

**2025-2026 Budget Hearing**

**2025-2026  
BUDGET HEARING**

President M. Remenschneider called the budget hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. and turned it over to Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations, Chris LaHaie. Mr. LaHaie discussed the L-4029 millage rates, student enrollment history, the 2025-2026 final budget, and provided an overview of the proposed 2026-2027 budgets: general fund operating budget, fiduciary fund budget, food service fund budget, and repair and improvement (aka “sinking”) fund budget.

**Regular Meeting - June 15, 2026**

**REGULAR MEETING**

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.

Call to Order

President M. Remenschneider opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Members Present: D. Duistermars, C. Martinez, M. Remenschneider, R. Schipper, and C. Lebster.

Roll Call

Members Absent: J. Otteman and L. Rutan (*with notice*)

Moved by C. Martinez, supported by C. Lebster, that the minutes from the May 18, 2026, work session and regular meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by C. Lebster, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Approval of Agenda

The Pine Creek Principal, Jessica Rios, presented on the Reflex Pilot Program. She explained that the program provided students with personalized, engaging practice opportunities that met them at their individual skill level. It also allowed teachers to monitor progress and celebrate student growth throughout the year.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

Reflex Math: Success at Pine Creek

Superintendent Bearden reported on the following:

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

Superintendent’s Update

- Reimagining education in Ottawa County—WO-X
- District investments
- Spring updates

M. Remenschneider reported the Innovation & 6-12 Instruction committee met on June 2 and discussed the following: HS outdoor education initiatives and summer school programming.

COMMITTEE REPORTS  
Innovation & 6-12 Instruction

D. Duistermars reported that the Elementary Curriculum & Instruction committee met on June 1 to discuss the following: Elementary handbook changes 26-27, Bookmobile, Meet Up and Eat Up, MDE roadmap, Spring UFLI Pilot update, and YK curriculum for adoption.

Elementary Curriculum & Instruction

R. Schipper reported the Finance & Operations committee met on June 10 to review the budgets and action items.

Finance & Operations

C. Martinez provided an update indicating that the HR & Wellness Committee convened on June 4 and discussed the following: HS highlights, HR goals, negotiations, and Legislative updates.

HR & Wellness

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

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by R. Schipper, that a probationary contract for the 2026-2027 school year be awarded to the following:

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Probationary Contracts

1. Abby Epperson - High School Science
2. Conner Woods - Middle School Social Studies
3. Anna Krupka - Kindergarten Los Lagos
4. Lyssa Karner - Speech and Language Pathologist
5. Jaxon Carpenter - High School Social Studies
6. Meg Johnson - Middle School Art
7. Marlee Remenap - K-5 PBIS Specialist
8. Marissa Cole - High School English Language Arts

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Moved by C. Martinez, supported by C. Lebster that the proposed meal prices for the 2026-2027 school year be approved as presented and recommended by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 5-0-0.

2026-2027 Meal Prices

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by C. Martinez, that the Board approve the 2026 L-4029 millage rates as recommended by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Approval of the L-4029

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by C. Martinez, that the final budget amendments to the 2025-2026 General Fund, Food Service Fund, Fiduciary Fund and Repair and Improvement (aka Sinking) Fund income and appropriations be approved as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: C. Martinez, C. Lebster, M. Remenschneider, R. Schipper,  
and D. Duistermars,

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by C. Lebster, that the 2026-2027 General Fund Operating Budget, Fiduciary Fund Budget, Food Service Fund Budget, and Repair and Improvement (Sinking) Fund Budget resolutions be approved as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: C. Martinez, C. Lebster, M. Remenschneider, R. Schipper,  
and D. Duistermars,

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Moved by C. Lebster, supported by C. Martinez, that the Board approve the purchase of marching band drums for an amount not to exceed \$49,552, as recommended by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Moved by C. Lebster, supported by R. Schipper, that the Board approve the purchase of copy machines and associated equipment from Xerox for an amount not to exceed \$123,019, as recommended by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 5-0-0.

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:

- June 26 – 28 – Boys Varsity Basketball to the Midwest Live Ohio Basketball Coaches Association Shootout in Sandusky, OH
- July 17 – 19 – West Ottawa Volleyball to the Purdue Team Camp in West Lafayette, IN
- August 14 & 15 – West Ottawa Volleyball Team activities at the Coach’s house in Holland MI

Motion carried 5-0-0.

**ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd.)**

Approval of Final 2025-2026  
Budget Amendments

Approval of 2026-2027  
Budget

WOHS Marching Band  
Drums

District Copy Machines

**ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd.)**

Approval of  
Travel Applications

The audience was given an opportunity to communicate about any items, but there was no response.

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

The next meeting is the fiscal organizational/regular meeting on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at West Ottawa Public Schools' Administration Office.

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by D. Duistermars, that the Board of Education convene in closed session at 7:50 p.m., pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) (Legal Update), and pursuant to MCL 15.268 8(a), to discuss a periodic personnel evaluation of the Superintendent.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: C. Martinez, C. Lebster, M. Remenschneider, R. Schipper,  
and D. Duistermars,

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by D. Duistermars, that the Board of Education reconvene in open session at 8:35 p.m.

Moved by M. Remenschneider, supported by R. Schipper, that the meeting adjourn at 8:36 p.m. Motion carried 5-0-0.

**FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

Communications from  
the Audience  
(regarding any items)

Board Communications

Next Meeting 7/1/26:  
Fiscal Organizational / Regular  
Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

**Closed Session**

**Reconvene in  
Open Session**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

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Jim Otteman, Secretary