

**WHITEFORD SCHOOLS
OTTAWA LAKE, MICHIGAN 49267**

November 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 6:01 p.m. by President Shane Hillard on November 13, 2023. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Hillard. Members present Jeff Bunge, Shane Hillard, Kristi Mock, Jason Vida, and Janelle Young. Those absent were David Dixon and Mike Iott.

Also present were Superintendent Scott L. Huard, Elementary Principal Marcy Anderson, MS/HS Principal Jeremy Fielder, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Jeremy Simmons, and Director of Transportation & Buildings and Grounds Charlie Butz. There were 5 visitors present.

Assign Temporary Secretary

A motion was made by Jason Vida, seconded by Kristi Mock, to approve Janelle Young as temporary secretary in Mike Iott's absence. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Iott, Dixon)

Approval of Agenda

It was proposed by Shane Hillard to amend the agenda with the following changes: Move Special Presentations to #6; Move Public Comment to #7; Add Plante Moran Bleacher Bid Award Presentation to #7a and adjust other Special Presentations accordingly. A motion was made by Jeff Bunge, seconded by Jason Vida, to approve the November 13, 2023, Regular Meeting Agenda as presented. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Iott, Dixon)

Strategic Plan Progress Monitoring

Superintendent Huard presented a brief recap of the Whiteford Schools Strategic Plan to ensure that the board's decision-making process continues to align with the school district's current values and goals.

Special Presentations

Plante Moran Bleacher Bid Award – Brian Weber, with Plante Moran, gave an update regarding the series 3 bleacher bid award that will be considered later in the Board's agenda.

Student Participation – Ms. Aubrie Simmons, Student Council President, reported the following:

- SPLIT planned a Red Ribbon Week in October and created short videos that MS/HS students will be watching in November during Seminar.
- Arrive Alive assembly was held in October where juniors/seniors participated in driving a virtual reality car that allowed them to understand what it was like driving under the influence of drugs/alcohol.
- HS Student Council held a fundraiser for Thanksgiving where students could buy other students Thanksgiving type foods. They are also hosting a Christmas Giving Tree in December where students and families can pull an ornament off the tree that has needs and donations of students and/or families in our community. Lastly, they are looking to have hot cocoa and coffee cart days in December for students and staff.

Leski Wittman Insurance Agency Staff Member of the Month – Superintendent Huard recognized Ben Avis as Staff Member of the Month. He was nominated by Mr. Jim DeSilvis. Superintendent Huard read Mr. Jim DeSilvis's nomination form and shared that Ben works with all his students with as much passion as he shows on the football field or track and that is no small task. Superintendent Huard presented Mr. Avis with a \$100 gift card.

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Presentation of "Retirement Apple" – Superintendent Huard recognized Ms. Sue Never who retired after 23 years at Whiteford as a Special Education Bus Aide. Due to scheduling conflicts, Sue was not able to attend to receive her retirement apple and asked for it to be mailed to her.

Volunteer Appreciation of Adam Linkey – Athletic Director, Jeremy Simmons, shared his appreciation of Adam Linkey, student at Whiteford. Adam has been instrumental in helping assist at athletic sporting events. Adam has helped train other volunteers on the new high school gymnasium scoreboard and made adjustments to the sound system.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of the October 9, 2023, Regular Meeting and the October 24, 2023, Special Meeting
- b. Check Register (October 2023)

A motion was made by Janelle Young, seconded by Kristi Mock, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Iott, Dixon)

Administrative Reports

Elementary School – Ms. Marcy Anderson:

- Healthy Choices Week-Organized and planned by school counselor, Lauren Ehman
- OSU/Michigan Food Drive-Continue to collect non-perishable food items through 11/20. Food items will be donated to Zion Church Food Pantry.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences-Average attendance was around 95%.
- Halloween Parade-Was held on 10/31 with many parents in attendance. Students walked the hallways of the MS/HS building.
- Professional Development 11/1-Our teachers continue work on identifying essential standards as well as learning a new English Language Arts program, Amplify.
- WPA Cookie Dough Fundraiser-Brought a profit of over \$10,000. Thank you for supporting this critical fundraiser that provides for our students at Whiteford.
- Elementary Christmas Concert-The concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 14. Information will be sent home with students soon.
- NWEA Benchmarking Assessment-Our students will be taking their mid-year benchmarking assessment 12/4-12/15 to gauge student growth since the fall.

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Middle/High School – Mr. Jeremy Fielder:

- SPIT Arrive Alive-Was well received by students and a big thank you to Charlie Butz for getting a space cleared as it had to be moved indoors due to weather.
- PSAT Testing-Our 8th-11th grade students completed the fall on-line administration of the PSAT for the first time. It went well with regards to test administration, and the student results will be released tomorrow. We are still determining how we will share this information with families, but most likely a report from the College Board will be sent.
- Professional Development 11/1-Teachers continue to work on essential standards and assessments. In the afternoon, staff rotated three sessions to learn more about co-teaching, data dive and formative assessments.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences-Was well attended by families, but we have not had an opportunity to determine percentages.
- Seminar Council-Held separate meetings in October with MS and HS students during Seminar.

Approval of 2024 Commencement Date/Time

A motion was made by Kristi Mock, seconded by Janelle Young, to approve Thursday, May 30, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. as this year's commencement date and time. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Iott, Dixon)

Approval of 2024 Commencement Location

A motion was made by Jeff Bunge, seconded by Kristi Mock, to approve Crossroads Community Church as this year's commencement venue. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Iott, Dixon)

Assistant Principal/Athletic Director – Mr. Jeremy Simmons:

- Winter Sports-Varsity and Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball started practice today. MS Boys' Basketball has played 5 games. Girls Varsity and Junior Varsity Basketball practice starts Monday, November 20.
- Football State Semi-Final Game-Will be held this Saturday at Adrian College at 1pm vs Riverview. Tickets are \$10.
- TCC League Update-Sand Creek has left the TCC for football only. The TCC teams are still planning on having a full TCC schedule for all sports except football. Whiteford currently has five weeks open for the fall 2024 football season. I have been contacting schools to fill the open dates. I spoke with the LCAA about MS football games for 2024 and HS football games for 2025. The LCAA will entertain the idea if another school joins the LCAA with us to make it a total of 10 teams for football. The LCAA is not interested in adding any schools for other sports. I have a call into the MHSAA Commissioner regarding our situation in struggling to find football contest due to the current playoff point system that does not benefit larger schools to play a smaller school like Whiteford.

Transportation & Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Charlie Butz:

- Fall Season Clean Up-The maintenance staff has been busy getting things put away (bleachers) with the winter approaching. Fields have been fertilized and prepped for the spring season.
- HS Gymnasium-All of the signage that was in the old high school gym has been replaced with new signage to designate league teams, team achievements, and state championships and runner-up. These will be hung soon in the new HS gymnasium.
- Damaged Bleachers-A big thank you to Mike Bauman for helping to get some bleachers repaired for the Regional Football game.
- Bussing-We are currently fully staffed.
- Bus Loop-The new bus loop is going well overall with minimal back up at arrival or dismissal.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Resignations – Mr. Jim Ross resigned as Whiteford Girl's Varsity Basketball Coach effective 10/20/23. We appreciate Mr. Ross's continued support of Whiteford athletics. He was instrumental in starting to build a strong foundation for our girls' basketball program. Ms. Jaycie Harris has submitted a resignation letter for her last day as LRE Aide for Friday, January 12, 2024. Jaycie is pursuing her teaching certification, and her 2nd semester teaching schedule does not permit her to continue in her current role at Whiteford. We look forward to Jaycie continuing to serve our students as a substitute Title I, LRE Aide, or teaching in the coming months as her schedule allows.
2. Strategic Plan & Enrollment Vision Presentation - I want to thank the many parents, staff, and community members that attended the three (3) Strategic Plan & Enrollment Vision Workshops in October. We had about 100 stakeholders in total attendance for the meetings. During the workshop, I was able to gain much feedback and identified questions, concerns, and considerations for the enrollment vision that would regulate our enrollment growth. For those stakeholders unable to attend, the information gathered for each meeting is shared on the district website under "Our District" and "Strategic Plan" as well as some videos outlining the presentation details.

The four (4) videos that outline details of each presentation segment can be accessed below. A google survey is available to collect additional feedback. I am currently researching alternative recommendations, along with the recommendation of redistributing the 5th grade students, that were shared during the meetings, and I hope to share details of our next steps later in November or early December. As I shared in the meetings, no formal recommendation will be made until the January or February's Board of Education Meeting, where the Board of Education may make the final decision about how we will handle the enrollment growth/stabilization and its effect on grade-level locations and support services.

[Strategic Plan/Enrollment Vision/Stabilization Presentation](#)
[Teacher Letter](#) (Alternatives/Considerations)
[Stakeholder 10/3/23 Meeting Feedback](#)
[Stakeholder 10/10/23 Meeting Feedback](#)
[Stakeholder 10/12/23 Meeting Feedback](#)
[Segment/Video #1 - Strategic Plan Progress](#) (Year 1/Year 2)
[Segment/Video #2 - Enrollment Vision](#) (Foundation \$/SOC/Option 1)
[Segment/Video #2a - Enrollment Vision](#) (Options 2&3/Ratios)
[Segment/Video #3 - Stabilization Recommendations](#)
[Stakeholder Feedback Survey](#)
 Strategic Plan Enrollment Vision Q & A (Coming Soon!)

3. News from the Capital - The Legislature held marathon sessions this past week to attempt to finalize many major policy priorities before their anticipated adjournment next week. As a result, the House and Senate passed several pieces of education-related legislation, including educator evaluations, FAFSA as a graduation requirement, debt relief for some school districts, and more. The legislation being sent to the governor includes final agreed upon language:

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- a. Student Growth: 20% student growth as locally bargained.
- b. Mediation: Both the individual and the school would be required to agree to requested mediation by a teacher/non-superintendent administrator regarding a "needs support" rating.
- c. Ratings: Three categories – effective, developing, and needing support.
- d. Arbitration: The procedure for two consecutive "needs support" ratings would fall under the American Arbitration Association if there is no existing procedure.
- e. Superintendent Appeals Process: Superintendent contracts must contain an appeals process concerning the evaluation process and rating.

4. Volunteer Coach Appointments – The following have been appointed as volunteer coaches:

MS Volleyball Kylie Ryan Assistant Coach, MS
 MS Volleyball Cynthia Perry Assistant Coach, MS

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

Sara Kahn Corn Hole Boards..... Senior Class Activities
 Directions Credit Union..... \$300..... Staff Back to School Breakfast
 Pamela Grabarkiewicz..... \$30..... Elementary School Library

6. Announcements / Reminders / Informational Items:

- Wednesday, November 22, 2023 – Early Dismissal (Start of Thanksgiving Break)
- Thursday, November 23 – Friday November 24, 2023 – No School (Thanksgiving Break)
- Friday, December 22, 2023 – Early Dismissal (Start of Christmas Break)
- Monday, December 25, 2023 – Tuesday, January 2, 2024 – No School (Christmas Break)
- Wednesday, January 3, 2024 – School Resumes
- Monday, January 15, 2024 – No School (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
- Thursday, January 18, 2024 – Early Dismissal (Semester Exams)
- Friday, January 19, 2024 – Early Dismissal (Semester Exams)

Old Business

None

Proposed Substitute Hourly Rate Increase

A motion was made by Janelle Young, seconded by Jason Vida, to approve the proposed substitute hourly rate increases as presented. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (Iott, Dixon)

NEOLA Board Policy Updates (First Reading)

Superintendent Huard reviewed Board Policy updates as noted below:

Policy 1540 Administrative Staff Reductions/Recalls **(new)**
 Policy 2370.01 On-Line/Blended Learning Program (revised)
 Policy 8305 Information Security (revised)
 Policy 8531 Free And Reduced-Price Meals (revised)
 Policy 7217 Weapons (revised)

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Award Bid for Stadium and Sitework

A motion was made by Kristi Mock, seconded by Shane Hillard, to award the bid for the grandstand bleachers and sitework to Miller Diversified Construction Company, based upon contract terms to be agreed upon by the parties, consistent with the bid documents and reviewed and approved by the district's legal counsel, in the amount of \$608,685 to be paid from Series 3 Bond proceeds, and to further authorize the superintendent to negotiate such contract terms on behalf of the Board. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (lott, Dixon)

Recommendation to Hire Assistant Men's Basketball Coach

A motion was made by Janelle Young, seconded by Jeff Bunge, to hire Nicholas Brillhart as the new Head Women's Basketball Coach at Step 8 (\$4570.90) of the 2023-2025 WEA Master Agreement to be employed by Edustaff. Motion approved – 5 yes, 2 absent (lott, Dixon)

Board of Education Concerns/Reports

Jeff Bunge updated the Board on his trip to Lansing for the MASB Conference. He made the recommendation for other Board members to consider attending next year's conference in Lansing.

Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes approved _____, President

Minutes approved _____, Secretary