

**Watervliet Public Schools
Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education
January 13, 2025
Watervliet High School Auditorium
450 East Red Arrow Highway
Watervliet, MI 49098**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Spaulding at 6:11 p.m

OPENING

Mr.Gruszczuk led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: John Oliphant, Amanda Morlock Fisher, Jim Tyler, Bill Spaulding, Kimberly Adams, Gina Gear, Brian Gruszczuk

Members Absent: None

Others in Attendance: Ric Seager, Joe Bergthold, Deah Muth, Alecia Hickman, Dave Kindt, Christina Powers, Lori Pline, Sherry Wheeler, Heather Cram, Bill Tiefenbach, Brandon Waggoner, Tricia Arnt, Lindsey Hug, Shana Bohle, Jeremy Andrews, Sierra Gainer, Stephanie Schuck, Jessica Tyler, Teri Richcreek, Angela Schmidt, Tiffany Wendt, Brianna Edmonds and community members.

APPROVAL (and/or) CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Mr. Tyler moved that the minutes of the December 9, 2024 Regular Meeting and the December 16, 2024 Special Meeting be approved as presented. Support by Mrs. Adams. 7-0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mrs.Gear moved for approval of the agenda for the January 13, 2024, Regular Meeting as presented. Support by Ms. Morlock-Fisher. 7-0. Motion carried.

FINANCE

Budget Review

Examination and Payment of General Fund Bills

Mr. Tyler moved that General Fund expenses for December 2024 in the amount of \$968,226.88 be approved. Noting \$ 612,880.76 is for payroll-related expenses. Support by Mrs. Adams. 7-0. Motion carried.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Adams shared that the Board of Education received a donation check totaling \$971.58 from the Fleming Brothers for The Giving Pump at the Watervliet Shell gas station.

BUSINESS

School Board Appreciation Month Presentations

All the Buildings in the District did a presentation in appreciation of the School Board.

Personnel Changes

Resignation:

Superintendent Seager shared Taylor VanNiel's resignation.

New Hires

Superintendent Seager shared that Brittany Bartee will join the High School team in the role of a paraprofessional and Kevin Eastman (Varsity Football Coach), Daryl Tackett (Varsity Men's Track Coach) Aaron Weber (Varsity Men's Track Coach) will join the High School Coaching Staff.

Leave Request

Mr. Oliphant moved that the Board approve the leave request as presented. Support by Mrs. Adams. 7-0. Motion carried.

Fall Policy Update - Final Reading

Mrs. Adams moved that the Board approve the Fall Policy Updates as recommended. Support by Ms. Morlock-Fisher. 7-0. Motion carried.

Notice of Tax Exemption Request

Superintendent Seager shared with the board that there would be a Tax Hearing on January 27, 2025, regarding the abatement request by B&B Grocery.

No action was taken.

Curriculum Report

Mr. Waggoner shared an update with the Board of Education regarding Dual Enrollment/ Middle College Numbers and that the WAY Graduation Ceremony is January 22nd, 2025. Mr. Waggoner also shared that Devon Girtton and Sarah Brant were awarded MEC Grants and Marcella Hunt was awarded a Golden Acorn Mini-Grant.

Superintendent Contract Resolution

Mr. Oliphant moved that the Board of Education approve the resolution renewing the Superintendent contract as presented. Support by Mr. Gruszczyk. 7-0 Motion carried.

WPS Calendar Year Executive Salary Schedule Update

Mr. Oliphant moved that the Board of Education approve the WPS Calendar Year Executive Salary Schedule resolution as presented. Support by Mr. Gruszczyk. 7-0 Motion carried.

Bond Proposal Update:

Superintendent Seager shared the May 2025 Bond timeline.

Authorization for Signing of Election Agreements - Board Secretary

Mr. Oliphant moved that the Board of Education name the Board Secretary as the representative for the Watervliet School Board of Education on the Election Coordinating Committee and authorize the Secretary to sign documents on our behalf. Support by Ms. Morlock-Fisher. 7-0. Motion carried.

Any Additional Business

President Spaulding shared that Ms. Morlock-Fisher did an excellent job as the Master of Ceremonies for the Queen Contest and that Mr. Gruszczyk and Mr. Oliphant did a very nice job in the sound/lighting booth.

BOARD AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ADJOURN

Mr. Gruszczyk moved to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. Support by Mrs.Adams 7-0. Motion carried.