

**Minutes of the  
PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA  
Board of Education  
January 13, 2025  
7:00 P.M. Regular Board Meeting**

**President's Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Hafner at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge to the Flag and Roll Call:**

**Board Members Present:** J. Farmer, J. Hafner, J. Pohl, L. Pung, J. Smith, B. Weber, P. Weber

**Board Members Absent:** n/a

**Motion made by B. Weber, supported by L. Pung, to approve the minutes, agenda and consent agenda items. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Election of Officers for 2025:**

**President - Motion made by L. Pung, supported by J. Pohl, to elect J. Hafner as President. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Vice President - Motion made by J. Hafner, supported by B. Weber, to elect L. Pung as Vice President. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Secretary- Motion made by J. Pohl, supported by L. Pung, to elect P. Weber as Secretary. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Treasurer- Motion made by B. Weber, supported by L. Pung, to elect J. Pohl as Treasurer. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Rebate Check Received -** Mark Bates and Nate Simon, on behalf of Tri-County Electric, presented a rebate check in the amount of \$10,078 check as a result of the bond construction project. Funds may be used for anything the district wishes.

**Bond/Facilities Subcommittee Report -** Bid packages are being drafted. The subcommittee recently discussed locker rooms, the field, drainage, baseball and softball parking lots. The track may need to be repaired after turf is installed. Plan to bid out the turf and locker room within the next two months.

**Administrator's Reports:**

**Facilities and Safety Director:** J. Dygert reported the new plow truck was delivered; decals on it and ready for the next snowfall. Trying to determine why hallways in the elementary school are a little cooler than the classrooms.

**Technology and Student Specialist:** J. Miller shared the quote from Everon to replace a camera, add a camera for the addition, and a power door for accessibility at the elementary school, and replacing some interior and exterior cameras at the MHS. There was a recent data breach with PowerSchool, but we have not seen any suspicious IP addresses that have accessed PowerSchool data.

**Elementary School Principal:** E. Fedewa reported NWEA testing took place last week. BK/K registration begins January 22 online. Preschool registration takes place January 29, where there has been support for full day preschool. For the 2025-26 school year, full-day preschool will be offered with two options: a two day and a three day schedule.

**Athletic Director/MHS Assistant Principal:** T. Forton expressed excitement for getting the process started with Phase III. The Bowling Team is 6-1; Wrestling is going well; the Cheer team is outstanding and both basketball teams are having very successful seasons. The queen of hearts was pulled last week in the Queen of Heart Progressive Raffle. Congratulations to Nate Thelen as the winner. Next drawing begins this Thursday. The Captains Circle theme of the year is "Bigger Than Yourself" and is partnering with the Lansing Food Pantry.

**Middle-High School Principal:** R. Portenga reported a great first semester in academics; thanked our teachers and support staff for their efforts. Received 12 applications for the MS Social Studies program; interviewed three candidates and gave J. Goodman his recommendation earlier today. The auditorium is getting some updates and we hope to have it completed by March 1. Attended the Robotics Team's competition this past weekend and thanked D. Klein for his efforts and commitment to this program and the students; plans to invite the Robotic Team to an upcoming board meeting. Youth basketball tournament to be held next month as a fundraiser for Student Voice. This week is Winterfest week.

**Student Reps:** Students Trey Nurenberg and Makayla McRae reported students enjoyed the snow day and are looking forward to the fun week ahead with Winterfest.

**Superintendent:**

**Return to Learn/Continuity of Learning Plan** - This plan was required for ESSR funds; as we still have additional funds to spend for those funds, we are required to continue to discuss with the board every six months until all grant funds are exhausted.

**January is BOE appreciation month** - J. Goodman expressed her appreciation of the Board for their efforts and provided an overview of board member responsibilities. J. Hafner encouraged BOE training for all board members. Board would like to have some training held just prior to a monthly board meeting.

**Communications:** (3 minutes per person)

Tim Schafer expressed his congratulations to the new Board members. He reminded them that their decisions have long-term effects and when making hiring decisions, often affects more than the person who is hired.

**Personnel:**

N/A

**President's Comments:** President Hafner thanked the Board members for their service and the Board members who served before us for all of their service.

**Old Business:**

**Approve the Second Reading of Revised Wellness Policy 8510 - Motion made by L. Pung, supported by J. Pohl, to approve the second reading of Revised Wellness Policy 8510. Motion carried 7-0.**

**New Business:**

**Approval of Wellness Policy 8510 - Motion made by J. Pohl, supported by B. Weber, to approve the Wellness Policy 8510. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Approve the Continuation of Services through Thrun Law Firm** -J. Goodman recommended continuing retaining the services of Thrun; there is a \$2,500 retainer fee **Motion made by B. Weber, supported by L. Pung to approve the continuation of services through Thrun Law Firm. Motion carried 7-0.**

**First Reading of policies 1130, 3110, 4110, 6110, 6111, 6112, 6114, 6325, 6550, 7310, 7450, 3120.08, 5330.02, 5340, 5500, 7540.09, 8321-** Discussion was held. The Board would like to make a change to policy 7450 indicating the district office keeps a property inventory list. **Motion made by B. Weber, supported by L. Pung, to approve the First Reading of Policies 1130, 3110, 4110, 6110, 6111, 6112, 6114, 6325, 6550, 7310, 3120.08, 5330.02, 5340, 5500, 7540.09, 8321. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Approve the Recommendation to Purchase Security Cameras from Everon for the Elementary School Addition** - The recommended camera purchase is for both the elementary school and middle high school. The Everon cameras are recommended by CCRESA and would be purchased using bond funds. **Motion made by J. Farmer, supported by L. Pung, to approve the purchase of security cameras from Everon for the Elementary School addition and for the Middle High School. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Approve the Recommendation to Purchase Elementary School Desks and Chairs for the New Addition from DBI** - Evan Fedewa provided a brief overview of the tables and chairs recommended for purchase for three general education classrooms and one special education classroom. For future purchases, the board recommends getting quotes from two separate entities. **Motion made by J. Pohl, supported by B. Weber, to approve the recommendation to purchase elementary school desks and chairs for the new addition from DBI in the amount of \$40,790. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Discussion on a New Special Education Position** - The needs for elementary school special education services have increased. Our service times have increased, as well as additional needs due to behavioral issues. J. Goodman recently met with Stephanie Dyer, our current Special Education Director, who recommended adding a part-time special education teacher to better serve our students. This school year CCRESA has been providing our Special Education Director services and the Special Education Director just announced her departure at the end of February. Due to the difficulty in attracting candidates to serve as part time employees, J. Hafner suggested we post both a part-time special education teacher and also a full time employee who is a part time teacher and part time Special Education Director. **Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Pohl, to post for a part-time special education teacher/director and a part time special education teacher. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Discussion on a New Human Resources Position** - Discussion held on the need for a part-time Human Resources Specialist in the Central Office. Our last two Business Managers have expressed their frustration with performing the human resource duties in addition to the business manager responsibilities, as it is not their expertise and time consuming. Currently the Executive Administrator, Superintendent and Business Manager are all sharing the human resources duties. The district has increased in size and responsibilities and we are losing employees due to the overwhelming responsibilities to the Central Office staff. It was recommended posting as a bachelor's degree preferred or accredited certification is required. **Motion made by J. Farmer, supported by B. Weber, to approve the creation of a new Human Resources part-time position. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Approve Moving the Board Meeting Location to the MHS Library in February 2025** - The MHS Library improvements are scheduled to be complete within the coming weeks. **Motion made by J. Pohl, supported by J. Farmer, to approve moving the Board Meeting location to the MHS Library in February 2025. Motion carried 7-0.**

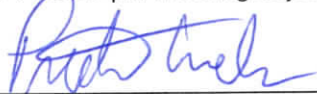
**Financial:**

**Financial Summary Report December 31, 2024, including Special Revenue Account Payable Listing, December 31, 2024**

**Future Meeting Dates/Events:**

February 14, 2025 - Half Day of School  
February 17, 2025 - No School, unless a weather make-up day is needed  
February 24, 2025 - February Board Meeting

**Adjourn:** At 8:35 pm meeting adjourned.



Approved by Preston Weber, Board of Education Secretary