

**WHITEFORD SCHOOLS
OTTAWA LAKE, MICHIGAN 49267**

March 13, 2023

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Whiteford Agricultural School Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Christine Bischoff on March 13, 2023. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Bischoff. Members present were Christine Bischoff, Dave Dixon, Mike Iott, Janelle Young, and Jeff Bunge. Shane Hillard and Kristi Mock were absent.

Also present were Superintendent Scott L. Huard, Director of Finance & Business Services Marisa Tebbe-Cousino, Elementary Principal Marcy Anderson, MS/HS Principal Jeremy Fielder, and Director of Transportation & Buildings and Grounds Charlie Butz. There were 5 visitors present.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Janelle Young, seconded by Mike Iott, to approve the March 13, 2023, Regular Meeting Agenda as presented. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Hillard, Mock).

Strategic Plan Progress Monitoring

Superintendent Huard reminded the board that all decisions made regarding Whiteford Schools should always align with the mission and goals set forth in the district's Strategic Plan.

Special Presentations

Student Council Update – Student Council President Ali Bauman briefly discussed the following MS/HS activities:

- Winterfest Dance
- MS/HS FFA Week and the FFA Assembly
- FFA State Convention; Ms. Bauman made special mention of Braelynn Chiotti, who was named State Champion of Junior High Public Speaking
- The upcoming district musical theater production, The Wizard of Oz

Staff Member of the Month – Middle/High School Ag and Science Teacher, Mrs. Ashley Vittore, was recognized as Staff Member of the Month for February and was presented with a \$100 gift card from the Leski Wittman Insurance Agency. Mr. Huard read from Mrs. Vittore's nomination form, then asked Mrs. Vittore to share with the board and meeting guests her recent experience with hosting the FFA District Competition for the first time ever at the Whiteford School District. After Mrs. Vittore finished relaying the details of the big event, Principal Fielder expressed how appreciative he was not only of Mrs. Vittore's incredible efforts during the competition, but in her role as a middle/high school teacher, as well.

Public Comment

Please remember this is not a dialogue between the board members and yourself. However, we may follow-up with you at a later date. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three (3) minutes in duration, and no participant may speak more than once. We ask that you be courteous. We also ask that you do not use any employee or student name(s) in your comments. Participants shall direct all comments to the Board and not to staff or other participants.

There was no public comment.

**Minutes Continued
Ottawa Lake, Michigan
March 13, 2023**

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Janelle Young, seconded by Jeff Bunge, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented:

- a. Minutes of the February 13, 2023, Regular Meeting and of the February 23, 2023, Special Meeting
- b. The Treasurer's Report and Check Register (February 2023)
- c. Adoption of Resolutions – Opt Out (section 105) and Opt In (section 105c) Schools of Choice Program

Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Hillard, Mock).

Administrative Reports

Business Office – Mrs. Tebbe-Cousino – Director of Finance & Business Services Marisa Tebbe-Cousino reviewed the 2022-2023 Budget Amendments with the board using the supporting documents she provided to help analyze and explain all the necessary adjustments.

Elementary School – Mrs. Anderson – Principal Anderson began by wishing everyone a good evening and reported the following:

- Attendance was strong and only dipped down for one day, which not only happened to be a Friday, but a half day, as well.
- March Reading Month is well underway, for which there are many special events going on in the elementary building (two authors are visiting, students are taking a trip to the Croswell Opera House in Adrian, Michigan to see *Don't Let the Pigeons Drive the Bus*, students will be engaging in a reading competition called Battle of the Books, and many more fun activities).
- D.A.R.E. graduation took place last Friday, March 10, 2023.
- The 4th grade "Wax Museum" event is happening soon.
- The field trip "season" is upon us with many upcoming wonderful trips such as Sauder Village, Ann Arbor Natural History Museum, and the Toledo Zoo, among others.
- The teaching staff is working on and excited about the new English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum.
- There are only two weeks until school closes for Spring Break.
- Upon returning from Spring Break, state testing will commence (NWEA & M-STEP)
- Kindergarten Round Up is coming up on the 13th and 14th of April.
- Superintendent Huard and Mrs. Anderson visited The Growing Tree Preschool where they met with prospective incoming students and their parents for a Q & A session.
- The 4th grade flower sale, which helps offset the cost of 5th Grade Camp, is coming up; the pick-up time for the flowers will be, as always, the Thursday and Friday before Mother's Day.
- Principal Anderson is excited to see this year's musical production, *The Wizard of Oz*, coming up this weekend on Friday, March 17th through Sunday, March 19th.

**Minutes Continued
Ottawa Lake, Michigan
March 13, 2023**

Administrative Reports Continued....

Middle/High School – Mr. Fielder – Principal Fielder announced the following:

- Attendance was mostly steady in February but dipped down once on a Friday and again on the two half days of school.
- The new 7th grade D.A.R.E. program, which takes place every Friday for 45 minutes and is run by Deputy Bills and supported by Whiteford's SRO Deputy Benes, is going very well. Principal Fielder was proud to announce that Whiteford is the first school in Monroe County to implement this program for 7th graders.
- The 8th and 10th grade students have an upcoming field trip to the Holocaust Museum in Farmington Hills, Michigan. MS/HS English Teacher Michelle Delmotte wrote a grant and was awarded \$750 to cover the cost of busing and admission for all students!
- The musical is coming up this weekend, and Principal Fielder is excited to attend.
- The FFA program has enjoyed many recent successes; among those, middle school student, Braelynn, was named the new State Champion of Junior High Public Speaking!
- There is a new positive behavior initiative being implemented in the middle school whereby middle school students will be rewarded for positive behavior. One of the awards mentioned was a possible trip to a Mud Hens game.
- A group of parents is working on bringing back an after-prom event in order to provide a fun and safe place for students to congregate after the dance ends.
- Students have begun filling out course requests, and building the Master Schedule will soon follow.
- Standardized testing, such as the PSAT, M-STEP, and NWEA, will soon be underway.
- Teachers continue working with the Monroe County ISD personnel to support their classroom goals and initiatives.
- The Science Department at Ida Schools reached out for local collaboration pertaining to Science curriculum.
- Work continues on the MS/HS English and Language Arts (ELA) curriculum.

Director of Transportation & Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Butz shared the following:

- Spring sports are underway.
- Outdoor facilities are being prepped for the spring sports season, weather permitting.
- The Transportation Department has many upcoming field trips this year which translates to having a lot of busing needs.
- Construction has begun in the new gymnasium; the construction crew began laying the flooring, lockers have been installed in the two new locker rooms, and the majority of lighting is complete.
- Mr. Butz is hoping the gym is complete and ready for use before the current senior class graduates so that they'll have a chance to use the new facility before the end of the year.

Minutes Continued
Ottawa Lake, Michigan
March 13, 2023

Superintendent's Report

1. Athletic Report – In Athletic Director Jeremy Simmons' absence, Mr. Huard reported that winter sports season is officially over. The spring sports schedules are completed, and officials have been assigned. Mr. Simmons is preparing for weather-related cancellations as it pertains to rescheduling games and securing officials accordingly.
2. Update on Student Count – February count day was Wednesday, February 8th. Preliminary numbers at this time are 334 (330) elementary students, 203 (192) middle school students, and 262 (259) high school students, for a total of 799 (781). Last year's numbers are in () for reference.
3. 2023-2024 Monroe County Schools of Choice Program – The enrollment period for schools of choice opens on April 1, 2023. The deadline for application is June 23, 2023. The 1% yearly cap remains in place. Applications will be available on Friday, March 31st (as April 1st falls on a Saturday this year) and can be obtained from the three district offices and on the district's website in the *NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS* section as well as the *NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION* page.
4. Portrait of a Graduate – Once completed, the Whiteford Agricultural School District's Portrait of a Graduate will represent our school district's vision for the 21st century skills, character traits, and/or social-emotional competencies that students need to succeed in college, career, and life.
 - a. What are the hopes, dreams, and aspirations that our community has for its students?
 - b. What are the skills and mindsets our children need for success in this rapidly changing, complex world?
 - c. What are the implications for the design of the learning experiences—and equitable access to those experiences—we provide in our school system?

We are currently seeking stakeholder feedback through a survey as we create our Portrait of a Graduate. The survey link can be found on our district website on the main page to the right labeled: [Portrait of a Graduate Survey](#). We are collecting stakeholder feedback through Friday, March 17. Once completed, this survey data will be used to help guide our next steps in prioritizing competencies and drafting a visual representation of our Portrait of a Graduate.

5. Resignations – Mrs. Angel Webb will be resigning from her position of Middle/High School Administrative Assistant as of March 17, 2023. Mrs. Webb has served in the main middle/high school office since 2017, and we appreciate all her hard work and dedication to the district over the years. We wish Mrs. Webb all the very best in the coming years ahead.
6. 2023-2024 Athletic Count – Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Jeremy Simmons, submitted the high school athletic count to the MHSAA. This year, our total count is 264 student athletes, which is 2 more than last year. We are awaiting an official letter from the MHSAA which will notify us of our classification based on the numbers Mr. Simmons submitted. I will update the board next month after receiving the official notification from MHSAA.
7. Whiteford FFA District Leadership Contest Results – The following are the results of the FFA District Contest:

Creed Speaking:

Avy Wood 3rd place Silver

Isabella Brace 4th place Silver

Minutes Continued
Ottawa Lake, Michigan
March 13, 2023

Superintendent's Report Continued....

Extemporaneous Public Speaking:

Ali Bauman 1st Place Gold MOVING ON TO REGIONALS

Greenhand Public Speaking:

Jake Scott 1st Place Gold MOVING ON TO REGIONALS

JR High Public Speaking:

Braelynn Chiotti 1st Place Gold MOVING ON TO REGIONALS

Sage Johns 3rd Place Silver

Sierra DeBarr 5th Place Silver

Prepared Public Speaking:

Ava Hillard 1st Place Gold MOVING ON TO REGIONALS

Grace Brown 4th Place Silver

Job Interview:

Kenzie Gray 2nd Place Gold MOVING ON TO REGIONALS

Junior High Conduct of Meeting:

Whiteford Gold 3rd Place Silver

Kayla Luse, Laney Pirrone, Isabelle Guillian, Delaney Durocher, Ava Stevens, Audrey Schroyer, Sophia Kahn

Whiteford Blue 4th Place Silver

Austin Billau, Tre Eitniear, Mason McCormack, Brek Ruddy, Jess Saylor, Caden Stewart, Theodore Joerin

Whiteford White 5th Place Silver

Ava Smith, Jason McCullough, Brookelynn Tyrell, Leah Williams, Anna Stevens, Aubry Spohn, Austin Baumann

Greenhand Conduct of Meeting:

Whiteford Team Gold 1st Place Gold MOVING ON TO REGIONALS

Nate Andrews, Drew Ruddy, Caden Schroyer, Mason DeBarr, Brody Hillard, Tyler Welker, Cole Griffith

Whiteford Team 2 2nd Place Gold MOVING ON TO REGIONALS

Garrett Schalmo, Gracie Tuttle, Alison Turvey, Lana Consear, Addeson Cousino, Gabe Speweik, Logan Delmotte

Parliamentary Procedure:

Whiteford 3rd Place Silver

Alaina Andrews, Anna Schober, Aubrie Simmons, Hunter DeBarr, Allison Spradling, Madelyn Thomas, Reagan Wing

Demonstration:

Whiteford 1st Place Gold MOVING ON TO REGIONALS

Erica Holup, Margo Thomas, Abigail Johnson, Zach Kahn

**Minutes Continued
Ottawa Lake, Michigan
March 13, 2023**

Superintendent's Report Continued....

Ag Issues:

Whiteford 1st Place MOVING ON TO REGIONALS

Mallory Bahls, Jenna Frye, Alaina McClain, Brooklyn Mills, Samantha Smith-Emerson, Bailey Spradling, Briar Wing

8. **Whiteford FFA Regional Contest Results** – Whiteford FFA members had great success at the Regional FFA Leadership Contests which were held at Saline HS on Wednesday, February 15th. Of Whiteford's 30 members who competed at the regional level, 27 members earned 1st or 2nd place in their respective contests and advanced to compete at the State FFA Convention, which is March 8th through 10th in East Lansing, Michigan. Whiteford's 27 members to advance to states was the most in Region 2.

Extemporaneous Public Speaking:

Ali Bauman 4th place Silver Award. Performed an extemporaneous speech on ag labor.

Greenhand Public Speaking:

Jake Scott 4th place. Silver Award. Performed a prepared speech on Deer Hunting and Regional Allocation of Deer Tags.

JR High Public Speaking:

Braelynn Chiotti 1st Place with a prepared speech on Net Pen Aquaculture in the Great Lakes. Gold Award. MOVING ON TO STATES

Prepared Public Speaking:

Ava Hillard 1st Place with a prepared speech on Foreign Land Investment in America. Gold Award. MOVING ON TO STATES

Job Interview:

Kenzie Gray 4th Place. Silver Award. Performed a mock interview and turned in her resume, cover letter, and references.

Greenhand Conduct of Meeting: Perform a mock FFA meeting using parliamentary abilities and a given problem to solve.

Whiteford Team Blue- 1st Place. Gold Award. MOVING ON TO STATES.

Garrett Schalmo, Gracie Tuttle, Alison Turvey, Lana Consear, Addeson Cousino, Gabe Speweik, Logan Delmotte

Whiteford Team Gold- 2nd Place. Gold Award. MOVING ON TO STATES.

Nate Andrews, Drew Ruddy, Caden Schroyer, Mason DeBarr, Brody Hillard, Tyler Welker, Cole Griffith

Demonstration:

Whiteford. 1st Place. Gold Award. MOVING ON TO STATES. Performed a demonstration on making maple syrup.

Erica Holup, Margo Thomas, Abigail Johnson, Zach Kahn

Ag Issues:

Whiteford 1st Place. Gold Award. MOVING ON TO STATES. Performed a pro/con skit on the use of Dicamba herbicides.

Mallory Bahls, Jenna Frye, Alaina McClain, Brooklyn Mills, Samantha Smith-Emerson, Bailey Spradling, Briar Wing

**Minutes Continued
Ottawa Lake, Michigan
March 13, 2023**

Superintendent's Report Continued....

9. Volunteer Coaching Appointments – Listed below are the volunteer coaching appointments for the 2023 spring sport season:

- Nicholas GuthrieAssistant Baseball Coach
- Michael ScottAssistant Baseball Coach
- Andrew TodaAssistant Baseball Coach
- Mark JohnsonAssistant Track Coach
- Jeremy GappAssistant Track Coach
- Kris HubbardAssistant Softball Coach
- Lynn Hammerstrom.....Assistant Softball Coach
- Audra VanBrandt.....Assistant Softball Coach

10. Gifts/Donations – Recent donations to the district include:

- Crossroads Community Church900 Boxes of Tissues.....District Use

11. Announcements / Reminders / Informational Items

- Friday, March 24, 2023 – Half Day Early Release (MS/HS 11am, Elementary 11:10am), Start of Spring Break, End of Third Marking Period
- Monday, March 27-Friday, March 31, 2023 – No School, Spring Break
- Monday, April 3, 2023 – School Resumes
- Friday, April 7-Monday, April 10, 2023 – No School, Easter Break
- Tuesday, April 11, 2023 – School Resumes
- Wednesday, April 12, 2023 – State Testing Day (No School for Grades K-7, 12)
- Sunday, May 21, 2023 – Senior Sunday (High School Gym, 3pm-5pm)
- Monday, May 22, 2023 – High School Band and Choir Spring Concert and Awards Ceremony (High School Gym, 7pm-8:30pm)
- Friday, May 26, 2023 – Senior Parade/Senior Sunset (6:10pm start time)
- Monday, May 29, 2023 – No School, Memorial Day Holiday
- Tuesday, May 30, 2023 – Middle School Band and Choir Spring Concert (High School Gym, 7pm-8:30pm)
- Thursday, June 1, 2023 – High School Commencement Ceremony (Crossroads Community Church 7pm)
- Thursday, June 8, 2023 – Half Day Early Release (MS/HS 11am, Elementary 11:10am), Exams
- Friday, June 9 – Half Day Early Release (MS/HS 11am, Elementary 11:10am), Exams/Last Day of School, (weather permitting)

Approval of New Bus Leases

A motion was made by Janelle Young, seconded by Mike Iott, to approve the leasing of 7 new buses with Hoekstra Leasing LLC (Hoekstra Specialty Vehicles, LLC) based on the terms of the lease proposals as presented. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Hillard, Mock).

Adopt Resolution – 2022-2023 Budget Amendments

A motion was made by Mike Iott, seconded by Janelle Young, to adopt the 2022-2023 Budget Amendments Resolution as presented. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Hillard, Mock).

**Minutes Continued
Ottawa Lake, Michigan
March 13, 2023**

Approval of Request for Extended Medical Leave of Absence

A motion was made by Janelle Young, seconded by Dave Dixon, to approve an extended *paid Medical Leave of Absence for a staff member, whose identity is known by the Board of Education, following the conclusion of the allowable 12-week medical leave provided through the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), which will extend to the end of the 2022-2023 school year if necessary. (*Employee's sick bank will be utilized to cover cost of absence.) Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Hillard, Mock).

Board of Education Concerns and/or Reports

Board Secretary Mike Iott spoke about former Whiteford student and current District 9 County Commissioner, Mr. Henry Lievens, who contacted Mr. Iott regarding his desire to donate funds for a potential drug prevention program. Additionally, Mr. Iott broached the subject of increasing the starting salaries for incoming teachers. He stated that, in keeping aligned with the current District Strategic Plan, and in light of the fact that contract negotiations will soon be taking place, he feels that a more competitive salary should be offered in order to attract and retain new talent. Board Trustee Janelle Young reported some exciting news regarding the High School Robotics Team and their standings at the last tournament they attended, sharing that the team was in first place halfway through the tournament and wound up finishing 3rd overall! Finally, Whiteford Powerlifting was discussed, and it was highlighted that Whiteford Sophomore, Haley, squatted 300 lbs., benched 170 lbs., deadlifted 340 lbs., and took 1st place in her weight class at the State Powerlifting Competition!

Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Minutes approved _____, President

Minutes approved _____, Secretary