

**Minutes of the
PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA
Board of Education
October 21, 2024
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: T. Anderson, J. Hafner, J. Pohl, L. Pung, T. Schafer, B. Weber, P. Weber

Board Members Absent: n/a

Motion made by T. Schafer, seconded by T. Anderson, to approve the minutes with the recommended changes to the agenda to move the Student Representatives as 6F to 6A, and approve the consent agenda items. Motion carried 7-0.

Financial Audit Conducted on the 2023-24 school year - Scott Brown provided an overview of the financial audit. Had a loss of \$65,000 in food service; the State of Michigan suggested we have a balance of approximately \$190,000, which we now have. One suggestion the auditors made was to better validate entrance tickets sold at athletic events. We will return to using tickets for gate entrance. In November Brown will put out an RFP seeking bids from several CPA firms for the 2024-25 audit. J. Hafner recommends we post it so that any firm could provide a bid.

Bond/Facilities Subcommittee Report - Met at the Elementary School for the last meeting. Waiting on the state permit to install the cafeteria walls. The elementary school is on schedule. Waiting on the permits from LARA for the portable classrooms. Subcommittee meets next week. We don't have numbers available yet with what funds will be available after Phases I and II. J. Hafner suggested we obtain detailed documentation from PSI identifying what has been spent, funds remaining, and what funds have been committed to projects.

Administrator's Reports:

Facilities and Safety Director: Custodian Lynn Stalker is projected to return on November 6. Thanked custodial crew for their increased efforts. Brian Davarn hit the ground running when hired. One bus driver stepped down from their regular route to become a substitute driver. Have a potential bus driver who is interested in becoming a regular route driver. Will post the vacancy soon.

Technology and Student Specialist: After school recovery program is going well with seven students. Students are making good progress. Technology is up and running in the newly opened classrooms. Looking to replace two to three security cameras at the elementary school.

Elementary School Principal: Last week, the elementary school hosted parent-teacher conferences. We had 95% parent participation and are pleased with their attendance. The book fair generated \$3,900 in sales. Our new paraprofessional, Emily Chambers, has begun and has a great attitude. Had the first lockdown drill and invited law enforcement to attend and received great feedback. The new addition is coming along really well; really looking forward to it. Hope to get some more staff parking spots available by mid-November.

Athletic Director/MHS Assistant Principal - Thanked Kali Feldpausch and Haley Weber for their outstanding efforts in the front office. Will begin using tickets for athletic events, based on the auditor's suggestion. The CMAC is meeting soon with GO FAN on the agenda. Some conferences are offering GO FAN; others do not. This Friday Cross Country has regionals. Seventy trees have been planted on the new cross country course on site. The marching band received a "Superior" rating at a recent festival. Thanked Lisa Bartlett for starting and growing our girls golf program. Coaches Club met last week and came up with a theme "Bigger Than Yourself"; plans to partner with the Food Bank.

Middle-High School Principal: Thanked the Board of Education for approving the new paraprofessional aides; hired Rashelle Sillman. Jadyn Thelen has begun as a long-term substitute teacher and has been outstanding. Mark Scheurer is subbing as a long term substitute for the MS social studies. The unsung heroes of this bond project are the custodial/maintenance and technology teams. Unbelievable resolve from the staff and students. If you did not see our marching band, Jensen Fox had an outstanding solo for the high school marching band. Terry Hesbrook is coming in on Friday for a high school presentation. Middle school students will have a bullying presentation.

Student Reps: First quarter went well. Students are pleased with lockers and bathrooms. Looking forward to other improvements.

Superintendent: Thanked Tina Pung and Erikka Hafner for their efforts to get the library emptied out. Thanked Scott Brown for his efforts with all of his financial work at P-W. In honor of the principal's appreciation month, expressed appreciation of both Ryan Portenga and Evan Fedewa for all they do. We received an energy grant for solar array; which will lower the costs for electricity. P-W will now be able to host in the event of a crisis situation/charging/safe place. We are doing so many great things in this district. Amazing things are happening; we have outstanding role models for students; I am not perfect by any means, and we can always do better, but how we represent and how we model for our students and our children is so important. Waiting for the award letter on the energy grant, and we plan to host a community event when we have more information.

Communications: (3 minutes per person)

Nate Thelen - expressed his support for the administration and hopes that as a district we can move forward together instead of being divided.

Brett Smith - Expressed gratitude we are looking to get a new auditor. Suggested seeking other options for attorneys.

Bridget Trierweiler - requested a policy change to allow nonpublic school students to participate in athletics.

Carol Sandborn - Expressed frustration with the delay in financial reporting. Shared her appreciation of Mr. Bashore, who is an awesome teacher. Recommends priority be given to auditorium improvements.

Cary Trierweiler - Thanked the BOE and gave full support of installing turf. Students have been asked for nothing but the best for all ages. Believes we should provide them with the best fields to compete on.

Jesse Thelen - Is a small business owner in Westphalia and makes donations to youth camps.

Recommends the Board members step onto our fields to see the terrible condition of the football field.

Expressed his support of a turf field to benefit the students in P.E. and in extra-curricular activities.

Encouraged the district to continue accepting cash payments for athletic events.

Kristin Simon - Expressed frustration with the lack of communication and updated information on the website for improved transparency.

Personnel:

Approve the recommendation to hire Larry Farmer as the Junior Varsity Girls Basketball Coach, effective October 21, 2024.

Approve the recommendation to hire Emily Chambers as a Paraprofessional Aide, effective October 10, 2024.

Approve the recommendation to hire Rashelle Sillman as a Paraprofessional Aide, effective October 8, 2024.

Approve the recommendation to hire Jamie Parker, overload aide, effective October 10, 2024.

Accept the resignation of Lisa Bartlett, Girls Golf Coach, effective October 14, 2024.

Approve the recommendation to move Hope Gallup, bus driver, to substitute bus driver status effective October 14, 2024

President's Comments: President Hafner stated it is a good time of year to look at the community, who we are representing. Reminded others to keep in mind who we are representing and that children are watching us in our words and actions.

Old Business:

Second Reading of Revised Board Policy 6320 - *Motion made by B. Weber, seconded by J. Pohl, to approve the second reading of Revised Board Policy 6320. Motion carried 7-0.*

New Business:

Approve the Financial Audit from the 2023-24 year, as presented by Scott Brown - *Motion made by T. Anderson, seconded by B. Weber to approve the financial audit from the 2023-24 year, as presented by Scott Brown. Motion carried 7-0.*

Approve Revised Board Policy 6320 - *Motion made by J. Pohl, seconded by T. Schafer, to approve the Revised Board Policy 6320. Motion carried 7-0.*

Approve moving the Board meeting location to the MHS Auditorium until construction is complete in the MHS Library - *Motion made by L. Pung, seconded by J. Pohl, to approve moving the Board meeting location to the MHS Auditorium until construction is complete in the MHS Library. Motion carried 7-0.*

Approve the ELL Handbook for the 2024-25 school year - Trina Anderson suggested we remove the specific name in the state reporting section of the handbook. **Motion made by T. Anderson , seconded by J. Pohl, to approve the ELL Handbook for the 2024-25 school year with one change in the reporting responsibilities, whereas state system names are removed and simply requires state system reporting responsibilities. Motion carried 7-0.**

Discuss a reduction in the preschool monthly rate due to the late start - We may have temporary preschool in the library. November 4th is the open house; first day of preschool on November 5. Recommends we not charge for preschool in November, which would be fifteen class days. Discussion was held. **Motion made by B. Weber, seconded by L. Pung, to add he agenda. Motion carried 7-0.**

Motion made by B. Weber, seconded by T. Anderson, to reduce the preschool rate, as recommended by Jennifer Goodman. Motion carried 7-0.

Financial:

Financial Summary Report September 30, 2024, including Special Revenue Account Payable Listing, September 30, 2024

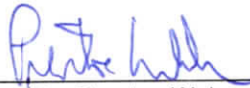
Future Meeting Dates/Events:

November 1, 2024 - Half Day of School

November 15, 2024 - No School

November 18, 2024 - November Board Meeting in MHS Auditorium

Adjourn: At 8:17 pm meeting adjourned.



Approved by Preston Weber, Board of Education Secretary