

WDS Board of Education Monthly Meeting Minutes

DATE: October 20, 2025

PLACE: VAC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Melissa Moore, Tim Cross, Rachel Fekken, Chris Mahoney, Paula Martin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Shannon McGoran, Jimmy TenBrink

OTHERS PRESENT: CJ Van Wieren, other staff and community members

President Fekken called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Motion Mahoney/Cross moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes (5) Mahoney, Cross, Moore, Martin, Fekken

Nays (0)

Motion Carried

Public Comment

M. Dillon - Health Education

Consent Action Agenda

Motion Martin/Moore moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ayes (5) Martin, Moore, Cross, Mahoney, Fekken

Nays (0)

Motion Carried

Designation of the following: Minutes of meeting dated September 15, disbursements for the month of September which include: general fund - \$716,482.66, community education - \$22,860.27, food service - \$21,665.88, technology MAISD - \$31,212.62, activity account - \$32,608.20, common debt - \$0, Capital Projects - \$0.

Student Representative Update

Student Representative Kate shared an update from each of the four buildings in our district. Shoreline Elementary had a busy month - field trips to the farm as part of the farm-to-table program, and to the museum as part of their ELA unit. White Lake Fire Authority visited during Fire Prevention Week to teach about fire safety. MCRC brought in a snow plow to each about snow and road safety.

Ealy Elementary - 2nd Annual Fruit with Family Literacy event took place where students read to family members followed by a nutritious snack. 5th grade students recently visited Camp Miniwanca to participate in team challenges and student bonding. Their book fair will be taking place soon! They are looking forward to giving back to the community by partnering with the White Lake Food Pantry. Students can purchase books with non-perishable food donations.

Middle School - 8th grade students took their annual visit to the Little Manistee River as part of the *Salmon in the Classroom* program. Choir students in grades 6-8 participated in a learning experience at Reeths-Puffer High School for a collaborative workshop led by Mr. Aaron Goodyke from Byron Center Middle School. Fall sports are wrapping up.

High School - Homecoming dance was 10/4 that included a lot of planning by the student council and saw a good turnout of approximately 450 students in attendance. NHS will soon be hosting a powderpuff game as a fundraiser, the literacy haunted trail for elementary students and a blood drive where students and community members can donate blood to help people within the Muskegon area. Whitehall's theater will put on the production of *The Crucible* at the end of this month.

Committee Updates

The Finance Committee met with Brickley DeLong regarding our exit audit. Brickley DeLong will share the results at this meeting.

The Policy Committee met to discuss a revision to Policy #5009 - Fixed Assets. The Board will adopt at the November, 2025 meeting.

Unfinished Business-

WDS Highlight - FFA

Mr. Verbanic and four FFA students shared a short slide presentation explaining what FFA is, and how they are contributing to and building the program here at WDS. They discussed different events that they have been a part of to this point and also upcoming competitions that they will be a part of. This program is new to Whitehall in 2024 and the group talked about how they are trying to make it their own, while also learning from other area FFA groups.

Financial Audit Review - Brickley DeLong

Motion Mahoney/Cross moved to accept the audited financial statements, management letter, and single audit report as presented.

Ayes (5) Mahoney, Cross, Moore, Martin, Fekken

Nays (0)

Motion Carried

First Reading of Policies

The Board reviewed the policy update. Will be reviewed and adopted at the next board meeting.

Middle School Gym Lighting Proposals

Motion Moore/Martin moved to approve the quote from Windemuller in the amount of \$10,325.00.

Ayes (5) Moore, Martin, Mahoney, Cross, Fekken

Nays (0)

Motion Carried

Monthly Financials

Mr. Van Wieren reviewed monthly financials with the Board.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent CJ Van Wieren shared that student involvement remains strong across Whitehall's programs, with more than 100 students and 30 volunteer mentors now part of the district's expanding robotics teams. He also mentioned several upcoming events, including the annual Trunk or Treat event at the high school, parent-teacher conferences, and a new district-wide hay bale decorating contest that added a touch of fall spirit throughout the schools.

Van Wieren also thanked staff for their efforts leading up to fall break and reaffirmed the district's commitment to transparency about the upcoming bond proposal.

Public Comment

N/A

Adjournment

Motion Cross/Moore moved to adjourn.

Ayes (5) Cross, Moore, Martin, Mahoney, Fekken

Nays (0)

Motion Carried

Adjourned at 7:07 p.m.



Board Secretary/Designee