

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at West Ottawa Public Schools' Administration Office, 1138 136th Avenue.

**REGULAR MEETING  
CALL TO ORDER**

President C. Lebster opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Members Present: D. Duistermars, C. Lebster, J. Otteman, M. Remenschneider, L. Rutan, R. Schipper and T. Smith. Superintendent T. Bearden was also present.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Absent: None

Moved by T. Smith, supported by R. Schipper, to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2023, regular meeting as presented. Motion carried 7-0-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by L. Rutan, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried 7-0-0.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

C. Lebster called for nominations for Board President.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS  
Board President**

Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by T. Smith, that Cathy Lebster be nominated for President. Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by T. Smith, that nominations for Board President be closed as there were no other nominees. Motions carried 7-0-0.

Motion carried 7-0-0 that Cathy Lebster be elected as President of the West Ottawa Board of Education for the 2024 calendar year.

President C. Lebster called for nominations for Board Vice President.

**Board Vice President**

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported J. Otteman, that Tyson Smith be nominated for Board Vice President. Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by M. Remenschneider, that nominations be closed as there were no other nominees. Motions carried 7-0-0.

Motion carried 7-0-0 that Tyson Smith be elected as Vice President of the West Ottawa Board of Education for the 2024 calendar year.

President C. Lebster called for nominations for Board Secretary.

**Board Secretary**

Moved by T. Smith, supported by D. Duistermars, that Mary Remenschneider be nominated for Board Secretary. Moved by T. Smith, supported by D. Duistermars, that nominations be closed as there were no other nominees. Motions carried 7-0-0.

Motion carried 7-0-0 that Mary Remenschneider be elected as Secretary of the West Ottawa Board of Education for the 2024 calendar year.

President C. Lebster called for nominations for Board Treasurer.

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by T. Smith, that Randy Schipper be nominated for Board Treasurer. Motions carried 7-0-0.

Motion carried 7-0-0 that Randy Schipper be elected as Treasurer of the West Ottawa Board of Education for the 2024 calendar year.

West Ottawa Board members received tokens of appreciation and thanks for their leadership and commitment from Theresann Pyrett, on behalf of the WOE, and Superintendent Tim Bearden, on behalf of the administrators.

Tim Gerrits was recognized for the ASBA Stadium Award.

L. Rutan gave a wonderful tribute to the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Superintendent Bearden presented on district updates and goals.

M. Remenschneider reported the Finance & Facilities committee discussed the following items during the January 10 meeting: monthly financial reports, Chromebook purchase, Performing Arts Center furniture approval, operating millage renewal proposal, Sheldon Woods bond project equipment approval, and 2024 Building and Site Bond authorizing resolution.

Opportunity was given for communications from the audience regarding agenda items. There was no response.

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by J. Otteman, that the Board approve the following probationary contracts for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year:

1. Katarina Marko Behavior Specialist, Pine Creek & North Holland Elementary
2. Faith Jensen Special Education Resource Teacher, MacBay Middle School

Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by R. Schipper, that the proposed meeting schedules of Regular Board meetings and Board Officers' meetings be approved for 2024 calendar year and the month of January 2025. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by L. Rutan, supported by R. Schipper, that the proposed schedule of Board Committee meetings be approved for 2024. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by L. Rutan, supported by T. Smith, that the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent be responsible for posting public notices of meetings for the 2024 calendar year and January 2025, with the Superintendent's designee as the alternate. Motion carried 7-0-0.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**  
**(Cont'd.)**

Board Treasurer

**RECOGNITION**  
Board of Education

ASBA Stadium Award

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Superintendent's Update

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**  
Finance & Facilities

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM**  
**THE AUDIENCE**  
(regarding agenda items)

**ACTION ITEMS**  
Approval of  
Probationary Contracts

Adoption of 2024 Schedule of  
Regular Board Meetings

Adoption of 2024 Schedule of  
Board Committee Meetings

Designation of person posting  
Notices of Meetings

Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by R. Schipper, that the members of the West Ottawa Board of Education receive no compensation for their services. Motion carried 7-0-0.

**ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd.)**

Board Member Compensation

Moved by R. Schipper, support by L. Rutan, that D. Duistermars be appointed as the West Ottawa Board of Education's representative to the Ottawa Area School Board Association's Board of Directors for the 2024 calendar year. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Appointment of Representative to the Ottawa Area School Board Association's Board of Directors

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by T. Smith, that the Board approve, as presented, the Resolution calling for a special election of the school electors of the District be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, and the language for the district's operating millage renewal proposal on the ballot for this election.

Resolution Calling Special Election & Ballot Language for Operating Millage Renewal May 2024

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: D. Duistermars, C. Lebster, J. Otteman, M. Remenschneider, L. Rutan, T. Smith and R. Schipper

Nays: None

Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by T. Smith, supported by, J. Otteman that the Board approve the purchase of Chromebook's from Presidio as presented in the amount of \$394,080 as recommended by the CFO. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Approval of Presidio Chromebook Quote

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by T. Smith, that the Board approve the purchase of furniture from the Custer quote in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 as recommended by the CFO. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Approval of Custer Furniture Quote

Moved by M. Remeschneider, supported by R. Schipper, that the Board approve the purchase of equipment for Sheldon Woods Elementary from the Omnia contract quote in the amount of \$419,815 as recommended by the CFO. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Approval of Equipment Purchase for SW Quote

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by L. Rutan, that the West Ottawa Board of Education approve the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Delegating the Sale of 2024 School Building and Site Bonds and other matters related thereto as presented. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Approval of the Issuance & Sale of 2024 School Building & Site Bonds

Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by J. Otteman, that the following firm be named legal counsel for the 2024 calendar year or as otherwise directed by the Board of Education:

Approval of Annual Retainer Contract

- Thrun Law Firm, P.C. for general district needs

Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by T. Smith, supported by M. Remenschneider, that the Board approve, following a 30-day review, the following Curriculum and associated resources from CodeHS for the following courses: Python Fundamentals, Advanced Python, Cybersecurity Fundamentals, Advanced Cybersecurity, AP Computer Science Principles, and AP Computer Science Java. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Computer Science Curriculum Adoption—CodeHS

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by J. Otteman, that the Board approve the following travel application, pending consideration of the world situation at the time of the proposed trip:

1. January 26 & 27, 2024 – West Ottawa Varsity Hockey to the Michigan Public High School Hockey Showcase in Chelsea / Ann Arbor, Michigan

Motion carried 7-0-0.

Opportunity was given for communications from the audience. There was no response.

Opportunity was given for Board communications. There was no response.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Office Training Room.

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by L. Rutan, that the West Ottawa Board of Education convene in closed session at 8:07 p.m., pursuant to Section 8 (c) (Collective Bargaining) and (k) (Security Planning) of the Open Meetings Act.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: D. Duistermars, C. Lebster, J. Otteman, M. Remenschneider, L. Rutan, T. Smith and R. Schipper

Nays: None

Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by T. Smith, that the Board reconvene in open session at 9:45 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: D. Duistermars, C. Lebster, J. Otteman, M. Remenschneider, L. Rutan, T. Smith and R. Schipper

Nays: None

Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by T. Smith, that the meeting adjourn at 9:46 p.m.  
Motion carried 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Remenschneider, Secretary

**ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd.)**

Travel Application

**FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM  
THE AUDIENCE**  
(regarding items  
not on the agenda)

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

**NEXT MEETING 02/19/2024**

Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**RECONVENE IN  
OPEN SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**