WEST OTTAWA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting
Approved Minutes
September 21, 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 C. Lebster opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Bearden provided the Board with updates on the Denmark exchange, the teacher exchange plan, Panther Funds supporting students, elementary curriculum implementation, and athletic events. Kristin Graham was recognized for her work on elementary curriculum implementation.

Student Senate Update

Student Senate Executive President Emery reported the following:

- Highschool events
- Future events
- HOCO
- Blood drive

Book Mobile

Heather Heemstra and Cheryl Versendaal presented on community visitors, community voices, supporters and partners, and celebrated Cheryl Versendaal's 49 years of service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Operations

C. Martinez reported the Finance & Operations committee met on September 18 and discussed the following: Monthly financials, market rates, financial earnings, and action items.

June 2026 Policy Update

Superintendent Bearden provided an update on policy revisions.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE
(regarding agenda items)

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

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Probationary Contracts

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by C. Martinez, that a probationary contract for the 2025-26 school year be awarded to the following:

1. Jada VandenBosch - Kindergarten Teacher Great Lakes

Motion carried 7-0-0.

Approval of Administrative Contracts

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by L. Rutan, that an administrative contract for the 2026-27 school year be awarded to the following:

- Kyle Barr – CFO
- William Lackey – Director of Finance

Motion carried 7-0-0.

MB Renovation Package

Moved by R. Schipper, supported by J. Otteman, that the Board approve the package of renovations and improvements to Macatawa Bay Middle School, for an amount not to exceed $15,983,009, as presented by the Chief Financial Officer. Motion carried 7-0-0.

South HS Elevator Modernization

Moved by C. Lebster, supported by C. Martinez, that the Board approve the South High School Elevator Modernization, for an amount not to exceed $185,000, as presented by the Chief Financial Officer Motion carried 7-0-0.

GMC Sierra Pick Up Purchase

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by L. Rutan, that the Board approve the purchase of a GMC Sierra 2500 pickup, for an amount not to exceed $53,365, as presented by the Chief Financial Officer. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Snow Plow BIds

Moved by C. Martinez, supported by J. Otteman, that the Board approve the bids from Hossink Plowing & DeSal Plowing, as presented by the Chief Financial Officer. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Travel Applications

Moved by D. Duistermars, supported by M. Remenschneider, that the following travel applications be approved as presented, pending consideration of the world situation at the time of the proposed trip:

1. **October 9 – 11, 2026** – WOHS Advanced Choirs to the Choir Retreat in Rockford, Michigan
2. **January 14 – 17, 2027** – Model United Nations to the University of Michigan Competition in Ann Arbor, Michigan
3. **January 21 & 22, 2027** – WOHS Chamber Orchestra to the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan
4. **March 19 – 21, 2027** - Model United Nations to the Michigan State University Competition in East Lansing, Michigan

Motion carried 7-0-0.

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

The Board was given an opportunity to share communications. R. Schipper and D. Duistermars commented on community and district events.

NEXT MEETING 10/19/26

Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be on October 19, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Office Training Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by J. Otteman, supported by R. Schipper, that the meeting adjourn at 7:44 p.m. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jim Otteman, Secretary