

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, R. Schipper and C. Martinez. Superintendent T. Bearden was also present.

ROLL CALL

Members Absent: L. Rutan

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Superintendent Bearden called for nominations for Board President.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Board President**

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by C. Lebster, that Mary Remenschneider be nominated for President. Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by C. Lebster, that nominations for Board President be closed as there were no other nominees. Motions carried 6-0-0.

Motion carried 6-0-0 that Mary Remenschneider be elected as President of the West Ottawa Board of Education for the 2026 calendar year.

President M. Remenschneider called for nominations for Board Vice President.

Board Vice President

Moved by C. Lebster, supported J. Otteman, that Darrin Duistermars be nominated for Board Vice President. Moved by C. Lebster, supported J. Otteman, that nominations be closed as there were no other nominees. Motions carried 6-0-0.

Motion carried 6-0-0 that Darrin Duistermars be elected as Vice President of the West Ottawa Board of Education for the 2026 calendar year.

President M. Remenschneider called for nominations for Board Secretary.

Board Secretary

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by C. Martinez, that Jim Otteman be nominated for Board Secretary. Moved by R. Schipper, supported by C. Martinez, that nominations be closed as there were no other nominees. Motions carried 6-0-0.

Motion carried 6-0-0 that Jim Otteman be elected as Secretary of the West Ottawa Board of Education for the 2026 calendar year.

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President M. Remenschneider called for nominations for Board Treasurer.

Moved by C. Lebster, supported by D. Duistermars, that Randy Schipper be nominated for Board Treasurer. Motions carried 6-0-0.

Motion carried 6-0-0 that Randy Schipper be elected as Treasurer of the West Ottawa Board of Education for the 2026 calendar year.

Superintendent Bearden updated the Board on ongoing projects and events.

J. Otteman reported the Finance & Facilities committee discussed the following items during the January 14 meeting: monthly financial reports, transportation inspection update, Food Service Meal Data, investment earnings, capital projects, and the Non-Homestead Millage Renewal.

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

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by R. Schipper, that the Board approve a probationary contract for the 2025-2026 school year for Shonna Van Kempen for Young Kindergarten at Great Lakes. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by D. Duistermars, that the proposed meeting schedules of Regular Board meetings and Board Officers' meetings be approved for the 2026 calendar year and the month of January 2027. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by J. Otteman, that the proposed schedule of Board Committee meetings be approved for 2026. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Moved by C. Lebster, supported by R. Schipper, that the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent be responsible for posting public notices of meetings for the 2026 calendar year and January 2027, with the Superintendent's designee as the alternate. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Moved by D. Duistermars, support by C. Lebster, that Cynthia Martinez be appointed as the West Ottawa Board of Education's representative to the Ottawa Area School Board Association's Board of Directors for the 2026 calendar year. Motion carried 6-0-0.

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

Board Treasurer

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
Superintendent's Update

COMMITTEE REPORT
Finance & Facilities

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

ACTION ITEMS
Approval of
Probationary Contract

Adoption of 2026 Schedule of
Regular Board Meetings

Adoption of 2026 Schedule of
Board Committee Meetings

Designation of person posting
Notices of Meetings

Appointment of Representa-
tive to the Ottawa Area School
Board Association's Board of
Directors

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Moved by R. Schipper, supported by C. Lebster, 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 5, 2026, 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, C. Martinez and R. Schipper

Nays: None

Motion carried 6-0-0.

Moved by C. Martinez, supported by R. Schipper, that the following firm be named legal counsel for the 2026 calendar year or as otherwise directed by the Board of Education:

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

Motion carried 6-0-0.

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:

- January 23 & 24, 2026 - Dance Team to the Winter Wishes Dance Competition at the Rochester High School in Rochester Hills, Michigan
- May 29 – 31, 2026 – WOHS Band on a trip to Mackinaw City & Mackinaw Island

Motion carried 6-0-0.

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 16, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Office Training Room.

Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by J. Otteman, that the meeting adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

Motion carried 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd.)

Resolution Calling
Special Election & Ballot
Language for Operating
Millage Renewal May 2026

Approval of
Annual Retainer Contract

Travel Applications

FUTURE CONSIDERATION

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

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

NEXT MEETING 02/16/2026

Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Jim Otteman, Secretary