

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, and M. Remenschneider.

Members Absent: C. Martinez and R. Schipper (*with notice*)

Moved by J. Otteman supported by C. Lebster, to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2026, regular meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0-0.

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

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

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

1. Kaitlyn Goeman - Los Lagos
2. Stacey Plott - Riley Farms 4th
3. Anne Fiewig - Pine Creek K
4. Hannah Greer-Young - Corpus Christi Music
5. Jacinda Cole - HL Social Studies
6. Daniel Garzalez - MB & LL Special Education
7. Jenna Kreiner - RF 4th Grade Teacher

Motion carried 5-0-0.

Moved by L. Rutan, supported by C. Lebster, that Bank of America, Bank of New York, Chase Bank, TCF, Fifth/Third Bank, First United Credit Union, Flagstar Bank, Horizon Bank, Huntington National Bank, J P Morgan, Lake Michigan Credit Union, Level One Bank, Macatawa Bank, Mercantile Bank, Old National Bank, PNC, United Bank, MILAF and West Michigan Community Bank be used as depositories for West Ottawa Public Schools for the 2026- 2027 fiscal year. Motion carried 5-0-0.

**FISCAL ORGANIZATIONAL/
REGULAR MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM
THE AUDIENCE**

(regarding agenda items)

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Probationary
Contracts

Designation of Depositories
for School Funds

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by L. Rutan, that the Board give authority to Superintendent Tim Bearden to enter into an employee separation agreement on behalf of the district as structured by legal counsel. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Moved by C. Lebster, supported by D. Duistermars, 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 5-0-0.

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by C. Lebster, 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 5-0-0.

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by L. Rutan, 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 5-0-0.

Moved by L. Rutan, supported by C. Lebster, that the following firms be named legal counsel for the 2026-2027 fiscal year or as otherwise directed by the Board of Education:

- 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 5-0-0.

Moved by C. Lebster, supported by D. Duistermars, that the firm of Maner Costerisan be hired as the 2026-2027 district auditor as recommended by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by C. Lebster, that the Summer 2027 Tax Collection Resolution be approved as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0-0.

ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd.)

Superintendent Signatory
Designee

Check Signature
Authorization

Contract and Purchase Order
Signature Authorization

Approval of
Organizational Memberships

Approval of
Annual Retainer Contracts

Approval of
District Auditor

Approval of Annual Resolution
for Summer Taxes

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by R. Rutan, that that the board consider for a 30 day review, the Great First Eight YK Curriculum. Motion carried 5-0-0.

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

- **September 9 – 18, 2026** – West Ottawa High School Exchange Program Students Participating in a Sister School Exchange Visit to Vordingborg, Denmark

Motion approved 5-0-0.

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

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

The next Regular meeting is August 17 at 7 p.m. in the Administration Office Training Room.

Moved by J. Ottemen, supported by C. Lebsters, that the meeting adjourn at 5:43 p.m. Motion carried 5-0-0.

ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd.)

Great First Eight YK Curriculum

Travel Application

FUTURE CONSIDERATION
COMMUNICATIONS FROM
THE AUDIENCE
(regarding any items)

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

NEXT MEETING 8/17/26
Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Otteman, Secretary