

**WHITEFORD SCHOOLS
OTTAWA LAKE, MICHIGAN 49267**

January 12, 2026

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent Scott L. Huard called the Organizational Meeting of the Whiteford Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. on January 12, 2026. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Huard. Present were Shane Hillard, Dave Dixon, Jeff Bunge, Janelle Hauser, Brandon Iott, Jason Vida and Tom Wenzel.

Also present was Director of Transportation & Buildings and Grounds Charlie Butz. There were 4 visitors present.

Approval of Temporary Secretary

A motion was made by Shane Hillard, seconded by Tom Wenzel, to approve Jeff Bunge as temporary secretary for the January 12, 2026, Organizational Meeting. Motion approved – 6 yes, (1-abstained/Bunge)

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Tom Wenzel, seconded by Brandon Iott, to amend the agenda to remove Item 8-C Superintendent's Mid-Year Progress Report and approve the January 12, 2026, Organizational & Regular Meeting Agenda as amended. Motion approved – 7 yes

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Organization of the Board

Jeff Bunge nominated Shane Hillard for president. It was moved by Tom Wenzel seconded by Jason Vida to close nominations.
Shane Hillard was declared president by acclamation.

Janelle Hauser nominated Dave Dixon for vice president. It was moved by Tom Wenzel seconded by Jason Vida to close nominations.
Dave Dixon was declared vice president by acclamation.

Shane Hillard nominated Jeff Bunge for secretary. It was moved by Dave Dixon seconded by Janelle Hauser to close nominations.
Jeff Bunge was declared secretary by acclamation.

Jeff Bunge nominated Janelle Hauser for treasurer. It was moved by Jeff Bunge seconded by Dave Dixon to close nominations.
Janelle Hauser was declared treasurer by acclamation.

Regular Meetings Scheduled

A motion was made by Dave Dixon, seconded by Jeff Bunge, that regular meetings of the Board of Education be scheduled on the following dates at 6:00 p.m. in the Boardroom.

February 9, 2026
March 23, 2026
April 13, 2026
May 11, 2026

June 8, 2026
July 13, 2026
August 10, 2026
September 14, 2026

October 12, 2026
November 9, 2026
December 14, 2026

Motion approved – 7 yes

Special Presentations

Staff Member of the Month Presentation – Mrs. Nancy Gibson (Elementary Title 1 Aide) was recognized as Staff Member of the Month for December. Meghann Borgelt from Leski Wittman Insurance Agency attended the meeting and presented Mrs. Gibson with a \$100 gift card. Nancy was nominated by Mrs. Angela Madalinski and Ms. Magdalene Waldecker, who shared Nancy is an inspiration to others and embodies what it means to support both staff and students with heart.

School Board Recognition – Superintendent Huard shared a message of gratitude with all the school board members, sincerely thanking them for their years of service and devotion to the students of Whiteford. Afterward, he presented each board member with a Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Certificate of Appreciation and gave each member a special gift to show his sincere appreciation.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Dave Dixon, seconded by Jason Vida, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented:

- a. Minutes of the December 8, 2025, Regular Meeting
- b. Treasurer's Report (December 2025) and Check Register (December 2025)

Motion approved – 7 yes

Superintendent's Report

1. School Board Recognition Month: January is School Board Recognition Month, a special time dedicated to honoring the individuals who give countless hours to support our schools, our students, and our community. Though their roles are voluntary, our board members approach their work with the dedication of a full-time job—carefully reviewing information, making challenging decisions, and always keeping students at the heart of their service. These committed citizens play a vital role in shaping the direction of Whiteford Agricultural Schools. Each year, they invest hundreds of hours in governance, collaboration, and advocacy, ensuring that our district continues to grow and thrive. Through their leadership, they help build the foundation for our students' success today and for the leaders they will become tomorrow. This month, we encourage everyone in the community to thank a school board member. Take a moment to show appreciation for these servant leaders whose year-round efforts strengthen our schools and enrich the lives of every student.
2. Building Reports: The school principals, Athletic Director, Director of Human Resources, and Director of Finance and Business Services have been excused from tonight's meeting. Their reports for January are typically shorter in nature after coming off the Winter Break and excusing them from tonight's meeting is good way to show appreciation for the extra efforts and time they invest each day by having a free evening to be with their family.

Ottawa Lake, Michigan
Minutes continued
January 12, 2026

3. Resignations: Mrs. Corey Mills resigned her position as elementary technology teacher/testing coordinator/ed tech specialist effective August 31, 2026 for retirement. Her decision comes with a full heart and deep appreciation for the 25 years she has spent serving our students, families, and school community. We wish her the best in her retirement.

Mr. Ben Avis resigned his position as Assistant High School Track & Field Coach effective immediately due to personal and professional responsibilities. He is more than willing to assist if needed where he can.

Mr. Ken Groch resigned his position as Dean of Students for retirement effective June 30, 2026. We wish him the best in his retirement.

4. Notification of Probationary Status: The following teacher will be granted the appropriate year of probationary status effective February 1st of the 2025-2026 school year. Fifth Year; Mark Truna (MS/HS English).

5. Volunteer Coaches – The following people have been appointed as volunteer coaches:

Basketball Ethan Layton Assistant Coach, Girls Varsity

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

Nick Puhl.....	\$204.90.....	Girls' Basketball Equipment
McGuire Group, Inc.....	\$500.00.....	Baseball Scoreboard
Legacy Heating, Cooling & Construction,.....	\$5,000.00.....	Baseball Scoreboard

7. Announcements/Reminders/Informational Items:

- January 14..... WPA Meeting – Elementary Cafeteria 6-8:00pm
- January 19..... No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 22-23..... Early Release – MS/HS Exams
- January 23..... End of 2nd Marking Period
- February 11..... WPA Meeting – Elementary Cafeteria 6-8:00pm

Old Business

2019 Capital Bond Campaign Excess Bonds

The board discussed the 2019 Capital Bond Campaign Excess Funds and the potential projects for spending down these funds.

New Business

Approve State FFA Convention Field Trip

A motion was made by Jeff Bunge, seconded by Dave Dixon, to approve the overnight and out of district State FFA Convention field trip to East Lansing, Michigan from Wednesday, March 4, 2026, through Friday, March 6, 2026. Motion approved – 7 yes

Approve Region 2 FFA Officer Camp Field Trip

A motion was made by Janelle Hauser, seconded by Dave Dixon, to approve the overnight and out of district Region 2 FFA Officer Camp field trip to Camp Michindoh in Hillsdale, Michigan from Sunday, April 26, 2026, to Monday, April 27, 2026. Motion approved – 7 yes

2019 Capital Bond Campaign Excess Bonds Projects

A motion was made by Dave Dixon, seconded by Janelle Hauser, to do all projects listed in Plan B outlined in supporting documentation with the exception of the elementary roof not to exceed \$75,000.00, as presented.

Roll call vote – yes (Dixon/Hauser/Hillard) – no (Bunge/Iott/Vida/Wenzel)

Motion failed 3 – yes, 4 – no.

A motion was made by Jason Vida, and Seconded by Tom Wenzel, to approve the elementary school center roof and high school kitchen roof project not to exceed \$45,00.00, as presented.

Roll Call Vote – yes (Dixon/Bunge/Hauser/Iott/Vida/Wenzel/Hillard)

Motion approved – 7 yes

A motion was made by Shane Hillard, seconded by Dave Dixon, to award the Jennite Paving & Sealing Company the parking lot resurfacing and additions project not to exceed \$233,000.00, as presented.

Roll Call Vote – yes (Dixon/Bunge/Hauser/Iott/Vida/Wenzel/Hillard)

Motion approved - 7 yes

A motion was made by Jason Vida, seconded by Dave Dixon, to approve the drinking fountain project not to exceed \$25,000.00, as presented.

Roll Call Vote – yes (Dixon/Bunge/Hauser/Iott/Vida/Wenzel/Hillard)

Motion approved – 7 yes

Any Future Board Calendar Items

There were no future board calendar items.

Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Minutes approved _____, President

Minutes approved _____, Secretary