

**WHITEFORD SCHOOLS
OTTAWA LAKE, MICHIGAN 49267**

November 10, 2025

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Whiteford Agricultural School Board of Education was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Vice President Dave Dixon on November 10, 2025. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Dixon. Members present were Dave Dixon, Jeff Bunge, Janelle Hauser, Brandon Iott, Jason Vida and Tom Wenzel. Shane Hillard was absent.

Also present were Superintendent Scott L. Huard and Director of Finance & Business Services Marisa Tebbe-Cousino. There were 6 visitors present.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Janelle Hauser, seconded by Tom Wenzel, to approve the November 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Agenda as presented. Motion approved – 6 yes (1-absent/Hillard)

Special Presentations

Student Participation – Student Council did not have a representative available to attend the meeting. Superintendent Huard read a short-written report from President Brody Hillard and reported the following to the board.

- This year the student council hosted a new event, Repeat the Cleat. This was a give back initiative for communities that might be in need of gently used athletic equipment. This ranged from shoes and cleats to mitts and golf clubs. They donated these items to the Boys and Girls Club of Toledo.

Leski Wittman Insurance Agency Staff Member of the Month – Mrs. Laura Dibert, Elementary Title 1 Aide, was recognized as Staff Member of the Month for October. Meghann Borgelt from Leski Wittman Insurance Agency attended the meeting and presented Mrs. Dibert with a \$100 gift card. Mrs. Dibert was nominated by Mrs. Mindy Ovall who shared that Laura is the ultimate team player, jumping in anywhere, anytime, and in any capacity. Her positive attitude, sense of humor, and high energy are loved by all. Superintendent Huard expressed his appreciation for all that Mrs. Dibert does, and Mrs. Thieman added she enjoyed when she worked with her in the elementary building, noting she is a great asset to the school.

Presentation of 2024-2025 Audit (Calkins, Hehl, & Rafko, CPA's, PLLC) – Sarah Rafko attended the meeting and presented the 2024-2025 audited financial statements.

5th Grade Transition Survey Results – Superintendent Huard presented to the board the results of the recent 5th grade parent and student survey.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Jason Vida, seconded by Janelle Hauser, to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

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- Minutes of October 13, 2025, Regular Meeting
- Treasurer's Report and Check Register (October 2025)

Motion approved – 6 yes (1-absent/Hillard)

Administrative Reports

Director of Finances and Business Services – Mrs. Marisa Tebbe-Cousino:

- Working on a lot of extra reports for the MDE and budget adjustments. Hoping to have the budget adjustments done by January.

Director of Human Resources – Mrs. Cathy Machcinski:

- Registry of Educational Personnel (REP) Report: Working towards completion of this report prior to the December 1st deadline.
- Dental/Vision/Life/Optional Insurance: MESSA Open Enrollment is currently underway and ends on 11/15/25. Five (5) percent of the staff have completed it at this time.
- Health Insurance Bids: Have a meeting scheduled for Tuesday afternoon to go over bids for the 2026 calendar year. Our pool of participants is small as 41/70 staff members who are eligible through contract/union agreements participate and those eligible through ACA do not take the insurance.
- Infinite Campus POS System (Food Service): Still working through some technology difficulties. Many thanks to the Monroe ISD technology staff for their support.
- Working on two options for the 2026-2027 calendar with the WEA; looking at possibility of starting prior to Labor Day weekend since it is so late in 2026.
- Completed the income verification process for the cafeteria for the 2025-2026 free/reduced-price meal applications.
- Held a quick workshop with the Administrative Assistants on 11/3/25 to continue to provide them with the necessary tools to be successful in their positions.
- Working on an LOA with the WESPA union to address compensation for regular route bus drivers for fueling and bus cleaning time.

Director of Transportation & Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Charlie Butz:

- Reported that the boilers are up and running for the winter months.
- Working on new softball dugouts and surrounds.
- Getting very close to completing the softball project.
- They are taking the football stadium down now that the season is over.
- Prepping Baseball and Softball fields for winter so they are ready to go in the Spring.
- Basketball games are starting.
- The winter sports trips have already started.
- Field trips going out during the winter.
- Looking into possibly getting a turf tank for the painting of the fields.

Athletic Director – Ms. Miranda Green:

- Fall Middle School, TCC, and TAAC league honors. Regional and State honors to be announced at a later date.
 - **Middle School Volleyball**
 - 7th and 8th grade teams led undefeated seasons and earned 1st place at the TCC tournament
 - **Middle School Football team had an undefeated season**
 - **MS Cross Country**

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- Girls placed 2nd at Regionals
- Boys placed 3rd at Regionals
- **Cross Country**
 - Braeylnn Chiotti, Briar Wing, and Grant Rasor earned first team honors in the TCC league and all three qualified for states.
 - Sierra DeBarr, Rory Vida, Molly Fojtik, and Xavier Abalos earned honorable mentions in the TCC league.
- **Volleyball**
 - TCC Champions - first time since 2014 season.
 - TCC all-league honors will be announced after districts and regionals.
 - Addeson Cousino achieved 1500 career assists at the Whiteford/Clinton district semi-final contest.
- **Football**
 - TAAC Champion
 - TAAC Coach of the Year - Todd Thieken
 - TAAC Defensive All League Honors
 - 1st Team: Shevy Alexander, Andry Trejo, Drew Ruddy, and Gabe Speweik
 - 2nd Team: Brek Ruddy
 - TAAC Offensive All League Honors
 - 1st Team: Rocco Pillarelli, Jake Scott, Gavin Peters, and Nolan Walker
 - 2nd Team: Drew Ruddy and Logan Riffle
 - TAAC Special Teams Player of the Year: Drew Ruddy
 - TAAC Offensive Player of the Year: Brek Ruddy
 - TAAC Defensive Player of the Year: Mason DeBarr
 - TAAC Honorable Mentions: Brody Hillard, Caden Stewart, Antonio Nachtrab, and Tre Eitnrear.
- **Scholar Athletes are defined as a Varsity Athlete in grades 10th-12th that have achieved a 3.5 cumulative GPA.**
 - *Volleyball:* Nina Bauman, Addeson Cousino, Jenna Frye, Kailee LaVoy, Savannah Seevers, Bailey Spradling, and Ava Stevens
 - *Football:* Mallory Bahls, Austin Bauman, Austin Billau, Mason DeBarr, Tre Eitnrear, Brody Hillard, Brek Ruddy, Drew Ruddy, Jake Scott, and Ryan Thomas
 - *Cross Country:* Ellie Biswas, Braelynn Chiotti, Sierra DeBarr, Sophia Kahn, Blair Lake, Carolyn Mohler, Rory Vida, Breslin Wing, and Griar Win

Middle/High School – Mr. Jeremy Fielder:

- First marking period has ended, so administration will be reviewing grades, sending letters to parents of students with failing grades, and initiate Middle School academic interventions: content recovery with Mrs. Thomas, and "Peer to Peer" Tutoring.
- Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for November 13th, 12-3 and 4-7. The WPA will be providing our traditional staff conference lunch (prepared by Mrs. Andrews and Mrs. Ruddy).
- November 3rd Professional Development was a successful day, with County PD in the morning, a Wedding Shower Staff Luncheon for Savana Blevins, and focused data analysis/professional developments for departments in the afternoon. Math conferenced with a representative from Exact Path to further support our supplemental Math Curriculum/usage goal in relation to the platform. English analyzed our Fall PSAT/NMSQT scores on this date, while Science and Social Studies each worked on assessments through their new TCI curriculum. Elective teachers worked in their sub-groups on PD, some of which were specific and online.
- Red Ribbon Spirit week (Drug/Alcohol Prevention and Awareness) was big success, as members of SPLT (student prevention leadership team) sponsored spirit days as well as quizzes and a prize wheel during lunch periods each week. Big thanks to Ms. Head and our SPLT leaders for the initiative.
- NHS Blood Drive is coming up on November 17th in the Aux gym! Please spread the word.
- Huge thanks to WPA for donations of candy/gatorade/chip bags for students. These are being used as positive rewards for MS/HS students - We give chips/gatorades for positive referral winners, and

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we have traveled to HS Seminar classes and randomly selected cell phones from caddies to reward students with candy-bars for following our textbook expectations. We are in search/looking for gift card donations for prize drawings associated with positive referrals.

Elementary School – Mr. Samuel Marsh:

- We had a great October. Thank you to Mrs. Brossia for organizing a great Unity Day and Healthy Choices Week.
- We had a great Halloween Parade, with an awesome community turnout.
- Marking Period 1 is over and grade cards will go home November 12.
- November is Responsibility Month! Upcoming events are picture retake day on November 11, Book Fair week is November 10 through November 14, and Parent Teacher Conferences and the Cookie Dough pickup is November 13.
- We are continuing to look for a new title aide and could always use more substitutes!

Superintendent's Report

1. Staff Off-Schedule Payment – During our union negotiations this past spring with Whiteford Education Association (WEA) and Whiteford Education Support Personnel Association (WESPA), the State of Michigan legislatures had yet approved a FY26 School Aid Budget, and we were forecasting a negative net change to our fund balance. Our unions bargained in good faith, understanding that there was some uncertainty with the upcoming fiscal year. After the recent completion of our FY25 Financial Audit, that will be presented and approved at tonight's meeting, our end-of-year actual net change in fund balance was significantly better than what was anticipated at the close of the financial year June 30, 2025 with a positive net gain. We currently have a healthy fund balance due to our stewardship of funds and careful budgeting, so I am asking for Board support to offer a one-time off-schedule payment of \$750 for full-time employees and \$375 for part-time employees that are regular Whiteford staff as of 11/10/25 (excluding coaches, substitutes, and contracted individuals) and still employed as of December 31, 2025. The off-scheduled payment will occur in January 2026.
2. Monroe County Technology Enhancement Millage – The MC Technology Enhancement Millage was first approved by Monroe County voters in 1997. The millage has been renewed five (5) times since, and it will expire on December 31, 2026. Monroe County voters will be asked to approve a renewal on May 5, 2026. The estimated millage collection if approved and levied in 2027 is approximately \$7,636,841 for all Monroe County Schools. Since the first millage approval in 1997, Whiteford Agricultural Schools has received \$5,297,940 for instructional technology upgrades. Millage dollars are designated solely for educational technology, related staffing, and services, and cannot be used for any other expenses. Most recently, Whiteford Agricultural Schools have used these millage dollars for: student Chromebooks, Interactive Smart Boards in Classrooms for instruction, document cameras for instruction, teacher laptops and monitors, technology software, technology personnel and services, etc. Technology has transformed teaching and learning by providing resources to help teachers improve their instruction and personalize learning for our students. Without these dollars, we would not be able to expand course offerings, experiences, and learning materials that build 21st-century skills, increase student engagement and motivation, and accelerate learning.
3. Gifts/Donations – Recent donations to the district include:
 - James and Kelsey Kimmelman..... \$80,000.00Softball Dugout Remodel
3. Volunteer Coach Appointments – The following have been appointed as volunteer coaches:
 - Miller, Michael..... MS Football

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4. Announcements / Reminders / Informational Items

- November 11 Veterans Day
- November 11 Elementary Picture Retake Day
- November 12 WPA Meeting Elementary Cafe' 6-8:30pm
- November 13 Early Dismissal (Elem-10:55) (MS/HS-11:05)
- November 13 Parent-Teacher Conferences 12:00-3:00pm
- November 13 Cookie Dough Fundraiser Pick Up
- November 17 American Red Cross Blood Drive
- November 26 Early Dismissal (Elem-10:55) (MS/HS-11:05) -Thanksgiving Break
- November 27-28 No School – Thanksgiving Break
- December 3 6-8th Grade Toledo Walleye Field Trip
- December 8-12 WPA Santa's Workshop (Elementary)
- December 8 Board of Education Meeting 6pm
- December 11 Elem. Christmas Concert TK-2nd (6-7:00pm) 3-5th (7:15-8:15pm)
- December 14 HS Band/Choir Christmas Concert 3-4:00pm
- December 16 MS Band/Choir Christmas Concert 7-8:00pm
- December 19 Early Dismissal (Elem-10:55) (MS/HS-11:05) -Christmas Break
- December 22-January 2 No School - Christmas Break

Closed Session – To Consider Material Exempt from Discussion or Disclosure by State or Federal Statute

A motion was made by Janelle Hauser, seconded by Tom Wenzel, pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to go into closed session to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by State or Federal Statute. 7:12 pm.

Dave Dixon – yes
 Jeff Bunge – yes
 Janelle Hauser – yes
 Brandon Iott – yes
 Jason Vida – yes
 Tom Wenzel – yes

Motion approved – 6 yes (1-absent/Hillard)

Regular Meeting Resumed

The regular meeting resumed at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of Off-Schedule Payment

A motion was made by Tom Wenzel, seconded by Brandon Iott, to approve an off-schedule payment to be paid to all regular Whiteford employees on staff as of November 10, 2025 (excluding coaches, substitutes and contracted individuals) and still employed as of December 31, 2025. The amount of the payment would be \$750.00 to current salaried employees, contracted administrators, and full-time hourly (40 hours per week) employees. The amount of the payment will be \$375.00 for part-time hourly employees. The off-schedule payment will be made before January 30, 2026. This payment is NOT additional wages for ongoing work during the 2025-26 school year and will NOT be treated as an ORS pensionable stipend. Motion approved – 5 yes (1-absent/Hillard) Jeff Bunge abstained.

Adopt Resolution - Regional Enhancement Millage

A motion was made by Tom Wenzel, seconded by Dave Dixon, to adopt the Resolution for the Regional Enhancement Millage as presented. Motion approved – 6 yes (1-absent/Hillard)

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Presentation of 2024-2025 Audit (Callkins, Hehl, & Rafko, CPA's, PLLC)

A motion was made by Janelle Hauser, seconded by Jason Vida, to approve the 2024-2025 fiscal year audit as presented. Motion approved – 6 yes (1-absent/Hillard)

Any Future Board Calendar Items

Tom Wenzel inquired about the parking lot project and asked Superintendent Huard if we are doing an RFP for this.

Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Minutes approved _____, President

Minutes approved _____, Secretary