

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 Remenschneider 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.

ROLL CALL

Members Absent: None.

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by C. Martinez, to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2026, regular meeting as presented. Motion carried 7-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

West Ottawa administrators were recognized by the Board of Education and the West Ottawa Education Association (WOEA).

RECOGNITION

West Ottawa Administrators

President Remenschneider expressed the Board's appreciation for the administrators' dedication, passion, and strong leadership, and thanked them for their continued commitment and tireless efforts in support of the district.

Nikki Walworth, representing the WOEa, expressed appreciation for the administrative team and highlighted the value of their collaborative partnership in supporting student success.

On behalf of the WOEa, she also presented tokens of appreciation to the West Ottawa Board members in recognition of their leadership and ongoing commitment to the district.

Board of Education

Superintendent T. Bearden presented on the following:

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent's Update

- 27L Funds
- Elementary Reading 35M Model
- Wovation
- MiLeap—FAFSA Challenge
- Elementary Online Registration Numbers
- Count Day Mobility
- Niche.com
- Strategic Plan Update

Student Senate Representative Riley Jernigan reported on the following student events:

- Blood Drive Update
- Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Theater Performance
- WOHS Showcase
- Winter events at MacBay

Tung Nguyen and Brad DeVries highlighted several notable accomplishments and initiatives at WOVA, including recognition as the #1 virtual high school in Michigan, historic enrollment trends, and the development and instruction of West Ottawa–aligned virtual courses created and taught by WOPS teachers. They also shared updates on AP scores, graduation highlights, the Fall 2025 data story, and the continued focus on the WOVA Commitment.

M. Remenschneider reported the Innovation and 6-12 Instruction committee discussed the following during its February 3 meeting:

- Global Initiatives- Spain Exchange
- MiLEAP- FAFSA Grant
- Spanish Dual Immersion Pathways - update
- AI Foundations - Fox17 news story- course challenges
- Instructional Coaching Update
- School Improvement Survey Results
- Human Restoration Project

L. Rutan reported the Elementary Curriculum & Instruction committee discussed the following during its February 10 meeting:

- Channel 13 Teacher of the week
- March 2 & 3 Dr. Andrea Honigsfeld
- Michigan’s New Literacy Requirements
- Integrating Bookworms & UFLI
- Summer School Revamp

C. Lebster reported the Finance & Operations committee discussed the following items during the February 11 meeting: monthly financial reports, economic / financial update, action items, and district updates.

C. Martinez reported the HR & Wellness committee discussed the following items during the February 4 meeting: Hiring Manual, 27L Funds, Certified Staff Exit Survey, Staffing updates, and Title IC.

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

INFORMATION ITEMS
(Cont'd.)
Student Senate Update

WOVA Student Success

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Innovation & 6-12 Instruction

Elementary Curriculum
& Instruction

Finance & Operations

HR & Wellness

COMMUNICATIONS FROM
THE AUDIENCE
(regarding agenda items)

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by C. Lebster, that the Board approve the ratification of the Letter of Agreement between the West Ottawa Public Schools, West Ottawa Education Association and the West Ottawa Transportation Association for the proposed payment of Section 27L(2) funding during the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried 7-0-0.

ACTION ITEMS
Approval of Letter of Agreement
WOEA & WOTA

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by D. Duistermars, that the Board approve the purchase of Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS), for an amount not to exceed \$119,362, as presented by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Network Electronics
(UPS)

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by R. Schipper, that the Board approve a 5-year agreement for cloud based wireless licensing and support, for an amount not to exceed \$198,667, as presented by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Wireless Licensing & Support

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by R. Schipper, that the Board approve the purchase of three classrooms of "pilot" furniture at Pine Creek Elementary, for an amount not to exceed \$106,166, as presented by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Pine Creek Pilot Classroom Furniture

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by J. Otteman, that the Board approve the purchase and installation of shatterproof safety film at Riley Farms Elementary, for an amount not to exceed \$55,168, as presented by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Riley Farms Safety Film

Moved by C. Martinez supported by R. Schipper, that the Board approve a three-year contract with Trugreen for the purpose applying fertilizer to WOPS, for an amount not to exceed \$55,316 in 2026, with 3% increase in 2027 and 2.5% increase in 2028, as presented by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Fertilizer Contract

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by J. Otteman, that the Board approve a three-year contract with Brookview for the purpose spring / fall cleanup, athletic mowing, and herbicide / weeding for WOPS, for an amount not to exceed \$184,065 in 2026, with 3% increase in 2027 and 3% increase in 2028, as presented by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Landscaping Contract

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by C. Martinez, that the Board approve the request to relinquish federal funds allocated for the Title I, Part C Summer Migrant Program for the current Fiscal Year 2026. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Relinquish Federal Funds for Summer Migrant Program

Moved by L. Rutan, supported by J. Otteman, that the Board approve the request to relinquish federal funds allocated for the Title I, Part C Regular School Year Migrant Program for the Fiscal Year 2027. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by R. Schipper, that the West Ottawa High School graduation requirements be amended beginning with the Class of 2027 to include FAFSA completion or applicable opt out form. Motion carried 7-0-0.

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

1. **April 1, 2026** – French & Art group on a field trip to Chicago, IL
2. **May 27, 2026** – Lakewood Elementary 5th grade students on a field trip to Chicago Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, IL

Motion carried 7-0-0.

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

During Board Communications, J. Otteman, D. Duistermars, and R. Schipper shared updates and comments regarding WO events and programs.

The next meeting is a work session on March 16, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., followed by a regular meeting at 7 p.m. in the Administration Office Training Room.

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by C. Lebster, that the meeting adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Otteman, Secretary

ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd.)

Relinquish Federal Funds for SY Migrant Program

WOHS Graduation Requirement Update

Approval of Travel Applications

FUTURE CONSIDERATION

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

(regarding items not on the agenda)

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

NEXT MEETING 3/16/26

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

ADJOURNMENT