

**Watervliet Public Schools
Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education
August 4, 2025
Watervliet High School Media Center
450 East Red Arrow Highway
Watervliet, MI 49098**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Spaulding at 6:00 p.m.

OPENING

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

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Gina Grear, Bill Spaulding, John Oliphant, Amanda Morlock Fisher, Jim Tyler (entered at 6:59 p.m)

Members Absent: Kimberly Adams, Carrie Wider

Others in Attendance: Ric Seager, Joe Bergthold, Deah Muth, Dave Kindt, Heather Cram, Sherry Wheeler, Alan Berget, Terry Adams, Christina Powers, John Guillean, Bill Tiefenbach, Alecia Hickman, Kate Van Lente, Jeremy Andrews, Chris Roland, and community members.

APPROVAL (and/or) CORRECTION OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliphant moved that the minutes of the July 7, 2025, Organizational Meeting, the July 7, 2025, Regular Meeting, and the July 23, 2025, Special Meeting be approved as corrected. Supported by Ms. Morlock-Fisher. 4-0 Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Oliphant moved for approval of the agenda for the August 4, 2025, Regular Meeting as presented. Support by Mrs. Grear. 4-0 Motion carried.

FINANCE

Budget Review

Superintendent Seager shared that Mr. Bergthold will share an update of the FY26 Budget through July 31, 2025, at the August 18, 2025, Meeting.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

President Spaulding shared a letter that was received on Thursday from the Berrien County Brownfield Development Authority.

BUSINESS

Personnel Changes

New Hires/Internal Transfers:

Superintendent Seager shared that Jessica Martinez has been hired in a full time position as Grade 1 Teacher, replacing Mrs. VanNeil, Martha Casiano will be returning to South Elementary in the full-time role of ELL Paraprofessional, Rachel Zyka will be shifting roles at South Elementary, replacing Ms. Arnt in the library and Maggie Rendall will join the South Elementary Staff in the role of paraprofessional.

Rosa Casiano is returning to North Elementary in the role of paraprofessional. Superintendent Seager shared that Alec Green, Cleon White, Madalyn Hutchings, and Brian Webb will be the District Premier Substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year. Superintendent Seager also shared that we have Myah Hobson joining the Athletic Program as the MS Volleyball Coach, Lauren Irman is taking over as MS Cross Country Coach, and Autumn Kendzior has been slated to be the MS Sideline Cheer Coach.

Appointment of New Board Member:

President Spaulding announced the appointment of Carrie Wilder to the position of Interim Board Trustee. Mrs. Wilder has signed the Acceptance of Position and has taken the oath of office.

Policy Update - Final Reading

Mrs. Gear moved that the Board of Education approve the policy changes as recommended by the Policy Committee. Supported by Ms. Morlock-Fisher. 4-0 Motion carried.

Handbook Updates - Final Reading

Mr. Oliphant moved that the Board of Education approve all District and Athletic handbooks revisions as presented. Support by Mrs. Gear. 4-0 Motion carried.

Berrien County Insurance Consortium Agreement

Mr. Oliphant moved that the Board of Education approve participation in the Berrien County Health Plan Purchasing Consortium. Supported by Ms. Morlock-Fisher. 4-0 Motion carried.

Interim Superintendent Discussion:

Mr. Oliphant moved that the Board of Education appoint Kevin Schooley for the role of Interim Superintendent, to begin at a date to be determined. Supported by Ms. Morlock-Fisher. 4-0 Motion carried.

County Enrollment Change Comparison:

Superintendent Seager shared a table that showed changes in student enrollments and total staffing in Berrien County Schools over the past ten school years.

Owner's Agent Dialogue:

Mr. Oliphant moved that the Board of Education direct Joseph Bergthold to seek proposals for an 'owner's agent' to assist in managing bond activities. This contract is to have an end date no later than August 31, 2026. Supported by Ms. Morlock-Fisher. 4-0 Motion carried.

Site Survey for 2025 Bond Projects - Contract

Mr. Oliphant moved that the Board of Education accept the Topographical Survey Updates proposal from Driesenga and Associates for North Elementary, South Elementary, and the Middle/High School Base in an amount not to exceed \$14,175, plus title search fees. Support by Mr. Tyler. 5-0 Motion carried.

Any Additional Business

Mr. Tyler shared information about the River Oaks Project and the Brownfield Development.

BOARD and PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ADJOURN

Mr. Oliphant moved to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. Supported by Ms. Morlock-Fisher. 5-0 Motion carried.