

An organizational/regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at West Ottawa Public Schools' Administration Office, 1138 136th Avenue.

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

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

Members Absent: C. Martinez (*with notice*)

Moved by J. Otteman supported by L. Rutan, to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2025, regular meeting as presented. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by J. Otteman, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Superintendent Bearden presented on the following topics: Summer Construction Updates, Summer Planning, Fall Initiatives, and Enrollment Updates.

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

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by M. Remenschneider, that an administrative contract for the 2025-2026 school year be awarded to the following:

1. Stephanie Irizarry - Dean
2. Brian Brenbarger - Dean

Motion carried 6-0-0.

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by L. Rutan, that a probationary contract for the 2024-2025 school year be awarded to the following:

1. Kay Markovic - HS Business Teacher
2. Erica Ruffner - Rowell - HS English Learner Teacher
3. Nicole Davenport - HS English Learner Teacher
4. Caleb Moles - HS Social Studies
5. Allison Karr - Riley Farms 4th Grade
6. Elise Stanley - Riley Farms 3rd Grade
7. Abby Harris - Riley Farms 3rd Grade
8. Molly Johnson - Sheldon Woods 1st Grade
9. Anne Stolz - Sheldon Woods Kindergarten
10. Natalie Jarzembrowski - Sheldon Woods 2nd Grade
11. Erica Moses - Lakewood 1st Grade
12. Ashley Metzelaars - Riley Farms Kindergarten
13. Liz DeBacker - Library K-5
14. Aliyah VanderGoot - Riley Farms 5th

Motion carried 6-0-0.

**FISCAL ORGANIZATIONAL/
REGULAR MEETING**
CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

INFORMATION ITEMS
Superintendent Update

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

ACTION ITEMS
Approval of Administrative
Contracts

ACTION ITEMS
Approval of Probationary
Contracts

Moved by L. Rutan, supported by J. Otteman, that Bank of America, Bank of New York, Chase Bank, TCF National Bank, Fifth/Third Bank, First United Credit Union, Flagstar Bank, Horizon Bank, Huntington National Bank, JP Morgan, Lake Michigan Credit Union, Level One Bank, Macatawa Bank, Mercantile Bank, Old National Bank, PNC Bank, United Bank, MILAF, and West Michigan Community Bank be used as depositories for West Ottawa Public Schools for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Motion carried 6-0-0.

ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd.)

Designation of Depositories
for School Funds

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by M. Remenschneider, that Tim Bearden and Chris LaHaie be authorized signers for the West Ottawa Public Schools checking accounts and that Automated Clearing House (ACH) transactions be authorized and completed as detailed in Policy 6108. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Check Signature
Authorization

Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by D. Duisttermars, that the following people be authorized to sign contracts on behalf of the district: the Superintendent, the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations, the Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, and administrators to be authorized to sign purchase orders as designated by the Superintendent. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Contract and Purchase Order
Signature Authorization

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by M. Remenschneider, that the West Ottawa Board of Education retain membership in the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) - Legal Trust Fund, and the Michigan Institute for Educational Management (MIEM). Motion carried 6-0-0.

Approval of
Organizational Memberships

Moved by L. Rutan, supported by J. Otteman, that the following firms be named legal counsel for the 2025-2026 fiscal year or as otherwise directed by the Board of Education:

Approval of
Annual Retainer Contracts

- Clark Hill, P.L.C. for general district needs
- Miller Johnson for general district needs
- Thrun Law Firm, P.C. for general district needs

Motion carried 6-0-0.

Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by L. Rutan, that the firm of Maner Costerisan be hired as the 2025-2026 district auditor as recommended by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Approval of
District Auditor

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by L. Rutan, that the Summer 2026 Tax Collection Resolution be approved as presented.

Approval of Annual Resolution
for Summer Taxes

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 6-0-0.

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by J. Otteman, that the Board approve the purchase of high school track hurdles, starting blocks, covers, and carts for an amount not to exceed \$57,165, as presented by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations.

ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd.)

Track Hurdles, Starting Blocks,
Carts, And Covers

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

Travel Applications

1. **August 4 – 7, 2025** – Girls Cross Country on a Team Camp to Bellaire, MI
2. **October 3 – 5, 2025** – Girls Cross Country to the Nike XC Town Twilight Cross Country Meet in Terre Haute, IN

Motion approved 6-0-0.

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

FUTURE CONSIDERATION
COMMUNICATIONS FROM
THE AUDIENCE
(regarding any items)

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

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The next Regular meeting is August 18 at 7 p.m. in the Administration Office Training Room.

NEXT MEETING 8/18/25
Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Moved by J. Ottemen, supported by M. Remenschneider, that the meeting adjourn at 6:05 p.m.
Motion carried 6-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Otteman, Secretary