



**WASHTENAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

The Washtenaw Intermediate School District Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, in Washtenaw ISD's Teaching and Learning Center Board Room at 1819 South Wagner Road in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Diane Hockett

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present:

Diane Hockett, President
Mary Jane Tramontin, Vice President
Theresa Saunders, Secretary
Steve Olsen, Trustee

The following member was absent:

Sarena Shivers, Treasurer

Quorum was met.

Also present:

Naomi Norman, Superintendent
Brian Marcel, Associate Superintendent
Cassandra Harmon-Higgins, Executive Director of Human Resources and Legal Services
LaDawn White, Early Childhood Grant Manager
Victoria Westmoreland, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
Carmen Cobbett, Parent

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Theresa Saunders, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Ayes: All.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Associate Superintendent Brian Marcel reviewed the financial reports for February 2024, sharing details about grant funding now being represented in the budget, capital project expenditures, and changes to the healthcare coverage insurance fund. Early Childhood Grants Manager LaDawn White reviewed the February 2024 Head Start Financial Reports. LaDawn White fielded questions from the Board.

Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education approve the February 2024 Head Start Financial Reports, as presented.

Voting yes: Theresa Saunders, Mary Jane Tramontin, Steve Olsen, Diane Hockett.

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE DIALOGUE: Superintendent Naomi Norman facilitated the Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice (EISJ) discussion, sharing about the following:

- Superintendent Naomi Norman attended the Domestic Violence Roundtable on Saturday, March 23, 2024, that was organized by WISD Social Worker, Nicole Beverly. This round table discussion included survivors of domestic violence, staff from the county prosecutor office, judges, advocacy and training agencies, police officers, and shelter representatives. Her biggest takeaway from this discussion was recognizing that we all play a vital role in the system of support for survivors, and there is a great need for cross collaboration among organizations within Washtenaw County and the State of Michigan.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Theresa Saunders, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education approve the minutes and Superintendent’s recommendations in the Consent Agenda, as presented.

Voting yes: Steve Olsen, Diane Hockett, Theresa Saunders, Mary Jane Tramontin.

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the March 12, 2024, regular meeting.

085-23-24

The Board approved the contract amendment with SOS Community Services to develop the home visiting program for a cost of \$2,660.00, as presented.

086-23-24

The Board approved the contract with Comcast to provide internet access for a cost of \$84,772.80 plus the cost of any applicable taxes, tariffs, and fees, as presented.

087-23-24

The Board approved the contract with AstroTurf Great Lakes for installation of synthetic turf at High Point School for a cost not to exceed \$71,500.00, as presented.

088-23-24

The Board authorized the administration to apply for the FY25 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) to receive \$350,000.00, as presented.

089-23-24

The Board approved the amendment to the Ten80 Car Challenge Request to meet additional needs of the program for a cost of \$15,000.00, as presented.

090-23-24

The Board approved the contract with University Translators for translation services through the remainder of the 2023-24 program year for a cost of \$67,997.00, as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Board Policies – Second Read: WISD Board of Education President Diane Hockett commented that the suggested revisions that were given at the March 12, 2024, meeting had been made.

Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Steve Olsen, that the Board of Education approve policies #1662 – Harassment, #3362 – Harassment, #4362 – Harassment, #5517 – Harassment, #1422 – Nondiscrimination & Equal Employment Opportunity, #3122 – Nondiscrimination & Equal Employment Opportunity, #4122 – Nondiscrimination & Equal Employment Opportunity, as presented.

Voting yes: Mary Jane Tramontin, Steve Olsen, Diane Hockett, Theresa Saunders.

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION OF CLOSED SESSION: The Board of Education requested a closed session under Sections 8(a) and 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of a discussion regarding individuals who have requested the session be closed, and to conduct the Superintendent’s quarterly evaluation.

Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education authorize a closed session under Sections 8(a) and 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of a discussion regarding individuals who have requested the session be closed, and to conduct the Superintendent’s quarterly evaluation.

Voting yes: Theresa Saunders, Mary Jane Tramontin, Diane Hockett, Steve Olsen.

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into recess for closed session at 5:33 p.m. pursuant to Section 8(a) and 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of a discussion regarding individuals who have requested the session be closed.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened to open session at 6:43 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS – Decision Regarding Closed Session Topic

Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Steve Olsen, that the Board of Education approve the candidate for hire in the case of #24-001, in compliance with WISD Board Policy 3121.01, as presented.

Voting yes: Diane Hockett, Steve Olsen, Mary Jane Tramontin, Theresa Saunders.

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Decision Regarding Closed Session Topic

Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education approve continued employment in the case of #24-002, in compliance with WISD Board Policy 3121.01, as presented.

Voting yes: Theresa Saunders, Mary Jane Tramontin, Steve Olsen, Diane Hockett.

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Care Solace Contract: Superintendent Naomi Norman addressed the Board, providing a brief background on Care Solace and the reach of their services for WISD’s local districts. Naomi shared that contract is essential in building a stronger network of support for the students served by Washtenaw County school districts. She fielded questions from the Board.

Motion by Theresa Saunders, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education authorize the administration to approve a contract with Care Solace, Inc. to provide mental health care coordination and referral services for a cost not to exceed \$77,583.00., as presented.

Voting yes: Theresa Saunders, Mary Jane Tramontin, Diane Hockett, Steve Olsen.

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 127 Plan Document & Grant Application Request:

Associate Superintendent Brian Marcel addressed the Board, providing background on state legislation that was passed in conjunction with the 2023-24 State Budget for the purpose of providing student loan repayment for qualified employees. Brian expressed the importance of a Section 127 Plan to ensure that the payments to employees are not taxed. Brian fielded questions from the Board.

Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education establish an IRC Section 127 plan and authorize the administration to apply for Section 27k grant on behalf of WISD’s eligible staff, as presented.

Voting yes: Steve Olsen, Diane Hockett, Theresa Saunders, Mary Jane Tramontin.

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – Student Advocacy Center: Superintendent Naomi Norman addressed the Board, explaining the scope of the Student Advocacy Center of Michigan and the helpline that it provides to students in Washtenaw County. She explained that this contract will support access to the helpline in other counties throughout Michigan.

Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Theresa Saunders, that the Board of Education authorize the administration to contract with Student Advocacy Center to maintain a statewide helpline for families in educational crisis for a cost not to exceed \$100,000.00.

Voting yes: Mary Jane Tramontin, Steve Olsen, Diane Hockett, Theresa Saunders.

Voting no: None.

Motion carried.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS: WISD Board of Education President Diane Hockett reminded the Board of the upcoming Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice (EISJ) Training dates.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – Superintendent’s Report:

Superintendent Naomi Norman spoke about the following:

- The Future of Learning Council meetings is a group that explores how to shape the next generation of education systems. Naomi explained that her involvement with this group is what led her to

become a Google Fellow, and that she has now nominated Superintendent Chris Timmis and Steve Laatsch for the same opportunity.

- Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS) selected Jazz Parks to serve as Superintendent. Naomi expressed confidence in Superintendent Parks' ability to lead with skill, compassion, and humility. AAPS has been planning for \$25 million in budget cuts through community sessions, surveys, and internal meetings.
- Thrun Law is going to host a professional learning session for the Washtenaw Association of School Boards (WASB) on April 25, 2024. This session will be centered around informing Board members of changes and implications of state laws that have altered the negotiable aspects of teacher contracts.
- Naomi thanked the Board members who were able to attend the WASB Annual Meeting. Naomi mentioned that she received a sizeable amount of positive feedback from board members who attended.
- The Region 8 Superintendents meet monthly, and Naomi shared that this is one of the most helpful of her recurring meetings.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into recess for closed session at 7:11 p.m. pursuant to Section 8(a) – for the purpose of conducting the Superintendent's evaluation.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened to open session at 8:47 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Saunders, Secretary
Washtenaw ISD Board of Education