

**WHITEFORD SCHOOLS
OTTAWA LAKE, MICHIGAN 49267**

April 17, 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 6:01 p.m. by President Christine Bischoff on April 17, 2023. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Bischoff. Members present were Christine Bischoff, Mike Iott, Shane Hillard, Kristi Mock, Janelle Young, and Jeff Bunge. Board Vice President Dave Dixon and Trustee 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 MS/HS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Jeremy Simmons. Director of Transportation & Buildings and Grounds Charlie Butz was present for portions of the meeting. There were 7 visitors present.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Shane Hillard, seconded by Janelle Young, to approve the April 17, 2023, Regular Meeting Agenda as presented. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Dixon, Mock).

Strategic Plan Progress Monitoring

Superintendent Huard discussed the goal of ensuring all decisions made by the Whiteford Board of Education remain in alignment with the current Strategic Plan. As a refresher, the current plan centers around maintaining rigorous and relevant curriculum and academic programs, following a core set of values that support a safe and enthusiastic culture and learning environment, implementing plans to attract and retain a highly qualified and motivated staff, and developing and implementing plans for improving and maintaining all district facilities.

Special Presentations

Student Participation – Student Council President Ali Bauman reported the following to the board:

- The month of March is a bit of a “dead month” due to spring break, Easter break, and testing.
- The student council is currently planning a spring track & field day which will include many fun games and activities.
- Voting for next year's student council representatives and officers will soon be taking place.
- Preparations for the Junior/Senior Prom and the After-Prom event are underway.
- Planning for next year's Homecoming has begun.

Leski Wittman Agency Staff Member of the Month – Mrs. Michelle Delmotte, MS/HS English Teacher, was recognized as Staff Member of the Month for March and was presented with a \$100 gift card from Chris MacMillan of the Leski Wittman Insurance Agency. Superintendent Huard read from Mrs. Delmotte's nomination forms and expressed his sincere gratitude for the warm welcome she gave his daughter which has truly helped her adjust as a new Whiteford student during her senior year. Principal Fielder gave Mrs. Delmotte high praise for her phenomenal leadership as an ELA PLC leader, her invaluable input regarding the new ELA curriculum, applying for and securing a grant for students to attend the Holocaust Museum, for her tireless efforts year after year in organizing Prom, and more. Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Simmons used a sports analogy, referring to Mrs. Delmotte as an “All Star”.

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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.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to share.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Minutes of the March 13, 2023, Regular Meeting
- b. Treasurer's Report and Check Register (March 2023)

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

Administrative Reports

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

Elementary School – Mrs. Anderson – Principal Anderson reported the following:

- Principal Anderson wished everyone a happy Monday.
- Attendance stayed around 95% or above with the exception of only two days, (the snowy day on Friday, March 10th and the ½ day Friday before Spring Break).
- MSTEP testing is underway, and students are doing well.
- NWEA testing is coming up soon.
- Field trip "season" is here and the elementary has enjoyed many wonderful trips with some still to come, such as the 1st grade Indian Creek Zoo trip, the 2nd grade Sylvania Historical Museum trip, the 3rd grade Imagination Station trip, and the 5th Grade Sauder's Village trip.
- This Friday, April 21st, the Whiteford Parents Association (WPA) will celebrate 4th-12th grade honor students.
- The annual Daddy/Daughter Dance will be held this Saturday, April 22nd.
- The 4th grade flower sale event through Lievens Farms is underway.
- Kindergarten Round Up ran very smoothly. There were 51 students in attendance; 33 in-district students, 2 child of employee students, 10 Schools of Choice sibling students, 5 new Schools of Choice students from the Bedford school district, and 1 student whose address is on the line and may possibly be an in-district student or a Schools of Choice student (this is still being investigated).

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Administrative Reports Continued....

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

- Testing Day (PSAT, SAT) was April 12th. Principal Fielder saluted Corey Mills, recognizing her for working extremely hard during her first year as Testing Coordinator. He also recognized Jennifer Head and Lauren Ehman for all their added support.
- The MS/HS attendance was solid and only dipped down on the same days it dropped in the elementary building due to the snowy day and the day before the break.
- MSTEP testing will begin on Tuesday, April 18th, and NWEA testing is coming up after that.
- There are a lot of great things happening, one of which is the upcoming School Connectedness Survey, an anonymous survey which centers around how students feel about our school culture and learning environment.
- The Blood Drive is coming up on April 24th, 2023.
- The National Honor Society members were inducted during their traditional tapping ceremony.
- After-Prom is back and there are many parent volunteers stepping up to reestablish that special event.
- Mr. Fielder expressed excitement about the 98c after school 6-week tutoring program and recognized Superintendent Huard and Missy Haley for the work they've put in to make it happen.
- The 7th grade D.A.R.E. program is incorporating some materials from Catch my Breath and pulling in some other great resources for our 7th grade students.
- The Mudhens reward field trip is taking place soon, and the funds and related paperwork are still being collected from students.
- Mr. Fielder is looking forward to the Whiteford FFA Greenhouse opening soon.
- Graduation is rapidly approaching, and preparations will soon be underway.
- Mr. Fielder enthusiastically introduced Mrs. Amanda Duval, who, if approved by the board later in the meeting, will become Whiteford's new MS/HS Administrative Assistant.

Assistant Principal/Athletic Director – Mr. Simmons – Mr. Simmons reported the following:

- Out of the 262 students currently enrolled in high school, 100 of them are involved in a spring sport!
- Girls Varsity Softball has a very tough schedule; the team is doing well against very tough competition.
- There are 63 girls and boys participating in the high school track and field program; boys are ranked 1st and girls are ranked 2nd in Division 3.
- There are 62 girls and boys participating in the middle school track and field program this year.
- Whiteford is hosting many athletic events this spring including the softball and baseball district competitions and the TCC track meet, where there will be a total of seven schools present.
- Whiteford has a lot of parent volunteers invested and they have been a great help throughout the spring sport season. Some of our parents have even offered their time and assistance to rival schools!

Transportation & Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Butz – Mr. Butz reported the following:

- Mr. Butz is truly excited to see the gym floor, which he said looks amazing.
- Coaches are “chomping at the bit” to get into the new gym and begin using the new space; however, we must secure the occupancy permit before anyone is allowed in.
- The bleachers for the new gym are scheduled to come this Monday, April 24th.
- Everything is moving along nicely with the remainder of the bond projects, and Mr. Butz is hopeful that, with the weather breaking, all projects will be wrapped up soon.

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Administrative Reports Continued....

- Transportation has been very challenging this spring. With bus driver absences/emergencies, spring athletic trips, and field trips, there have been some bus route cancellations, but we are doing our best to work through it all.
- Outside in the district, the maintenance team is working hard to get everything cleaned up and mowed as spring athletic events are in full swing.

Superintendent's Report

1. Resignations – Mr. Jim DeSilvis resigned from his position as Middle School (7th and 8th grade) Basketball Coach as of March 27, 2023. We thank Mr. DeSilvis for filling that important role for Whiteford during the 2022-2023 boys' basketball season, as coaching is highly impactful in the lives of our Bobcat students. Additionally, Ms. Janie Bunge resigned from her position as JV Girls Basketball Coach as of April 11, 2023, as she wishes to focus her time solely on coaching the Whiteford Varsity Volleyball Team. We thank Ms. Bunge for fulfilling that role for the 22-23 girls' basketball season and wish her continued success as head volleyball coach.
2. Leave of Absence – Second grade teacher, Mrs. Julia Evans, is requesting a one-year unpaid leave of absence for the 2023-2024 school year for the purpose of staying home to care for her newborn son. Mrs. Evans will be on maternity leave this year on May 14th, 2023, through the end of the school year on June 9th, 2023; therefore, the unpaid year will run the entirety of next year's '23 - '24 school year. I will be asking for board approval during the New Business portion of tonight's meeting.
3. 98c Grant Before/After School Programming - You might recall that we received \$40,401 from the state as part of the 98c Learning Loss (ESSER) Grant. A plan was shared with the Board at our 10/24 BOE Meeting that can be accessed [here](#). I have been working on the details of the before/after school program that will run from April 11-May 25. We were able to secure several teachers and staff members that will be working with small groups of students for instruction of ELA and Math. Staff identified students for the program through standardized or grade-level assessments as group sizes are limited to 4 students per group for intense and direct instruction. Families received a flier, phone call, or email inviting their child to attend as well as details of the program. We have 25 teachers/staff members leading nearly 30 student groups before or after school. We have a total of about 90-100 students involved in the program.
4. Perry Pro Tech Contract Updates – We have incurred increased costs from Perry Pro Tech, the company through which we lease all district copy machines. Last year around this time, the board approved a contract with Perry; however, due to an outdated printer in the MS/HS Media Center ceasing to operate consistently and reliably, we needed to get a replacement (added cost = \$90.40 per month for 63 months [5,695.20]). Additionally, the copier in our Superintendent's Office arrived without all the necessary "finishing" equipment which allows for sorting and stapling, so it was also necessary for us to add this to our contract (added cost = \$71.83 per month for 52 months [3,735.16]). In the effort to remain transparent, I wanted to ensure that the board was made aware of these additional costs.
5. Whiteford FFA State Contest Results – The Whiteford FFA Chapter traveled to East Lansing, Michigan for the 95th State FFA Convention on Wednesday March 8th through Friday March 10th. Members that advanced past regionals were able to compete in State Leadership contests. Members also watched FFA convention sessions, watched other FFA members speeches and presentations, and received their own awards, including the FFA State Degree, FFA Outstanding Junior Degree, and Academic Excellence Awards.

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The chapter also did an Agronomy farm tour where they learned about different majors and degree programs at Michigan State's Agronomy Farm. The agronomy farm also showed students about the research trials they do, including weeds and herbicides, fertility, and potato research.

Of course, no trip is complete without a little fun. Whiteford members found time to skate at Michigan States Munn Ice Arena, socialized at the Region 2 FFA Ice cream social, and spent time with the Dundee, Ida, and Blissfield chapters at Zap Zone, which is a laser tag, putt-putt, and trampoline fun zone.

Whiteford FFA members earned the following results:

State Champion-Gold Award—Jr. High Public Speaking contest—Braelynn Chiotti. Speech on Net Pen Aquaculture in Great Lakes.

Ava Hillard—5th place Gold Award in prepared public speaking contest. Speech on Foreign Investment in American Farmland.

Ag Issues—Team of Alaina McClain, Brooklyn Mills, Mallory Bahls, Samantha Smith-Emerson, Bailey Spradling, Jenna Frye, Briar Wing. Presented Pros and Cons of dicamba Herbicide, 5th place Silver Award.

Demonstration—Team of Erica Holup, Abigail Johnson, Margo Thomas, Zach Kahn. Did a demonstration on Maple Syrup Production, 8th place Silver Award.

Greenhand Conduct of Meetings—Team of Garrett Schalmo, Lana Consear, Gabe Speweik, Addeson Cousino, Alison Turvey, Logan Delmotte, Gracie Tuttle. Conducted a 10-minute mock FFA meeting using parliamentary abilities and had a problem to solve, 8th place Silver Award.

Greenhand Conduct of Meetings—Team of Drew Ruddy, Mason DeBarr, Ty Welker, Nate Andrews, Caden Schroyer, Brody Hillard, Cole Griffith, 9th place Silver Award.

6. Whiteford Middle School and High School Band Highlights – The Middle School Band performed well this year at the district festival, especially considering this was our first full festival since COVID, and we have about half of the total 7th/8th grade population in our band! We earned a split Good-Excellent rating. The High School Band had a hallmark performance at the district festival, receiving straight "Superior" ratings from all judges. They qualified, and will perform, at the State Festival on April 27th in Brighton!
7. Whiteford Middle School and High School Choir Highlights – The Middle School Concert Choir received straight 1's in performance and sightreading to earn a Division I rating at the MSVMA District 12 Choral Festival on March 3 at Lincoln HS. One performance judge gave them a perfect score. The High School Concert Choir received straight 1's in performance and sightreading to earn a Division I rating at the MSVMA District 12 Choral Festival on March 21 at Clarenceville HS. All four scores were one point away from perfect!!!! The High School Chorale (Ensemble) received straight 1's in performance and sightreading to earn a Division I rating at the MSVMA District 12 Choral Festival on March 21 at Clarenceville HS. Two performance judges gave them a perfect score.
8. Whiteford High School Robotics Highlights – It was reported that the 2023 season for the Whiteford Bobcats Robotics Team 6570 was the best one yet! In six short weeks, they built a stand-out, superior robot incorporating innovative designs and new technology, including their first ever swerve drive. The team earned 5th place overall at the competition in Lansing, and because of the combined effort

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Superintendent's Report Continued....

9. for and consistent demonstration of excellence, the team was awarded the FIRST Autonomous Award by the judges.

10. Volunteer Coaching Appointments – Listed below are the additional volunteer coaching appointments for the 2021 spring sport season:

- Jordan Younglove HS Cheerleading
- Anita Simmons HS Competitive Cheerleading
- Tom Eitniet HS Baseball
- Ty Eitniet HS Baseball

11. Acknowledgement of Gifts/Donations – The following donations were recently made by groups/individuals in the district:

Erika Fitch, Former District Employee \$100.00 After Prom Fund
Brian Weber/Plante Moran Cresa \$350.00 After Prom Fund
The Collaborative \$350.00 After Prom Fund
VM Systems \$100.00 After Prom Fund
Norm Winter \$1,000.00 Sharon & Craig Winter Scholarship

12. Announcements / Reminders / Informational Items

- Saturday, April 22, 2023 – Daddy/Daughter Dance (Elementary Cafeteria, 6pm-8pm)
- 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)

NEOLA Board Policy Updates – First Reading

Superintendent Huard reviewed Board Policy updates as noted below:

Policy po2623 Student Assessment (revised)

Policy po6325 Procurement – Federal Grants/Funds (revised)

Policy po8390 Animals on District Property (revised)

Policy po8400 School Safety Information (revised)

No board action is necessary at this time as this is a first reading.

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Approval of High School Band State Festival Trip

A motion was made by Shane Hillard, seconded by Jeff Bunge, to approve the High School Band State Festival trip on April 27, 2023. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Dixon, Mock).

Approval of High School New York City and Washington DC Field Trip

A motion was made by Mike Iott, seconded by Janelle Young, to approve the High School New York City and Washington DC Field Trip from Sunday, March 10, 2024 through Friday, March 15, 2024, at no cost to the district. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Dixon, Mock).

Adopt Resolution – 2022-2023 Budget Amendments

A motion was made by Mike Iott, seconded by Jeff Bunge, to adopt the remainder of the 2022-2023 Budget Amendments Resolution as presented. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Dixon, Mock).

Approval of LockOut USA Security System

A motion was made by Shane Hillard, seconded by Mike Iott, to approve the purchase of the LockOut USA Security System based on the terms and conditions outlined in the agreement between the Whiteford Agricultural School District and the LockOut USA Company at a total cost of \$187,990.19 (with partial funds to be taken from the district's general fund [\$94,106.19] and the remaining cost to be covered by the Section 97 Security Grant [\$93,844.00]). Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Dixon, Mock).

Adopt Resolution to Proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

A motion was made by Jeff Bunge, seconded by Janelle Young, to adopt the Whiteford Agricultural Schools Child Advocacy Network Resolution as presented whereby the month of April is declared Child Abuse Prevention Month in Monroe County. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Dixon, Mock).

Approval of Cheer Team One-Day Camp

A motion was made by Janelle Young, seconded by Mike Iott, to approve the Cheer Team One-Day Camp trip through Champion Cheerleading taking place on August 15, 2023, in Brighton, Michigan at no cost to the district. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Dixon, Mock).

Approval of One-Year Unpaid Leave of Absence

A motion was made by Janelle Young, seconded by Christine Bischoff, to approve a one-year unpaid leave of absence for a 2nd grade elementary school teacher based on the Conditions of Employment – Unpaid Leaves of Absence, Article VI, Section E, items 4-5, of the current 2021-2023 WEA Master Agreement. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Dixon, Mock).

Recommendation to Hire MS/HS Administrative Assistant

A motion was made by Jeff Bunge, seconded by Janelle Young, to hire Amanda Duval as the new MS/HS Administrative Assistant based on the terms of the 2021-2023 WESPA agreement contingent upon favorable previous employer and FBI/State of Michigan background checks. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Dixon, Mock).

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Board Concerns/Reports

- Board President Christine Bischoff discussed the Monroe County Association of Boards of Education (MCABOE) upcoming dinner meeting taking place at the MCISD Professional Development Center on May 3, 2023, at 6pm, which will center around important legal updates for the 2023-2024 school year.
- The board discussed details surrounding the next Superintendent evaluation.
- Trustee Janelle Young broached the subject of donating to area shelters in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Her suggestion was well received, and plans were discussed.
- Board Secretary Mike Iott reintroduced the idea of naming the courtyard after beloved former Whiteford teacher, Mr. Colin Emerson, as Mr. Emerson was the individual who initially designed and cultivated the beautiful space. The suggestion was met with all-around approval, but it was decided that it would be best to wait until all the debris from the renovation work was cleaned up before moving forward with any kind of celebratory ceremony.

Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes approved _____, President

Minutes approved _____, Secretary