

**WHITEFORD SCHOOLS
OTTAWA LAKE, MICHIGAN 49267**

March 3, 2025

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Whiteford Agricultural School Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board President Shane Hillard on March 3, 2025. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Hillard. Present were Shane Hillard, Dave Dixon, Jeff Bunge, Janelle Young, Brandon Iott, Jason Vida, and Tom Wenzel.

Also present were Superintendent Scott L. Huard, Director of Finance & Business Services Marisa Tebbe-Cousino, Director of Human Resources Cathy Machcinski, Director of Data, Curriculum and Assessment Marcy Anderson, Director of Transportation & Buildings and Grounds Charlie Butz, and MS/HS Principal Jeremy Fielder. There were 4 visitors present.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Dave Dixon, seconded by Janelle Young, to amend the agenda to add Item 12 f. Approval of WESPA Retirement Incentive, add new Item 13 Closed Session – To consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent and renumber the remaining items accordingly, and amend as presented. Motion approved – 7 yes

Special Presentations

Student Council Update – Student Council President Alaina McClain attended the meeting and discussed the following MS/HS activities:

- Every Tuesday or Thursday student council has been meeting to plan spirit week prior to spring break.
- Hosting a school wide rock paper scissor challenge during spirit week.
- Gearing up for BattleCats and field day. Have the BattleCat t-shirt design done, planning games and getting ready for field day.

Leski Wittman Insurance Agency Staff Member of the Month – HS Virtual teacher, Mr. Matt VanBrandt, was recognized as Staff Member of the Month for February and was presented with a \$100 gift card by Meghann Borgelt from the Leski Wittman Insurance Agency. Matt was nominated by Mr. Jay Yockey for his high level of expectations for his students and athletes and he continues to prove what success looks like at Whiteford Agricultural Schools in the classroom and on the field. Mr. Fielder, members of the board, Mr. Butz and Mr. Huard, expressed their appreciation for Matt's professionalism, dedication to the district, and the time he also puts in coaching. He is one of the best and this nomination was well deserved.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

**Minutes Continued
Ottawa Lake, Michigan
March 3, 2025**

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Minutes of the February 10, 2025, Regular Meeting
- b. Check Register (February 2025)
- c. Adoption of Resolutions – Opt Out (section 105) and Opt In (section 105c) Schools of Choice Program

Motion approved – 7 yes

Administrative Reports

Director of Finance & Business Services – Mrs. Tebbe-Cousino:

- Responded to a question that was raised at the last board meeting regarding what implications if any would happen if we lost Federal funding. Reported the biggest impact would be with our meal reimbursements for breakfast and lunch. Also, we could possibly lose some Title I funds for our aids.

Director of Human Resources – Mrs. Cathy Machcinski:

- Reported that the Michigan Governor made changes at the eleventh hour to ESTA. We now have until March 23rd to get updated notices out to staff.
- Compensation letters will be going out to the staff later this month
- Sent out reminders to all faculty members regarding their certification expiration dates.
- We are in the validation period right now for the CHRIS software (fingerprinting records). The deadline is May 6th to complete; goal is to be completed by the end of this week.

Director of Data, Curriculum and Assessment – Mrs. Marcy Anderson

- Explained the data assessment information that was in the board packets. We do state testing and local testing. Expressed we do both because we get different data at different times of the year which helps the teachers prepare their students for the State assessments which are once a year.
- Hoping to be presenting a Social Studies Curriculum to the board in May or June.

Transportation & Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Charlie Butz:

- Reported winter sports are wrapping up.
- Hosted District basketball tournament last Friday. Marcus did a great job at this.
- Spring sports busing has been finalized with Athletic Director Marcus Luzier.
- The FFA trip is this week to Michigan state. They will be leaving Wednesday morning and will return at the end of the school day Friday.
- They are preparing equipment and supplies for outside spring sports.
- There is an upcoming fire alarm system testing in both buildings.

Athletic Director – Mr. Marcus Luzier:

- The student count for MHSAA was 262 and believe we will be in the same division for all sports 2025/26. Last year's count was 268.

Minutes Continued
Ottawa Lake, Michigan
March 3, 2025

- The MHSAA has hard capped enrollment at 250 for Division 8 football, in past years this was a sliding scale.
- Unless we start a Virtual Academy, we will more than likely be Division 7 moving forward. Whiteford has never advanced out of a Division 7 or DD football district in school history.
- Varsity league play has ended for boys and girls basketball.
- Boys Varsity 3rd at 7-5 in league play.
- Girls Varsity 2nd at 9-3 in league play.
- Comp Cheer wrapped up season with an 8th place finish at Districts.
- Special thanks to our wonderful staff at the school for always helping at events when needed.
- Correspondence received from LCS regarding what a wonderful job Patti Iott and Troy Giesige do with our MS girls. Troy helped orchestrate a great moment for an LCS student with special needs. Late in our 8th grade game with LCS this student scored her first basket ever. People in the gym were brought to tears.

Middle/High School – Mr. Jeremy Fielder:

- Scheduling meetings with students are continuing for grades 8, 10,11; meetings with current 9th grade students are complete.
- February 14th PD consisted of a Lightspeed Classroom training for teachers, as well as Data Dive/Spring testing planning, and ALICE training.
- FFA week concluded last week and featured spirit days, breakfast for staff, Agriculture-based Kahoot, and “Ag Olympics” Pep Assembly Friday.
- We hosted the Music Program’s Fundraiser through Emmy Kitchen last Friday, Feb. 28th.
- Social Studies teachers are implementing sample lessons from McGraw Hill and TCI as they examine 6-12 curriculum options.
- Math teachers will receive DESMOS (digital calculator) training from Eric Swank of the ISD on March 10th, as this calculator is used on the PSAT/SAT suite of assessments. In the afternoon, the Math team will dive into Exact Path to learn its uses for personalized learning.
- Science teachers will be listening to reps from TCI Science for Middle School, Supplemental Savvas Material, McGraw Hill Inspire, Lab-Aids information, on March 11th, as they explore Science curriculum options for grades 6-8.
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory - School Musical takes place from March 14th-16th.
- Robotics had a great showing at Ferndale this past weekend. Finished third overall.

Elementary School – Mr. Sam Marsh:

- Reading month is here. They have 4 authors coming in, reading bingo, a story book bracket, a trip to the Croswell and a whole bunch more. Thanked Shelly DeVantier and the WPA for getting everything set up.
- The elementary school has continued discussion on moving the school math curriculum to Everyday Math (currently used in Kg, 3rd, 4th, and 5th). They are currently working on figuring out what curriculum materials they have in the building and what they will need moving forward.
- Kindergarten registration is this Thursday 3/6. This will be led by the TK/Kindergarten team with academic screening help from their aides and vision/hearing screening by the Monroe Health Department.

Minutes Continued
Ottawa Lake, Michigan
March 3, 2025

Superintendent's Report

1. Update on Student Count – February count day was Wednesday, February 12th. Preliminary numbers at this time are 377 (361) elementary students, 189 (196) middle school students, and 262 (267) high school students, for a total of 828 (824). Last year's numbers are in () for reference.
2. 2025-2026 Monroe County Schools of Choice Program – The enrollment period for schools of choice opens on April 1, 2025. The deadline for application is June 27, 2025. The 1% yearly cap remains in place. Applications will be available on Monday, April 1st and can be obtained from the three district offices and on the district's website in the *NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS* section as well as the NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION page.
3. 2025-2026 Athletic Count –Athletic Director, Marcus Luzier, submitted the high school athletic count to the MHSAA. This year, our total count is 262 student athletes, which is 6 less than last year. We are awaiting an official letter from the MHSAA which will notify us of our classification based on the numbers Mr. Luzier submitted. I will update the board next month after receiving the official notification from MHSAA.
4. Resignations– Mrs. Kim DeSilvis resigned her position as a substitute teacher at Whiteford due to accepting a full-time position at Ida Schools. Ms. Lisa Childers resigned her position as MS/HS Art Teacher effective June 30, 2025, for the purpose of retirement. Ms. Childers taught at Whiteford for 33 years. We thank Ms. Childers for her work and dedication to our Bobcat students and families. Mrs. Judy Denomy resigned her position as a bus driver effective the last day of school (June 11, 2025) pending weather cancellations for the purpose of retirement. Mrs. Denomy started as a substitute driver in 1980 and will be greatly missed by all.
5. News From the Capital – Reported that there has been changes with legislative leadership in Washington D.C. and Lansing, MI, so we are carefully tracking how these changes may affect policies due to changes in federal or state laws as well as educational funding from the federal and state level. At the federal level, we are following the possible cuts or elimination of the U.S. Department of Education. Based upon our FY25 audit, we received \$290,000 from federal grant or categorical assistance, but most of this money was COVID ESSER/11t money that remained and is fully expended now. If there are changes or elimination of categorical funding that is funneled to the Michigan Department of Education to Whiteford Schools, we are working to understand how that would affect current supports or programming at Whiteford. At the state level, the Governor has submitted her FY26 school budget proposal. The House and Senate will now create their own proposals, and they will spend the next several months working through the details of a final FY26 state education budget. For reference, the state legislature typically waits until the last minute to approve the FY26 budget deadline of June 30, 2025. Since every Michigan school district must have an approved FY26 budget by June 30, 2025, they are forced to make budgetary decisions off of hypotheticals of the Governor, House and Senate proposals. At Whiteford, we tend to lean on making assumptions on the low-end of proposed increases to create the FY26 budget. It is early in the process, but we will be considering these legislative changes at the federal and state levels as we prepare for contract negotiations with our union and non-union groups this spring.

**Minutes Continued
Ottawa Lake, Michigan
March 3, 2025**

6. Lifewise Academy – Michigan is one of several states that require school boards to release students to participate in religious instruction “for not more than 2 class hours per week.” The Released Time Programming cannot take place on school premises, student participation must be voluntary, and the school cannot fund the program. At Whiteford, we have school board policy 5223 – Absences for Religious Instruction that would permit this off-site programming. Crossroads Community Church is running a character-based educational program, Lifewise Academy, for grades 4th and 5th graders beginning in April during student elective periods. The program is voluntary for parents to opt-in their student once a week for 60 minutes of teaching. Crossroads covers all costs of the program and provides transportation.

7. Todd Schreiber Dedication - The Whiteford Agricultural Schools boasts an exceptional music program under the dedicated leadership of Mr. Todd Schreiber. Serving as the sole K12 vocal music instructor for over 36 years, Mr. Schreiber has profoundly influenced generations of students, many of whom he has taught throughout their entire academic journey. Because of his long-standing service to our students, the Whiteford Board of Education would like to show their appreciation with the naming of the Whiteford Stage after Mr. Todd R. Schreiber. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Schreiber has directed 22 musical productions, with The High School Musical the Musical being the latest in 2024. These performances have become a cherished tradition, showcasing the diverse talents of Whiteford students. The naming of the stage will take place at each of the three musical performances of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory on March 14-16. Mr. Schreiber's unwavering dedication has not only enriched the school's music program but has also left a lasting impact on the community, fostering a deep appreciation for the arts among students and residents alike. Hoping community members will make plans to attend this year's musical and witness the formal naming of the Whiteford Stage in honor of our beloved Mr. Schreiber

8. Volunteer Coaching Appointments – Listed below are the volunteer coaching appointments for the 2025 spring sport season:

- Bulmer, DouglasAssistant HS Robotics Coach
- Brian BischoffAssistant HS Baseball Coach
- Amanda Collins.....Assistant Varsity Girls Track/Cross Country Coach

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

Whiteford Fire Dept. #2..... \$500.....After Prom Donation

10. Announcements / Reminders / Informational Items

- March 3Elementary WPA Read-A-Thon begins
- March 4Whiteford Recreation Meeting 7pm MS/HS Media Center
- March 5-7FFA State Convention – East Lansing, Michigan
- March 6-7Middle School District 12 Choral Festival, Dexter High School
- March 6Kindergarten Round-Up 1-7pm Elementary
- March 75th Grade Spelling Bee 1:15-2:30pm
- March 8WPA Daddy Daughter Dance 6:00-8:00pm
- March 12Youth 4 Leadership Conference
- March 14HS Spring Musical 7:30pm HS Gym
- March 15HS Spring Musical 7:30pm HS Gym
- March 16HS Spring Musical 2:30pm HS Gym

**Minutes Continued
Ottawa Lake, Michigan
March 3, 2025**

- March 17St. Patrick's Day
- March 18WPA Meeting 6pm
- March 18TK/KG/5th Grade Field Trip - Croswell Opera House
- March 19 1st/2nd/3rd Grade Field Trip – Croswell Opera House
- March 204th Grade Wax Museum 1:30-2:30pm MS Gym
- March 21Early Release Elementary 10:55am; MS/HS 11:05am
- March 24-28.....Spring Break
- April 1Whiteford Recreation Meeting 7pm MS/HS Media Center
- April 4.....End of 3rd Marking Period
- April 7.....2025 Capital Bond Campaign Community Mtg 7pm MS Gym
- April 8.....WPA Funagin's Dine to Donate 6:00-8:00pm
- April 14.....Board of Education Meeting 6pm MS/HS Board Rm
- April 9.....State Testing Day, No School Grades KG-7th and 12th
- April 14.....Board of Education Meeting 6pm MS/HS Board Rm

Capital Bond Campaign

Superintendent Huard updated the board on the latest Capital Bond information.

Recommendation to Hire MS 8th Grade Volleyball Coach

A motion was made by Janelle Young, seconded by Tom Wenzel, to hire Nora Pello as the new MS 8th Grade Volleyball Coach at the rate of \$1,600 per the terms of the 2023-2025 WEA Master Agreement and contingent upon Favorable previous employer conduct and FBI/State of Michigan background checks. Motion approved – 7 yes

Recommendation to Hire MS 7th Grade Volleyball Coach

A motion was made by Janelle Young, seconded by Dave Dixon, to contract with Edustaff and hire Madison Peek as the new MS 7th Grade Volleyball Coach at the rate of \$1,600 per the terms of the 2023-2025 WEA Master Agreement and contingent upon Favorable previous employer conduct and FBI/State of Michigan background checks. Motion approved – 7 yes

Approve High School DC Overnight Field Trip

A motion was made by Dave Dixon, seconded by Janelle Young, to approve the overnight, out-of-district HS field trip to Washington DC on December 1-5, 2025, as presented. Motion approved – 7 yes

Approve MS Choir/Band Annual Spring Music Trip

A motion was made by Janelle Young, seconded by Dave Dixon, to approve the overnight, out-of-district MS Choir/Band annual spring music field trip to Toronto May 2-3, 2025, as presented. Motion approved – 7 yes

Approve Barron Insurance Agency Softball Scoreboard Project Partnership Agreement

A motion was made by Shane Hillard, seconded by Janelle Young, to enter into a partnership with Barron Financial LLC and receive \$20,000.00 towards the Softball Scoreboard payable in two installments per the agreement, as presented. Motion approved – 7 yes

**Minutes Continued
Ottawa Lake, Michigan
March 3, 2025**

Approve the Adoption of the Board Cooperative Purchasing Agreement

A motion was made by Tom Wenzel, seconded by Jason Vida, to adopt the Board Cooperative Purchasing Agreement in accordance with policy 6440, and as permitted by law, by payment of dues for, or establishing membership into the following associations, the Board establishes the agreement with these associations to follow all procedures and policies; REMC Association of Michigan, MiDeal, MiCTA, Hospital Purchasing Services (HPS), The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS), PEPPM Cooperative Purchasing, The Cooperative Purchasing Network (TCPN), and Association of Educational Purchasing Agents (AEPA)", as presented. Motion approved – 7 yes

WESPA Retirement Incentive

A motion was made by Tom Wenzel, seconded by Janelle Young, to offer a retirement incentive of \$1,000 to WESPA members (with no restriction on years of service to the district) with notification to the district of such intent by 4pm on March 21, 2025 (non-revocable), as amended. Motion approved – 7 yes

Closed Session – To consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent

A motion was made by Tom Wenzel, seconded by Dave Dixon, pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act and upon the request of the employee, to go into closed session for the purpose of considering a personnel matter at 7:40 p.m. Motion approved – 7 yes

Regular Meeting Resumed

The regular meeting resumed at 8:08 p.m.

Any Future Board Calendar Items

There were no Board of Education future calendar items.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Minutes approved _____, President

Minutes approved _____, Secretary