

**WHITEFORD SCHOOLS
OTTAWA LAKE, MICHIGAN 49267**

September 8, 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 President Shane Hillard on September 8, 2025. Mr. Hillard led the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present were Shane Hillard, Brandon Iott, Jason Vida, Janelle Young, and Thomas Wenzel. Jeff Bunge and Dave Dixon were absent.

Also present were Superintendent Scott L. Huard, Director of Human Resources Cathy Machcinski, and Director of Transportation & Buildings and Grounds Charlie Butz. There were five visitors present.

Appointment of Temporary Secretary

A motion was made by Jason Vida, seconded by Tom Wenzel, to appoint Janelle Young as temporary secretary for the September 8, 2025, Regular Meeting. Motion approved – 5 yes (2 absent - Bunge/Dixon).

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Tom Wenzel, seconded by Brandon Iott, to approve the September 8, 2025, Regular Meeting Agenda as presented. Motion approved – 5 yes (2 absent - Bunge/Dixon).

Special Presentations

Student Participation – Student Council Secretary Cade Schober attended the meeting and presented the following to the Board:

- The theme for Homecoming this year is "video games" and 12th grade selected Mario, 11th grade selected Subway Surfers, 10th grade selected Minecraft and 9th grade selected Pacman. The dance will be held on October 4th from 7-10 PM, with Mr. Ross providing DJ services.
- They will be collecting shoe donations as part of the "Repeat the Cleat" from October 20th through October 30th.

Whiteford Music Boosters Annual Report – Julianne Consear, President, attended the meeting and reported the following to the Board:

- Provided a financial report for the 2024-2025 school year showing revenues of \$80,710.67 and expenses of \$72,087.63, with a closing balance of \$20,860.80.
- Noted that this year the high school fine arts students will go to New York with 7th-8th grade students going to Chicago. Information has already been distributed to parents for these trips.
- Proceeds from the concessions, fruit sale, popcorn sale and musical help offset the costs of these trips, as well as other supportive measures to the fine arts programs in the district.
- The musical this year will be "Fiddler on the Roof".

Whiteford Parent's Association Annual Report – Ali Houghtaling, President, attended the meeting and reported the following to the Board:

- Provided a financial report for the 2024-2025 school year showing revenues of \$21,285.70 and expenses of \$20,642, with a closing balance of \$20,367.18.
- Highlighted the various fundraising efforts, with the Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough fundraiser being the largest producer.

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- Reviewed the numerous ways they have supported the district at both the elementary and middle/high school levels and emphasized the major events for the students (i.e., dances, back-to-school picnic, honors breakfast, reading month, field day, field trips, classroom supplies, etc.).
- Discussed ways in which they have supported the teachers/staff (i.e., staff breakfast, staff appreciation week).
- Reviewed a "Fund Request Form" in which all staff can make requests to the WPA for support during the school year.

New Hire Introductions – Superintendent Huard introduced Magdalene Waldecker (TK-8 art teacher) to the Board of Education.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Jason Vida, seconded by Tom Wenzel, to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

- Minutes of the August 11, 2025 Regular Meeting and Closed Session
- Treasurer's Report and Check Register (August 2025)

Motion approved – 5 yes (2 absent - Bunge/Dixon).

Administrative Reports

Director of Finance and Business Services – Mr. Scott Huard (in Mrs. Tebbe-Cousino's absence):

- Noted there is still no update from the State of Michigan on the School Aid Budget; county Superintendents will be meeting this Friday to discuss next steps as a potential government shutdown could occur on October 1st.
- Mrs. Tebbe-Cousino and Mrs. Cruz-Hartland have been very busy preparing for the annual district audit this month.

Director of Human Resources – Mrs. Cathy Machcinski:

- All new employees and Edustaff coaches have been fully onboarded, and we have two new Paraprofessional substitutes this year; however, we are down three from the previous year.
- Two staff members have given verbal notification of their intent to retire at the end of the school year.
- Staff are completing their annual safety training.
- We have been busy the past two weeks working with the Monroe ISD staff on the conversion from Meal Magic to Infinite Campus for the food service point-of-sale system.

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Director of Transportation & Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Charlie Butz:

- The Collin Emerson Courtyard dedication is set for September 20th.
- Athletic bussing is all covered for the fall season
- New parking lot striping is completed, as well as the striping on the new pickleball/basketball court. The netting has also been completed and the maintenance department will be installing new lights over the doors to create more light on the court.
- Have been busy finetuning bus routes with late additions and preparing the football field for the first home varsity football game. The visitor bleachers will be placed this week (this project was delayed allowing the grass in the baseball outfield to continue to grow).

Athletic Director – Ms. Mirandia Green:

- Attended two TCC meetings so far.
 - Ticket Price Declaration: \$7 maximum at each level; senior citizen passes are \$35. Differences: Morenci Seniors \$5 and Sand Creek Middle School \$5; all other schools – \$7.
 - <125 Enrollment: TCC voted to support LCS and BD allowing 8th graders to participate.
 - Schools continue to face challenges securing athletic trainers.
- Attended two TAAC meetings so far:
 - Concerns were raised about low JV football numbers.
 - Differences exist in MI-OH game logistics (ticket pricing, start times, kickoff procedures – sub-varsity kickoff will not be used).
 - Currently informational; nothing concrete for the 2026–2027 football schedule.
- Fall Sports off to a great start:
 - Varsity Volleyball (TCC): 1-1
 - Varsity Football: defeated Blissfield; traveled to Davison last Saturday to play Harbor Beach.
 - Cross Country: positive feedback on the new course at the Nick Haynes Invite.
- Personal Note: About a month into the role, things are off to a great start! I am enjoying the community and getting to know the student-athletes.

Middle/High School – Mr. Jeremy Fielder:

- Updated cell phone guidelines for HS students: Cell phone caddies are to be in place for HS classrooms, and they will remain there for the duration of class unless expressly permitted by teacher. Cell phones can't be taken on restroom breaks for HS students. **Update: This has been successful, with some students electing to leave phones in their lockers.**
- Updated breakfast/lunch system has been instituted (paying through Infinite Campus) with lots of help from Cathy Machcinski.
- New basketball court/pickleball court is finished, with students utilizing the space beginning next week (6th grade recess).
- New MS/HS offices are settling and delegating workloads accordingly. Big thanks to the flexibility of Savana LeFevre and Ashley VanCamp for their communication and flexibility.
- TCI curriculum is already being implemented with Science 6-8 and Social Studies 6-12; training on 8/27 PD was extremely beneficial.
- Math and English grades 6-11 are implementing Exact Path personalized learning through the Edmentum platform. This is non-negotiable for Math in grades 6-11. Teachers will deliver their diagnostic tests in the next two weeks.
- Math teachers will all attend DESMOS Digital Calculator training at the ISD on Thursday, September 18th, to better prepare our math students for tests and to utilize all the functions of the digital calculator.
- Tentative dates for Fall PSAT/NMSQT testing for grades 8-11 is Tuesday/Wednesday, October 7th and 8th.

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Elementary School – Mr. Samuel Marsh:

- Kids are back in the building!
- September is Kindness month at the elementary.
 - KG-5th went through PBIS lessons the first week to reinforce our expectations throughout elementary school.
 - We had our kickoff Kindness assembly Friday 9/5.
- The elementary will start fall benchmark testing this week.
 - KG-2nd
- MDE early Literacy and Math Exam
 - 3rd-5th
- MI Smarter Balance assessment
 - KG-5th
- Exact Path Diagnostic
- Big thank you to the WPA for an awesome Welcome Back Picnic!
- Thank you to teachers for two great open house nights!
- Coming up
 - 5th Grade Camp 9/9-9/12
 - Elementary Picture day 9/16
 - WPA Cookie Dough Fundraiser 9/23-10/9

Superintendent's Report

1. Michigan School Aid Budget – As we start the 2025-26 school year, I want to update our community on an important issue in Lansing that could impact our students, staff, and programs in the coming months. State law mandates that lawmakers approve a K-12 school funding budget by July 1 each year so districts like ours can plan and operate with certainty. That deadline has passed, and no agreement has been reached. Without a budget, there's a risk of a state government shutdown on September 30, which could delay funding that schools depend on to operate. At the heart of the deadlock is a proposal to redirect dollars from the School Aid Fund – the fund voters were promised would be dedicated to K-12 education – to other priorities, including road repairs. Many believe this violates the original intent of the system voters approved in 1994 to provide fair, statewide funding for public schools. If the Legislature does not pass a budget, districts will miss out on their first scheduled state aid payment on October 20, 2025. For our schools, that payment is a major part of the resources we rely on to:

- Compensate teachers and staff who work directly with students.
- Maintain class sizes and student support services.
- Maintain bus operations and keep classrooms supplied.
- Fund academic programs, arts, athletics, and student activities.

We cannot operate indefinitely without these resources. The solution is simple: lawmakers should approve a K-12 budget that safeguards School Aid Fund dollars for their original purpose – educating Michigan's children. Please join me in urging our elected officials to reach a quick agreement and keep K-12 funding secure. You can contact your state lawmakers and explain why timely, protected school funding is important to you and your family. Our students deserve a stable, fully funded school year. Together, we can guarantee their learning proceeds without interruption.

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2. Superintendent Evaluation Goals 25-26 – I have drafted a set of evaluation goals for the 25-26 school year that can begin my discussion with the Board as we collaborate on my goals. As a reminder, the Professional Practice (rubric) accounts for 65% of my evaluation, while 35% is based upon Student Growth and District-Wide goals. The goals address the Student Growth and Assessment Data of SLO Metrics (20%) and Progress Towards District-Wide Goals (15%). After discussion with the Board, we will agree on a set of goals for me to be carried out during the 25-26 school year. We will have a mid-year review in January 2026 outlining my progress, and a final review in June 2026.

3. Softball Donation – We have received a very generous donation of \$80,000 from Jim and Kelsey (Hutchinson) Kimmelman for softball field improvements. Kelsey played high school softball at Whiteford for four years, and they both understand the important role that athletics play in our students' overall development. If the project plan allows, we hope to begin demo of the old dugouts and then begin erecting new dugouts this fall. Our goal is for this project to be completed for the Spring 2026 softball season.

4. Volunteer Coach Appointments – The following have been appointed as volunteer coaches:
 - Collins, Amanda HS Cross Country and Track & Field
 - Consear, Julianne HS Golf
 - Goforth, Madison Varsity Volleyball
 - Kahn, Zachary..... HS/HS Cross Country
 - Zawacki, Nicole HS Golf

5. Acknowledgement of Gifts/Donations – Donations were received from the following organizations:
 - Martin & Karen Ruddy..... \$100.00..... Football Program
 - Leski Wittman Insurance Agency \$350.00..... Staff Meal (All Staff PD Day)
 - Directions Credit Union \$375.00..... Staff Meal (All Staff PD Day)

6. Announcements / Reminders / Informational Items
 - September 9-12 5th Grade Camp Michindoh
 - September 10 WPA Meeting 6pm
 - September 16 Elementary Picture Day
 - September 17 Constitution Day
 - September 20 Collin Emerson Courtyard Dedication 11am
 - September 23-October 9 WPA Cookie Dough Fundraiser TK-5th Grade
 - September 29-October 4 Homecoming Week
 - October 4 Homecoming Dance
 - October 8 WPA Meeting 6pm
 - October 13 Board of Education Meeting 6pm
 - October 16 HS Field Trip: Build My Future Showcase
 - October 20-24 National School Bus Safety Week
 - October 23 High School Band/Choir Concert 7pm
 - October 31 End of 1st Marking Period

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Old Business

Mr. Huard provided an update on the latest Capital Bond information noting there was approximately \$486,000 in excess funds due to the diligence of the district and Brian Weber with Plante Moran in keeping spending down and change-orders to a minimum during the bond project. Of this, approx. \$135,000 has been spent on new computers/displays in the MS/HS computer lab, the new pickleball/basketball sports complex and main door security cameras/intercoms, leaving approximately \$351,000 remaining. Several potential project were reviewed, some that require the district to go out for bid on. These will be readdressed at a future meeting. The deadline for spending these funds is April 9, 2027.

A motion was made by Tom Wenzel, seconded by Brandon Iott, to move forward with the purchase of furniture for the 5th grade classrooms from Lakeshore Learning at a cost of \$43,131.90 as presented. Motion approved – 5 yes (2 absent - Bunge/Dixon).

Recommendation to Hire Middle School (8th Grade) Volleyball Coach

A motion was made by Shane Hillard, seconded by Jason Vida, to contract with Edustaff and hire Anna Schober as the new MS (8th grade) Volleyball Coach, contingent upon favorable previous employer conduct and FBI/State of Michigan background checks, to be paid a stipend of \$1,600 per the terms of the 2025-2026 WEA Master Agreement. Motion approved – 5 yes (2 absent - Bunge/Dixon).

Recommendation to Hire TK-8 Art Teacher

A motion was made by Janelle Young, seconded by Tom Wenzel, to hire Magdalene Waldecker as the new Elementary/MS Art Teacher, contingent upon favorable previous employer conduct and FBI/State of Michigan background checks, to be paid at step 1BA (\$41,646) of the 2025-2026 WEA Master Agreement. Motion approved – 5 yes (2 absent - Bunge/Dixon).

Recommendation to Hire Junior Varsity Baseball Coach

A motion was made by Shane Hillard, seconded by Tom Wenzel, to contract with Edustaff and hire James Salow as the new JV Baseball Coach, contingent upon favorable previous employer conduct and FBI/State of Michigan background checks, to be paid at 6% of step 3BA (\$2,553.30) per the terms of the 2025-2026 WEA Master Agreement. Motion approved – 5 yes (2 absent - Bunge/Dixon).

Any Future Board Calendar Items

There were no Board of Education future calendar items.

Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Minutes approved _____, President

Minutes approved _____, Secretary