plans to offer after-school support for students.

K. Pawlukiewicz shared that the district is working with Hype. Hype received a grant through the State of Michigan and some funds are allocated for before- and after-school programs.

K. May asked if transportation is being provided.

K. Pawlukiewicz shared that they may not need to leave the building, but Hype will provide the funding. If transportation is required that can be looked into.

166.25 CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: AGENDA ITEMS – Gray

Cathy Stone – Secretary of the Technology Department, mentioned that information was shared at the Finance Committee Meeting and will be voted on at this meeting. All the technology being requested was carefully selected to benefit the district; grants fund these purchases and will not cost the district. These purchases will put the technology department in the best position to support the district.

Michelle Sample – Is confused, the deficit budget was presented to the community and now we have a surplus of money. The CFO resigned and someone from RESA does a complete audit in just a few weeks. Who is over the Financial Department now? When will we hear more about this? She missed the meeting on September 12, 2024; it was not posted; she was watching for the posting. The community is not getting the information, what changed in the last 30 days. She does not know who or what to trust. It does not make sense and she would like this cleared up.

Kevin Marchi – At a previous board meeting, he had negatively mentioned: “What a difference an administration can make”. He now sees the positive changes being made and says, “What a difference an administration can make,” and encourages Ms. Curry to stay strong when making more complex decisions. WWEA had discussed finances with the district for months. The district co-sponsored an email to the WWEA members, stating that they had arrived at a more accurate picture of the district’s finances through discussions with the negotiating team. He appreciated the acknowledgment of the WWEA members at that time. However, at the September 12th Finance Meeting where, it was revealed that the district has \$32 million. This was attributed to the previous accountant and ESSER funds covering salaries. The board and administration shared this had been solved with the assistance of Jewell Clair who had found the errors. The WWEA was not publicly acknowledged as part of the solution in assessing the errors at that meeting. He was hopeful that there would be acknowledgment from the district, which did not come. That should have been a step to restore the trust with the

union and the community. His time ran out and he will finish in the second public comment section.

Steve Conn – WWEA President shared that bargaining has been in good faith and there has been a positive change. The union is thankful to the Acting Superintendent and the Interim CFO. WWEA knew the district had a \$32M fund balance in March. The fact that the district took a \$30M dollar loan was infuriating. He was thankful to the leadership for coming up with a solution to cover the interest on the loan. He mentioned that he loves Wayne-Westland and the district provides a phenomenal education. The WWEA contract has expired, however, the new CFO, Ms. Curry, Mr. Tocco and Dr. Ofili are bargaining in good faith. He points out the instability that the district had been experiencing and that the district is now moving forward.

167.25 CONSENT AGENDA

I. MINUTES

- a. Closed Board Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2024 [under separate cover]
- b. Regular Board Minutes – August 19, 2024
- c. Special Board Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2024

II. HUMAN RESOURCE ITEMS

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

Julie Campbell
Kimberly Doman
Alia Hamka
De Andre Barnes
Brian Bonnau
Alexis Cupp
Heather DeAngelis
Alexander Greene
Quran Jackson
Jullee Kazen
Renee Kuczeski
Noelle Matusiewicz
April McCreery
Kenneth McGraw
Timothy Prichard
Nancy Schultz-Speck
Francis Teevin
Erik Wojtuniecki
Nader Bader
Sandra Birch
Veronica Bonner
Cristi D'Angola

Hanna Eickholdt
Karly Gauthier
Sharmaine Green
Maureen Grim
Natalie Harmon
Heather Hawkes
Brett Macek
Titania Piert
JaCinda Sumara
Ingeborg Von Pagels
Montrisha Wyatt
Daniel Courtney
John Garrett
Quentin Jenson
Nicole Johnson
Kay Maczuga
Stefany Peters
Collin Powers
Annette Roettger
Jerrett Smith
Jessica Syc
Amber Williams

b. Placements: Administrative, Instructional,
Non-Instructional and/or Non-Affiliated Personnel

Danielle Cormican
Holly Edick
Shanelle Ellis
Leah Hawkins
Ashleigh Stewart
Jessica Truesdell
Jewell Clair
Jordyn Dean
Betty (Jeanie) Down
Brianna Hendra
Jeffrey Kline
Leslie Sharick
Andito Skinner
Tishman Smith
Lisa Swetz
LaRita Abercrobmie
James Arrendale
Tiffany Baron
Timothy Collins
Andrew Coullard
Ryan Curl
Scott German
Angela Harris-Schultheis

Arkeisha Keller-Jackson
Natalie Knight
Thomas Kupovits
Jenna Lowry
Marissa Luzac
Sonia Marcinkowski
Erica Marcos
Valin McLeod
David Olszewski
Kelly Romero
Alice Smith
Patrick Taylor
Nicholas Troher
Caitlyn Zahor

- c. Leave of Absence: Administrative, Instructional, Non-Instructional and/or Non-Affiliated Personnel

Nicole Langston
Torrey McLeay
Diane Gordon

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. Livonia Public Schools

IV. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

- a. Field Trips
 - i. Elliott Elementary School 5th Grade – Field Trip – [under separate cover]

V. DONATIONS

The following donations were made to the Family Resource Center for students and families in need:

- a. I Support the Girls – Rebekah Paige Gourley: Bras and feminine hygiene items
- b. Arnette Swider – Clothing
- c. FedEx Express Corp. – DETR 4852 – School supplies

- d. Century 21 Dynamic Realty – Noel Derr-Johnson – Backpacks with school supplies
- e. Plymouth Church of Christ – Pencil boxes and school supplies

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

168.25 BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Gray

I. Policy Committee Report – 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, September 10, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Weaver and Ms. Hines were present.

The Policy Committee reviewed proposed changes to Board Operating Procedures and emphasized that adopted provisions must be adhered to. Discussions focused on improving meeting order, information flow, and decision-making.

A recommended financial resolution and/or a timeline for budget updates was presented. Dr. Ofili and the Business Department will review recommendations.

Dr. Weaver and Ms. Hines divided responsibility for reviewing the Board Bylaws and Procedures.

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).

Dr. Weaver will coordinate the next meeting with April.

Ms. Hines mentioned potential hires, and Dr. Ofili noted positive relations with the union.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

II. Finance Committee Report – May

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

The Finance Board Workshop Meeting was held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

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

Mrs. Pawlukiewicz shared information regarding the Stronger Connections grant purchase.

Mr. Montayne presented information pertaining to the purchase of a salt truck. Mrs. Sumara and Mr. Beebe presented information pertaining to technology purchases.

Mr. Tocco shared information regarding Operations and Maintenance.

Ms. Clair presented a budget update, business office reports, the investment report, and the check register.

There were citizen, Acting Superintendent, and board member comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Ms. May mentioned that the Finance Committee meeting was recorded and could be viewed on the website for those who were unable to attend.

169.25 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BUSINESS SERVICE & FINANCE

I. Recommendation to Approve Resolution Authorizing Defeasance of the 2024 State Aid Notes – Crowley

Mr. Jim Crowley, Attorney, Miller Canfield Law Firm, shared that the board issued a state aid note and the district received the proceeds. It has since been discovered that the district did not need the funds and the note could not be prepaid. However, they were able to come up with a solution. It is recommended that the money will be put into an escrow account. The interest made in the escrow account should collect interest to help the district break even on the interest owed. The resolution presented to the board would allow Ms. Curry to sign the agreement and transfer the funds.

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item I. as presented and waive the need to read the enclosed resolution. Motion by M. Hines, support by K. May.

M. Neal asked if the interest rate was fixed or variable.

J. Crowley shared that it is fixed, as are state and local government securities.

M. Neal questioned whether this is a financial item and if it requires a second read.

F. Weaver shared that he did not believe this item would require a second read.

K. May questioned whether this item is time-sensitive and if time would be allotted for second read.

J. Crowley suggested that a decision be made as soon as possible, given that the funds are sitting in the district's bank account and interest is not being earned.

K. May proposed adding it to tomorrow's meeting for a second read.

F. Weaver agreed to add it to tomorrow's agenda.

J. Crowley confirmed that the closing date is Wednesday, and timing-wise, that should work.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked if there would be actual numbers.

J. Crowley shared that he can have the numbers for tomorrow.

L. Abney-Mitchell questioned whether or not the first payment was due in August 2025.

J. Crowley shared that two notes were taken out. One is due July 2025, and the other is due August 2025.

L. Abney-Mitchell requested to see something in writing for transparency.

J. Crowley shared that the numbers will be available tomorrow.

M. Hines questioned what if there was not a quorum tomorrow.

MOTION The board motioned to table item 169.25 and add it to the September 24, 2024 agenda for a second read. Motion by K. May, support by L. Abney-Mitchell.

M. Hines reiterated her concern about having a quorum for the September 24, 2024, meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

II. Recommendation to Approve Amending the Operating Millage Tax Rates for the 2024-2025 School Year - Crowley

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item II. as presented and waive the need to read the enclosed resolution. Motion by M. Hines, support by K. May.

J. Crowley shared that voters can vote on the November 5th election date to replace the current operating mileage. The district has an opportunity to levy 18M on non-homestead properties. This millage is subject to the Headlee Rollback, a reduction in millage rates due to property value increasing faster than inflation. Wayne-Westland is currently collecting below 18M; without this millage renewal, the district cannot collect the total amount. If the voters approve, the district will collect about \$600,000 more. The district approved the tax rate back in June, and it is recommended that the board approve this resolution, which is contingent upon the success of the election. If the election is successful, we will need to get this information to the county quickly so that it can be included on the December 1, 2024, tax bills.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked if the millage made it to the November ballot and questioned that the board was being asked to approve something that has not yet been voted on.

J. Crowley confirmed that it did make it to the November ballot, and yes, the board is being asked to approve the resolution prior to the election. However, the resolution clearly states that this is contingent on the election's approval. If the voters do not approve the millage, this resolution is null and void.

F. Weaver asked how much the district would lose if the millage renewal did not pass.

J. Crowley shared that the district is losing 0.6M, approximately \$600,000.

L. Abney questioned what we are doing as a district to get this passed.

F. Weaver shared that would be appropriate in her comments.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION The board motioned to vote on Business Service & Finance items III – IX. consider them together in one vote instead of voting on each item individually. Motion by F. Weaver.

MOTION FAILED – The motion was not supported and a vote was not taken.

III. Recommendation to Award Construction Manager Contract to McCarthy & Smith, Inc. – Tocco

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

IV. Recommendation to Purchase Munetrix Early Warning System, Care Solace, and Attendance Works – Curry

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

L. Abney-Mitchell asked if the district has data from last year for student attendance and behavior.

J. Curry shared that there is data and suggested that Mr. Besek present the data at a board meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

V. Recommendation to Purchase Access Points - Ofili

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Recommendation to Purchase Lavalier Microphone Replacements - Ofili

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. Recommendation to Purchase Uninterrupted Power Supplies - Ofili

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Recommendation to Approve Resale of Broken Technology Equipment - Ofili

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

L. Abney-Mitchell mentioned that she questioned the cost to the district at the Finance Committee Meeting. Ms. Sumara shared there was no cost to the district. Prompting, Ms. May to question what the 2% referred to. It was then determined that the company would take 2% off the amount they would purchase the broken devices for. Ms. Abney-Mitchell shared that this was misleading and that the company is double dipping. She feels that we may be able to find another company that may pay more.

A. Ofili shared that these items are no longer usable and the district has no use for these devices.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked if it was shared how much the district would make.

K. May mentioned that the company will take 2% off the total they are willing to pay the district.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared that she will support her colleagues.

K. May asked Mr. Beebe or Ms. Stone if this was the only company considered.

D. Beebe shared that other companies were considered.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 1 (Neal)
ABSENT: 1 (Gray)

MOTION PASSED

IX. Recommendation to Purchase Technology Carts - Ofili

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

K. May shared that she expected information to be shared about how the devices will be used for instruction and asked Ms. Curry to speak about that.

J. Curry mentioned that she had shared a chart in the board update on how devices are used throughout the day. The technology is used directly in the classrooms through learning apps, small and large groups and reading instruction.

K. May questioned whether the devices go home with students.

J. Curry shared that it depends. At times, they may go home with students. High school devices go back and forth on a daily basis. Elementary and middle school students might sometimes take their devices home, depending on assignments.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared that students are not provided with hotspots when they take their devices home. The board discussed this concern at the Finance Committee meeting and is hopeful to find a solution.

J. Curry mentioned that the district is also requesting to purchase carts to charge the devices.

L. Abney-Mitchell shared that the Finance Committee meeting is available on YouTube for viewing.

M. Hines mentioned that they also discussed discounted rates for the internet and community hotspots.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

X. Recommendation to Purchase Student Devices - Ofili

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item X. as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by L. Abney-Mitchell.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

XI. Recommendation to Purchase Staff Devices - Ofili

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

170.25 ADJOURNMENT TO A CLOSED SESSION – Gray

Resolved, that the Board of Education will adjourn to a closed session at 8:11 p.m. according to pursuant to 8(h) according to the Open Meetings Act. Motion by M. Hines, support by F. Weaver.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

171.25 ADJOURNMENT TO AN OPEN MEETING – Gray

Resolved, that the Board of Education adjourn to an open meeting at 8:47 p.m. Motion by L. Abney-Mitchell, support by K. May.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

172.25 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF HUMAN RESOURCES – Ofili

- I. Adrian Edwards
John Glenn and Wayne Memorial High School Assistant Principal

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

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

L. Abney-Mitchell asked Dr. Ofili to repeat the position.

A. Ofili shared that Mr. Edward's will be the Assistant Principal half time at John Glenn and half time at Wayne Memorial High School.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

K. May asked if this is a reduction or an additional principal and if this is something new.

A. Ofili asked for clarification.

S. Tocco shared that it was a reduction from a full-time position.

L. Abney-Mitchell asked if this reduction is due to student count.

A. Ofili shared that staffing decisions are made for multiple reasons.

II. Elena Girolamo
Supervisor of Special Education

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

Resolved, that the board approve Human Resources Item II. as presented. Motion by M. Neal, support by M. Hines.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

III. Julianna Molnar
Supervisor of Special Education

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

Resolved, that the board approve Human Resources Item III. as presented. Motion by M. Neal, support by M. Hines.

K. May asked if these supervisor positions are by grade level.

A. Ofili shared that Ms. Molnar oversees the elementary school, Ms. Sunisloe oversees the middle school, and Ms. Girolamo oversees the high school.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

IV. Mary Sunisloe
Supervisor of Special Education

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

Resolved, that the board approve Human Resources Item IV. as presented.
Motion by M. Neal, support by K. May.

L. Abney-Mitchell confirmed that all three of these positions are supervisors. She questioned if they all need to be supervisors and expressed that titles come with money.

A. Ofili shared that these positions oversee the whole district.

L. Abney-Mitchell apologized for her question.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

V. Juliette Delabbio-Abbott
Adams Middle School Assistant Principal

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

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

Ms. Delabbio-Abbott expressed her gratitude for this opportunity. Her family is from the community and alumni of the district and she is pleased to serve the district.

VI. Annie Kasper
Stevenson Middle School Principal

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

Resolved, that the board approve Human Resources Item VI. as presented.
Motion by M. Hines, support by F. Weaver.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

Ms. Kasper is thankful and happy to be here. Both her educational and professional careers have been in Wayne-Westland. She is excited about this opportunity and has the best staff and students.

173.25 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY REVISIONS/UPDATES – Weaver

Resolved, that the board approve updates to Board Policy as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by L. Abney-Mitchell.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

174.25 DESIGNATION OF DELEGATES FOR THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS (MASB) 2024 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY.

Per Board Direction

F. Weaver, K. May, and M. Hines were each nominated to be delegates, and each accepted the nomination to serve as delegates. Three of the four seats were filled.

Resolved, that the board approve the MASB 2024 Delegates. Motion by M. Hines, support by K. May

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

175.25 BOARD MEMBER COMPENSATION – (under separate cover)

Dr. Weaver read the following resolution:

**WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD RESOLUTION TRUSTEE COMPENSATION**

A meeting of the Board of Education (the “Board”) of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools (the “District”) was held in the Administration Building, on the 23rd day of September 2024 at 7 o’clock in the evening.

The meeting was called to order by:

Present:

Absent:

The following preamble and resolution were offered by:
and supported by:

WHEREAS:

A Resolution was proposed and acted upon by board member Mr. Neal on December 21, 2023, and,

WHEREAS:

The Resolution stated that on August 22, 2022, the board voted to increase their stipend from \$3,210 annum to \$5,911 per annum and,

WHEREAS:

The board believed at that time that a healthy fund balance existed in the General Fund and

WHEREAS:

It was found during scrutiny of our accounts that an accounting error occurred that produced a \$22 million error in the district's favor and,

WHEREAS:

It was found that the Wayne-Westland School District finances had always exceeded the 15% guideline prescribed in The Resolution of December 21, 2023.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Wayne-Westland Board of Education recover its lost stipend retroactive to December 21, 2023 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Chief Financial Officer of the Wayne-Westland School District has certified that the 15% or higher fund balance was never in jeopardy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

By a majority vote of The Board of Education on September 23, 2024, that all tenants of the above listed proclamation, that all funds be restored to the members of the Wayne-Westland Board of Education.

M. Neal shared that he proposed the previous resolution, but the whole board acted upon it. He also mentioned a clause stating that if the Chief Financial Officer certified that there is a 15% or higher fund balance, then the board could regain their full stipend. If this was certified, who was it certified to?

F. Weaver shared that it was certified to the board and is in the packet.

M. Neal asked in what way it was certified. Next month, an audit will be reviewed. He knows the district has been working hard to recoup some money. He refers back to the meetings with hundreds of angry citizens about the finances, and there was a lot of finger-pointing about blame. The board's stipend increased when the finances were believed to be good. The board then agreed to this cut to demonstrate responsibility. The resolution did have a clause that stated that it would reverse itself if the budget went back above 15%. The intent was to tie it to the bonuses the employees would receive. The purpose was that if the district worked hard to make this happen. The board decided to remove the superintendent and the blame fell on him. He is unsure that the district has been put into a position for the board to collect this money back. The ESSER funds were temporary and expenses will be returned to the general funds. He believes that this should be voted down.

M. Hines shared that she has been on the board for ten years and recently has had to attend extra board and committee meetings, and they are cutting into her

job. Some board members are barely making it to meetings, not sitting on committees and receiving the same stipend.

L. Abney-Mitchell mentioned that the board was at the meetings and it was heartbreaking having to lay off employees. The board took the cut and she had suggested that the administration also take a cut. She also suggested that a board member was making decisions for the whole board and that the board had to remove an employee to get an audit. It was discovered that there is money and the board is asking for what they lost.

D. Cox shared that the stipend was changed because the \$3,200 was established 27 years ago. As Ms. Hines shared being a board member is a lot of hard work. The stipend increase was due to the cost of living and making being a board member more attractive to the community. This year when there was a vacancy on the board there were 7-8 candidates. However, only two candidates filed for this year's election. The board, the community, and the unions need accurate information that we can count on. School finance is different; the auditors do not look at every line of the budget, they make sure that it is balanced. Look at the destruction the district has faced. In the long term, we need to set up a system so that this never happens to another board. He is not against this but will vote no tonight.

M. Neal pointed out that it was mentioned that the money was never lost and that was not true. The district had a Chief Financial Officer who failed to log numbers. The district then moved funds around to make up for the loss. The board is now voting to get back their full stipend. This should be the first read and not voted on tonight.

F. Weaver shared that Mr. Conn mentioned that the unions are negotiating with the administration. Both sides are feeling good about where we are at. The board is talking about \$14,000. That may sound a lot personally but in the scope of a \$150M budget it is not. You heard about what board members do. He personally serves on policy, finance, disciplinary, and reinstatement committees and meets weekly with the president and superintendent.

M. Neal asked if he would change the wording, to state that the board acted and that he did not act alone.

F. Weaver agreed that the resolution would be updated.

MOTION The board motioned to amend the resolution to say that a resolution was proposed by Mark Neal and acted upon by the Board of Education on December 21, 2023.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

Resolved, that the board approve the Board Member Compensation Resolution as presented. Motion by support by. Motion by M. Hines, support by L. Abney-Mitchell.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

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

Brandon Demiter - Walker-Winter is a great school; you will sacrifice our students by closing it. Walker-Winter protected his son and stood up for him. Think of the children, teachers, principals, and the community, and he would like to keep Walker-Winter open.

Christopher Demiter - does not want his school to close and for the student's education to be taken away. They all love the school and the teachers, too.

Milenia Rondea – 4th grader Walker-Winter- wants the district to keep Walker open. Walker is her second home, and the teachers and staff are part of her family. She and her friends were blessed to have Ms. Gantchar for the last three years, creating lifelong bonds and experiences; this is just one example of how unbelievable Walker is. I am not speaking for just myself; the Walker teachers are excellent and support and push us to go above and beyond to reach our potential. Walker fundraises for field trips and activities for a successful year. The goal is \$10,000 this year, and we will crush it. The STEM program that Walker offers is her favorite thing, and it includes coding and robotics.

Raven Pete – Walker's parents built lifelong friendships at Walker. The teachers and staff are welcoming and the school is unique. They set the tone for the day as the students enter, greeted by an acoustic guitar and cute riddles. STEM K-5 are exposed to coding and robotics, setting interests in students and preparing for life. There are always police present; there are not issues. They are there just because and it makes her feel safe. Why would you take such a safe place away from our students? She has witnessed staff go above and beyond for all students. The teachers push the students to their maximum potential. She could spend all night talking about the fantastic experiences that her family has had at Walker.

Kevin Marchi - continued with the previous agenda comments and thanked Ms. Clair for coming in and quickly proving the point that WWEA has been making from the beginning. If it was suggested that the district use the ESSER funds to stabilize

the district, then the district could have \$32M in the fund by December. On September 12, 2024, the district reported \$32M in the fund without mentioning WWEA. He noted that the previous superintendent told the last chief financial officer to quickly spend down the fund balance to avoid paying a 1% increase. The WWEA is working with the district to figure that out.

Kathryn Mach – concerned Walker-Winter parent, in the fall of 2021 we were told that the district may close the school. During COVID the district had changed their minds. They had to add teachers due to overcrowding in classrooms. As rumors that the district is once again considering closing Walker-Winter, students and staff have left out of fear. Standardized testing scores at Walker-Winter should stand for something. The staff goes out of their way to help the students. Teacher cannot teach well when their class is overcrowded or with the fear of losing their positions.

Susan Montgalias - 5th grade teacher at Walker-Winter, shared that Walker-Winter is in a prime area, and enrollment will continue to increase. The 5th grade classes are at maximum. The staff has done a magnificent job. They have done all the STEM prep, and the data needs to be looked at. The district has lost good people because of this threat. The board owes it to Walker-Winter to state on the record that the building will not be closed.

Jennifer Williams – 23-year Wayne-Westland employee and a recent addition to the Walker-Winter staff. She shared the impact of school closings, “The Harm of School Closures Can Last a Lifetime” from Education Week. Previously, people only thought of the short-term impact, scores, absences, and increase in discipline. In the long term, the students are less likely to attend college, less likely to graduate college, annually earning less than their peers, and these impacts were felt more heavily for students of color and economically challenged. Please consider this when deciding to close any school.

Michelle Sample – shared that about a decade ago when staff was laid off and if they were brought back from layoff they were listed in the board packets. Has there been any action to bring back layoffs? Pointed out that there is a meeting tomorrow posted on the front door for the superintendent evaluation. Thanked the board for no parking signs on the streets, the parking is worse. The district needs to get the media involved in the millage that is on the ballot; we need it on social media. Will all finance committees continue in the workshop form like the one on September 12, 2024?

Laura DeMarco - shared that she was not aware of the finance committee meeting but was able to watch it online. It was good to hear the background information. It would be great if that continued. She suggested more community forums followed by answers to the questions. She thinks it might be time for another set of frequently asked questions. The community is confused, and we would like a handle on what is going on.

Tonya Karpinski - shared that the union is requesting that the WWEA contract be upheld and that Article 2.10 be followed. Prior to decisions being made, inform the union in writing. This could have prevented some of the unfortunate

circumstances. Clarified, that the union did not necessarily know about the fund balance but suspected. It took months and months of requests before Ms. Claire was able to confirm their suspicions. Lack of clarity caused employees to leave, and threats of privatization and loss of staff impacted the students. The WWEA is working without a contract, and the services of students are not being met. We need the bargaining done rapidly for the members and the students. The district needs stability and trust to be built back. A reminder of article 2.10: the ESSER III money needs to be spent by September 30; districts need to contact MDE now to file for an extension.

177.25 ACTING SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS – Curry

J. Curry shared the following comments:

- Congratulated the employees of the year.
- The district will host a Trunk or Treat on October 17.
- High schools will be hosting homecoming events.
- Transportation has a shortage of bus drivers, causing route cancellations.
- The audit will be shared at the October meeting.

178.25 REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS, BOARD OF EDUCATION – Gray

L. Abney-Mitchell shared the following comments:

- Transportation has had to cancel bus routes due to bus driver shortage.
 - Since, September 5th, transportation has cancelled over 20 routes.
 - The district is hiring bus drivers; the information can be found on the website.

M. Neal shared the following comments:

- Complimented the support of the union that attended the meeting.
- Appreciates the Walker-Winter representatives and recognizes the uniqueness of what Walker-Winter has to offer.
- Thanked everyone for attending.

D. Cox shared the following comments:

- Shared that all schools in the district have a special place.
- Walker-Winter has progressed so well and has exceeded its expectations.
- Transportation comes with challenges; collaboration may be the answer, and the union is offering to help.
- Complimented the students who spoke.

K. May shared the following comments:

- Thanked students for leading the pledge.
- Congratulated the employees of the year.

- Welcomed the new hires and congratulated staff who were promoted.
- Shared that the district is making better decisions, looking at policy, and making changes.
- Corrected her Finance Committee report and mentioned that Ms. Hines was present.
- The Finance Committee will continue as a workshop for now.
 - The workshops are about learning not making decisions.
- She was excited when Walker-Winter became a STEM school and is supportive of that idea.

M. Hines shared the following comments:

- Congratulated the new hires and the employees of the year.
- Notices the distance of Walker-Winter and acknowledges that having a school near home is important.
- She is excited to attend the homecoming games and trunk or treat.
- She is currently serving as the President of the Kiwanis Club. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at 3:15 p.m. The next meeting will be on October 8th at the Westland Public Library.
- Plans to visit schools and promote programs

F. Weaver shared the following comments:

- Is proud of all departments in Wayne-Westland.
- Bus drivers and administrators work hard every day to get the students to school.
 - The cancellations need to stop. He is willing to work with the administration to fix this issue.
- Shared that he had misspoken at the last meeting when he mentioned the Sinking Fund. The Operating Millage needs to be recouped from the area businesses and Wayne-Westland needs to approve the millage.

179.25 ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, that the board adjourn the meeting at 10:13 p.m. Motion by K. May, support by M. Neal.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION PASSED

Melandie Hines
Board of Education Secretary
Wayne-Westland Community Schools

DRAFT