

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 C. Martinez. Superintendent T. Bearden was also present.

ROLL CALL

Members Absent: None

President Lebster administered the Oath of Office to Cynthia Martinez who was elected in November 2024 for a 4-year term beginning January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2022.

OATH OF OFFICE

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by M. Remenschneider, to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2024, regular meeting as presented. Motion carried 7-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Superintendent Bearden called for nominations for Board President.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Board President**

Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by C. Martinez, that Cathy Lebster be nominated for President. Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by C. Martinez, 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 2025 calendar year.

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

Board Vice President

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported J. Otteman, that Mary Remenschneider be nominated for Board Vice President. Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by J. Otteman, 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 Vice President of the West Ottawa Board of Education for the 2025 calendar year.

President C. Lebster called for nominations for Board Secretary.

Board Secretary

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by M. Remenschneider, that Jim Otteman be nominated for Board Secretary. Moved by M. Remenschneider, 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 Jim Otteman be elected as Secretary of the West Ottawa Board of Education for the 2025 calendar year.

President C. Lebster called for nominations for Board Treasurer.

Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by J. Otteman, 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 2025 calendar year.

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

Pam Schwallier presented on the Grow Your Own Program grant impact.

Superintendent Bearden gave an update on the beautiful Love Prevails MLK Day Event, then presented on the following:

- Win WO raised about 42K
- Out door Learning
- Online Registrations
- the Future of Educational Technology Conference (FETC)

J. Otteman reported the Finance & Facilities committee discussed the following items during the January 15 meeting: monthly financial reports, January 2025 Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference, Facilities Update, Operating Millage Renewal Proposal, Riley Farms Custodial Equipment Purchase Approval, Outdoor Classroom Project Approval.

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

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by R. Schipper, that the proposed meeting schedules of Regular Board meetings and Board Officers' meetings be approved for 2025 calendar year and the month of January 2026. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by Remenschneider, supported by D. Duistermars, that the proposed schedule of Board Committee meetings be approved for 2025. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by J. Otteman, that the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent be responsible for posting public notices of meetings for the 2025 calendar year and January 2026, with the Superintendent's designee as the alternate. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by R. Schipper, support by J. Otteman, that Darrin 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 2025 calendar year. Motion carried 7-0-0.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS
(Cont'd.)

Board Treasurer

RECOGNITION
Board of Education

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
Grow Your Own Program
Superintendent's Update

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Finance & Facilities

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE
(regarding agenda items)

ACTION ITEMS
Adoption of 2025 Schedule of Regular Board Meetings

Adoption of 2025 Schedule of Board Committee Meetings

Designation of person posting Notices of Meetings

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

Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by L. Rutan, 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 6, 2025, and the language for the district's operating millage renewal proposal on the ballot for this election.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by D. Duistermars, that the Board approve the purchase of custodial floor cleaning equipment for Riley Farms Elementary for an amount not to exceed \$57,936, as presented by the Associate Superintendent of Business & Finance. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by D. Duistermars, that the Board approve contracts for district elementary outdoor classroom equipment for an amount not to exceed \$1,879,508, as presented by the Associate Superintendent of Business & Finance.

Moved by L. Rutan, supported by R. Schipper, that the following firm be named legal counsel for the 2025 calendar year or as otherwise directed by the Board of Education:

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

Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by L. Rutan, that the Board repeal the Board's current bullying policy under MCL 380.13010b, and accepts the Administration's recommendation to adopt Policy 5207 (Anti-Bullying). Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by J. Otteman, that the Board approve the following probationary contracts for the remainder of the 2024—2025 school year:

- Adelyn Wilcox ELL Teacher, High School
- Staci Gilhul Social Worker, District

Motion carried 7-0-0.

ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd.)

Resolution Calling
Special Election & Ballot
Language for Operating
Millage Renewal May 2025

Riley Farms Custodial
Equipment

Outdoor Classroom
Package

Approval of
Annual Retainer Contract

Adoption of Policy 5207
—Anti-Bullying

Approval of
Probationary Contracts

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

Opportunity was given for Board communications. Board Members D. Duistermars, C. Lebster, M. Remenschneider, and C. Martinez commented about district events. C. Martinez was also welcomed as the new Board Member.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 17, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Office Training Room.

Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by J. Otteman, that the meeting adjourn at 8:06 p.m.
Motion carried 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Otteman, Secretary

FUTURE CONSIDERATION

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

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

NEXT MEETING 02/17/2025

Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT