WEST OTTAWA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting

Approved Minutes
October 19, 2026

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by L. Rutan, supported by C. Lebster, that the minutes from the September 21, 2026, regular meeting be approved as presented. Motion carried 6-0-0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

RECOGNITION
Lakewood Staff
Medical Emergency

Kristin Graham recognized the Lakewood staff for the amazing work and response during a medical emergency. They were thanked.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Bearden reported on the Global Initiatives—Vordingborg Student Exchange and Water is Life, WO Excellence Award, Marching band programming, WO-X, and construction updates.

Student Senate Update

Student Senate Boston reported on WO athletic and high school events.

Early Childhood Education Update

Kristin Graham updated the Board on GSRP Preschool & Before and After Care Services.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Secondary Curriculum& Instruction Report

M. Remenschneider reported the following items were discussed during the October 6 Curriculum & Instructional committee meeting: School safety update, 10-20 year reunions, preview of WOVation tech conference, MB & HL renovations, and Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

Elementary Curriculum & Instructional Report

C. Martinez reported the following items were discussed during the October 5 Elementary Curriculum & Instructional committee meeting: UFLI training & other teacher professional development.

Finance & Operations Report

C. Lebster reported the following items were discussed during the October 14 Finance & Operations committee meeting: monthly financials, investment earnings, construction updates, and action items on the agenda.

Human Resources & Wellness Report

D. Duistermars reported the following was discussed during the October 1 H.R. & Wellness committee meeting: HR tools, HR processes, and WOVation.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE
(regarding agenda items)

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

ACTION ITEMS

Sale of Bonds

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by L. Rutan, that the West Ottawa Board of Education approve the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Delegating the Sale of Bonds and Other Matters Relating Thereto as presented.

Roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Motion carried 6-0-0.

Lakewood Renovation Package

Moved by L. Rutan, supported by R. Schipper, move that the Board approve the package of renovations and improvements to Lakewood Elementary, for an amount not to exceed $8,008,654, as presented by the Chief Financial Officer. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Board Policies

Moved by C. Martinez, supported by C. Lebster, that the Board of Education approve the updated Board policies included in the June 2026 Policy Update, as presented. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Travel Applications

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:

1. **November 20 & 21, 2026** – Science Olympiad Team to the Northridge HS Science Olympiad Tournament in Middleburg, Indiana
2. **December 11 – 13, 2026** – WOHS Drama Club to the Michigan Thespian Festival in Lansing, Michigan
3. **February 5 & 6, 2027** – Adventure School to Eagle Village in Hersey, Michigan
4. **April 12 – 19, 2027** – WOHS Baseball on a Spring Break trip to Orange Beach, Alabama and Pensacola, Florida
5. **April 28 – 30, 2027** – Great Lakes Elementary 5th grade students to Camp Henry in Newaygo, Michigan
6. **May 17 & 18, 2027** – Pine Creek 5th grade students to Camp Henry in Newaygo, Michigan

Motion carried 6-0-0.

FUTURE CONSIDERATION

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

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

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Opportunity was given for communications from the Board. D. Duistermars, R. Schipper, C. Lebster, and M. Remenschneider commented on events and programs.

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

A work session will be held on November 23, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., followed by a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Office Training Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved D. Duistermars, supported by C. Martinez, that the meeting adjourn at 8:01 p.m. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jim Otteman, Secretary