

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

President Lebster opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Members Absent: none

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by L. Rutan, to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2025, work session and regular meeting as presented. Motion carried 7-0-0.

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

Superintendent Bearden and Board President Lebster publicly thanked and recognized Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, Jens Milobinski for his dedication, his service, and the heart he brought in everything he did.

Nicole Harthun and Link students from Macatawa Bay Middle School presented on classroom and lunch Links, Unified Sports, and student experience.

Superintendent Bearden reported on the following:

- Vapor Wake Dog
- 1,2,3 Andres Event held by Pam Schwallier
- Strategic Plan Forums
- Cabinet restructure
- Global Initiatives—Yssingaux, France student trip
- Riley Farms Open House May 1
- Elections
- Cell phone policies
- Project Panther
- School finance

Kristin Graham presented on the West Ottawa Great Start Readiness Preschool program.

Student Senate Representative Fatima Correa Morales reported on the following:

- Live broadcasting
- French Exchange
- Music departments collaboration
- Utilizing social media
- Senior Water Challenge

**REGULAR MEETING
CALL TO ORDER**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recognition

INFORMATION ITEMS

Macatawa Bay Links

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent's Update

Early Childhood Programming

Student Senate Update

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R. Schipper reported the Instructional Services committee met on April 1 and discussed the following items: March 26 PD, new teacher training, learning labs / instructional rounds, teacher summer PD calendar, and Global Scholars and STEM Endorsements.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Instructional Services

L. Rutan reported the Student Services & K-5 Instruction committee met on April 14 and discussed the following items: AI Classroom Guidelines & AI principles & beliefs, Panther Pathways growth / impact snapshot, Principal instructional leadership focus, district safety and security presentation, and teacher summer 2025 professional development.

Student Services &
K-5 Instruction

M. Remenschneider reported the Finance & Facilities committee met on April 16 and discussed the following: Custodial contract renewal, WOTA contract approval, Riley Farms pole barn, PAC acoustical panels, Lakewood Elementary roof, WO Community & aquatic center, student Chromebook purchases, approval of elementary literacy materials purchase, general fund monthly financials, food service fund monthly financials, and economic / financial updates.

Finance & Facilities

C. Martinez reported the HR & Communications committee met on April 3 and discussed the following: new hires, postings, and legislative update.

HR & Communications

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

(regarding agenda items)

ACTION ITEM

Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by C. Martinez, that an administrative contract for the 2024-2025 school year be awarded to Matt Stolz as the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Approval of
Administrative Contract

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by R. Schipper, that a probationary contract be awarded to the following for the 2025-2026 school year:

Approval of
Probationary Contracts

- Kim Letavish EL Teacher, Harbor Lights Middle School
- Anna Vanhuis ELA Teacher, Harbor Lights Middle School
- Norah Martin Elementary Science
- Henry Lerchen Social Studies Teacher, Harbor Lights Middle School
- Dov Emerson ELA Teacher, Harbor Lights Middle School
- Sarah Johnson 1st Grade Teacher, Los Lagos
- Natalie Glover ELA Teacher, Harbor Lights Middle School

Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by C. Martinez, that the 2025-2026 West Michigan Janitorial Custodial contract in the amount of \$2,125,890.30 for custodial services be approved as recommended and presented by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 7-0-0.

25-26 West Michigan
Janitorial Contract

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Moved by R. Schipper, supported by J. Otteman, that the Board approve the construction of the Storage Barn at Riley Farms Elementary for an amount not to exceed \$152,443, as presented by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by C. Martinez, that the Board approve the purchase and installation of Acoustic Panels at the Performing Arts Center for an amount not to exceed \$48,208, as presented by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by L. Rutan, that the Board approve the roofing replacements at Lakewood Elementary School during the summer of 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$698,476, as presented by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by J. Otteman, that the Board approve the construction of the West Ottawa Aquatic and Community Center, for an amount not to exceed \$67,231,815, as presented by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by C. Martinez, that the Board approve the purchase of student Chromebooks and licenses, for an amount not to exceed \$396,480, as presented by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by M. Remenschneider, that the Board approve the purchase of ancillary furniture in elementary buildings throughout the district, for an amount not to exceed \$261,460, as presented by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by L. Rutan, supported by J. Otteman, that the Board approve the purchase of elementary literacy materials, for an amount not to exceed \$901,572, as presented by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by M. Remenschneider, that the Board approve the ratification of the Master Agreement between the West Ottawa Public Schools and the West Ottawa Transportation Association (WOTA) for the term beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029.

Roll Call Vote

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 7-0-0.

ACTION ITEM (Cont'd.)

Approval of RF
Pole Barn

Approval of Acoustic Panels
For PAC

Approval of
LW Roofing Improvements

Approval of
Community & Aquatic
Center Bids

Approval of Student
Chromebook Purchase

Approval of
New Furniture
For Ancillary Spaces

Approval of
Elementary Literacy
Materials Purchase

Approval 2025-2029
WOTA Master
Agreement

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Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by J. Otteman, that the following travel applications be approved as presented, pending consideration of the world situation at the time of the proposed trip:

- **April 25 - 26, 2025** – West Ottawa Science Olympiad to the State Tournament at MSU in East Lansing, Michigan
- **July 13 – 16, 2025** – W.O.H.S. Men's Cross-Country Team to the 3rd Annual 'Trip up North' Running Camp in Bear Lake, Michigan

Motion carried 7-0-0.

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

Opportunity was given for communications from the Board.

R. Schipper, D. Duistermars, M. Remenschneider, and C. Lebster commented about amazing WO staff and student events.

The next work session is May 19, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., followed by a regular meeting at 7 p.m.

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by L. Rutan, that the meeting adjourn at 8:28 p.m.
Motion carried 7-0-0.

ACTION ITEM (Cont'd.)

Approval of
Travel Applications

FUTURE CONSIDERATION

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

(regarding items
not on the agenda)

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

NEXT MEETING 5/19/25

Work Session, 5:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Otteman, Secretary