



**WASHTENAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023**

The Washtenaw Intermediate School District Board of Education held a regular board meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, in Washtenaw ISD's Teaching and Learning Center Board Room at 1819 South Wagner Road in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by President Diane Hockett

**ATTENDANCE**

**The following members were present:**

Diane Hockett, President  
Mary Jane Tramontin, Vice President  
Theresa Saunders, Secretary  
Steve Olsen, Trustee

**The following member was absent:**

Sarena Shivers, Treasurer

**Quorum was met.**

**Also present:**

Naomi Norman, Superintendent  
Cherie Vannatter, Deputy Superintendent  
Jennifer Banks, Director of Instruction  
Cassandra Harmon-Higgins, Executive Director of Human Resources and Legal Services  
Edward Manuszak, Executive Director for Early Childhood  
Regina Roza, Teaching Assistant  
Ghufran Al-Sheemary, Early Head Start Home Visitor

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Theresa Saunders, to approve the agenda, as presented.**

**Ayes: All.**

**Nays: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**COMMUNICATIONS:** There were no communications.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Ghufran Al-Sheemary, WISD Early Head Start Home Visitor, addressed the Board to disclose a conflict of interest.

**NEW BUSINESS – Authorization of Closed Session:**

**Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Steve Olsen, that the Board of Education authorize a closed session in compliance with the WISD Board Policy #0167.2, Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act and the MLC 15.268(1)(f) for the purpose of hearing charges against an individual.**

**Voting yes: Mary Jane Tramontin, Steve Olsen, Theresa Saunders, Diane Hockett.**

**Voting no: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

The board went into recess for closed session at 5:06 p.m. pursuant to Section 8(a) for the purpose of hearing charges against an individual.

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened to open session at 5:24 p.m.

**Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education approve “Individual A” for employment with Washtenaw Intermediate School District and recommend the Superintendent also approve this candidate for hiring.**

**Voting yes: Steve Olsen, Mary Jane Tramontin, Theresa Saunders, Diane Hockett.**

**Voting no: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE DIALOGUE:** Superintendent Naomi Norman addressed the board, sharing her experience with Michael Strautmanis, Executive Vice President from the Obama Foundation, visiting the Washtenaw My Brother’s Keeper (WMBK) chapter. She noted that he remarked on the engagement from the WISD Board of Education for taking action to support boys and young men of color especially in the context of so many other boards pulling back from their equity-focused initiatives. She closed by sharing the impact that WMBK has made--especially on the east side of the county--and how impressed she is by the scope and of their work.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:** There were no financial reports.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Vice President Mary Jane Tramontin, on behalf of the Board of Education, shared a statement thanking Merri Lynn Colligan for her five years of invaluable service. She recounted the substantial technological improvements, enhanced user experiences for students and staff, and seamless technology integration for both remote and hybrid learning during the COVID-19 pandemic that Merri Lynn facilitated during her dedicated tenure.

**Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Theresa Saunders, that the Board of Education approve the minutes and Superintendent’s recommendations in the Consent Agenda, as presented.**

**Voting yes: Mary Jane Tramontin, Theresa Saunders, Steve Olsen, Diane Hockett.**

**Voting no: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes**

The Board approved the minutes of the November 28, 2023, regular meeting.

**049-23-24**

The Board approved the following employment recommendations:

- Ralph Akers as a Maintenance/Custodial III.
- Sarah Khan as a Teaching Assistant, A2YA Transition Out-Center.
- Tiffany Schooler as a Teaching Assistant, YA Out-Center Floater.

**050-23-24**

The Board approved the following reclassification requests:

- Stacey Doyle, General Education Social Worker, 1.0 FTE, 205 Workdays, Unit II Bargaining, to Inter-Agency Mental Health Coordinator, 1.0 FTE, 210 Workdays, Non-Affiliated Bargaining.

**051-23-24**

The Board approved the following staff resignations:

- Merri Lynn Colligan, effective December 29, 2023.

**052-22-23**

The Board accepted the following new position request:

- Teaching Assistant for Students with Visual Impairments (TAVI), 1.0 FTE, 205 Workdays, Worksites: Other, Unit I Bargaining.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS – Calhoun Intermediate School District/Michigan Department of Education Contract:**

Director of Instruction, Jennifer Banks address the Board, touching on the growth of the Tri-County Culturally Responsive Mathematics Institute, the opportunities and programming that the initiative provides, and how that growth has led to triple the funding all while adhering to its mission. President Diane Hockett remarked that the interest in this group was exciting. Jennifer Banks fielded questions from the Board.

**Motion by Steve Olsen, seconded by Mary Jane Tramontin, that the Board of Education approve the Calhoun Intermediate schools District/Department of Education Contract, as presented.**

**Voting yes: Steve Olsen, Mary Jane Tramontin, Theresa Saunders, Diane Hockett.**

**Voting no: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS – Authorization of Closed Session:**

**Motion by Mary Jane Tramontin, seconded by Theresa Saunders, that the Board of Education authorize a closed session under Section 8(c) for the purpose of strategy and negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement.**

**Voting yes: Mary Jane Tramontin, Theresa Saunders, Diane Hockett, Steve Olsen.**

**Voting no: None.**

**Motion carried.**

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION**

The board went into recess for closed session at 5:47 p.m. pursuant to Section 8(c) for the purpose of strategy and negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement.

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened to open session at 6:28 p.m.

**OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS:** There were no other items of business.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS:** Trustee Steve Olsen shared highlights from the 2023 Annual Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs) Conference.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – Superintendent’s Report:**

Superintendent Naomi Norman addressed the Board, speaking about the following:

- The newly formed MAISA Instructional Council held their first meeting.
- Talent Together now officially includes 55 ISDs, with only one that has not joined the consortium. The consortium will officially start on January 1, 2024.
- Senator Sue Shink’s visit to High Point to acknowledge Delia Powell’s Adapted PE Teacher of the Year Award. Senator Shink provided Delia with a statement signed by Governor Whitmer, Lieutenant Governor Gilchrist, State Representative Felicia Brabec, and herself.
- The final Draft of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Data Report was received from the University of Michigan Youth Policy Lab and will be shared at an upcoming board meeting.
- We will be applying for a consolation grant for our Career and Technical Education (CTE) system design efforts.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Saunders, Secretary  
Washtenaw ISD Board of Education