

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7 p.m. at West Ottawa Public Schools' Administration Office, 1138 136th Avenue.

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

Members Present: C. Lebster, L. Rutan, M. Remenschneider,
D. Duisternars, C. Martinez and R. Schipper. Superintendent T.
Bearden was also present.

Members Absent: J. Otteman (*with notice*)

Moved by L. Rutan, supported by C. Martinez, that the minutes from July 1, 2026, regular meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried 6-0-0.

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

Superintendent Bearden updated the Board on the following:

- Opening Day—Speaker George Couros
- WOPS Financial & Budget update
- K-12 Instruction: Student opportunities include the Summer Camp, Hope College pathway and free boater-safety certification.
- Staffing: WOPS added 33 new teachers and continued professional development initiatives.
- Capital Projects

L. Rutan reported the following information was discussed during the August 4 Innovation & 6-12 Instruction committee meeting: WIDA exit data, summer school program highlights, 2026 AP testing passing rates, kudos to Kristi & teacher for high AP scores, early college 5 year track for students at Hope College, free Boaters Safety program, MI reading law & teacher training.

D. Duisternars reported the following items were discussed at the August 3 Elementary Curriculum committee meeting: Elementary summer program, professional development, UFLI training, renovations on schedule, leadership teams planning reading law, and Miranda Park Party.

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent's Update

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Secondary Curriculum Report

Elementary Curriculum Report

R. Schipper reported the following items were discussed during the August 12 Finance & Operations Committee meeting: Monthly financials, audit, General Fund expenses, investment income, summer projects & improvements, and the action item on the agenda.

C. Lebster reported on the HR & Wellness Committee Meeting that took place on August 6: Staffing, district training, and leadership academy.

There was discussion on the appointment of the official voting delegate and alternate at the Michigan Association of School Board's (MASB's) 2026 Delegate Assembly in October.

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

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

1. Kate Majerus - Middle School Athletic Director
2. Sabrina Ricardo - ML Programs and Grants Specialist
3. Karissa Moerler - Athletic Coordinator

Motion carried 6-0-0.

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

1. Sarah Piasecki - Sheldon Woods Special Education
2. Victoria Anderson - GSRP Teacher Great Lakes
3. Jazzmine Ashley - Lakeshore Kindergarten
4. Cassandra Bazan - Woodside Kindergarten
5. Allison Amaro - Harbor Lights English Language Arts
6. Faith Self - Great Lakes 2nd Grade
7. Jason Montgomery - High School South Special Education
8. Frances (Frankie) Badur - 31N Mental Health Specialist
9. Karlee Liles - Woodside Kindergarten
10. Meredith Skorupski - Sheldon Woods 4th Grade
11. José Vargas - Mac Bay Middle School Spanish
12. Hannah Finkler - High School South Physical Education/Health
13. Katherine (Katie) Messing - Mac Bay Middle School ELA Intervention
14. Rachel Kallemeyn - Mac Bay Middle School Special Education
15. Allison Cox - School Psychologist - Waukazoo
16. Lauren Besaw - GSRP Teacher Riley Farms
17. Ashleigh Schuchardt - GSRP Teacher Woodside
18. Emily Payton - Pine Creek 5th Grade

Motion carried 6-0-0.

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by L. Rutan, that Cynthia Martinez be certified as the official voting delegate and Cathy Lebster and Darrin Duistermars be certified as the alternates at the Michigan Association of School Board's (MASB's) Delegate Assembly, which will be held during on October 15, 2026, at the Lansing Center. Motion carried 6-0-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
(Cont'd)
Finance & Operations Report

HR & Wellness

Discussion on 2026 MASB
Voting Delegate and Alternate

COMMUNICATIONS FROM
THE AUDIENCE
(regarding agenda items)

ACTION ITEMS
Approval of
Administrative Contract

Approval of
Probationary Contracts

Designation of Voting
Delegate and Alternate at
MASB's 2026 Delegate
Assembly

Moved by C. Lebster, supported by C. Martinez, that the Board approve the bus and transportation department radios purchase for an amount not to exceed \$128,988, as recommended by the Associate Superintendent of Finance & Operations. Motion carried 6-0-0.

ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd)
Transportation Digital
Radios Purchase

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by D. Duistermars, that the Board approve, following a 30-day review, the Great First Eight YK Curriculum. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Great First
Eight Curriculum

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by C. Lebster, 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. September 11 & 12, 2026 – Men's Varsity Tennis Team to the Troy Athens Quad event in Rochester, Michigan
2. September 23, 2026 – Harbor Lights & Mac Bay 6th grade students to the Global Gateways events in Chicago/Detroit/Ann Arbor
3. October 13 – 15, 2026 – Men's Varsity Tennis Team to the MHSAA State Finals in Midland, Michigan
4. November 6 & 7, 2026 – Varsity Cross Country to the State Finals in Brooklyn, Michigan

Motion carried 6-0-0.

Opportunity was provided for communications from the audience regarding items not on the agenda. There was no response.

FUTURE CONSIDERATION

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM
THE AUDIENCE**

(regarding items
not on the agenda)

Opportunity was given for communications from the Board. Board members shared updates and comments regarding district activities and programs. Board members also expressed their appreciation to Chief Financial Officer Chris LaHaie for his outstanding service to West Ottawa Public Schools, his contributions to the district, and his efforts in leaving the district in a strong financial position. Board members thanked Chris for his dedication and wished him well, noting that he will be greatly missed.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The next meetings of the Board of Education will be:

- **Work Session:** Monday, September 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
- **Regular Meeting:** Monday, September 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING 09/21/26

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

Moved by C. Lebster, supported by D. Duistermars, that the meeting adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Motion carried 6-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Otteman, Secretary