

**WHITEFORD SCHOOLS
OTTAWA LAKE, MICHIGAN 49267**

September 9, 2024

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Whiteford Agricultural School Board of Education was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by President Shane Hillard on September 9, 2024. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Hillard. Members present were Shane Hillard, Dave Dixon, Mike Iott, Janelle Young, Kristi Mock and Jason Vida. Jeff Bunge was absent.

Also present were Superintendent Scott L. Huard, Director of Finance & Business Services Marisa Tebbe-Cousino, Director of Human Resources Cathy Machcinski, Elementary Principal Samuel Marsh, MS/HS Principal Jeremy Fielder, Athletic Director Marcus Luzier, and Director of Transportation & Buildings and Grounds Charlie Butz. There were 13 visitors present.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Dave Dixon, seconded by Janelle Young, to approve the September 9, 2024, Regular Meeting Agenda as presented. Motion approved – 6 yes, (1 absent-Bunge)

Superintendent Huard Opening Statement – Superintendent Huard thanked the administrative team and the Monroe County Sheriff's Department for their diligence regarding the social media threat we had against our school. He especially expressed his appreciation for SRO Deputy Benes. Mr. Huard stated the district shared the information as soon as they could considering it was a juvenile involved, and that Whiteford would be open for learning Tuesday, September 10. Superintendent Huard clarified it was a single student who posted on snap chat. The communication that was initially released from the Sheriff's Department was misleading and the Sheriff's Department would be sending out another communication with the correct information.

Special Presentations

Student Participation – There was no student participation due to school being cancelled.

WPA Booster Group – Robotics Booster President Jeremy Gapp and Treasurer Doug Bulmer attended the meeting and reported the following to the Board.

- Currently only have High school Robotics. Still working on trying to add Middle School and Elementary robotics,
- Highlighted some of their competitions
- New season starts in January
- Expressed it is engineering as it's best with marketing and communications skills
- Board President Shane Hillard and Board Secretary Mike Iott said it has been exciting seeing watching this program evolve since first starting

New Hire Introductions – New staff able to attend the meeting were introduced by their respective principals. Mr. Marsh introduced 4th Grade Tracy Papenhagen, who comes highly recommended and Transitional Kindergarten Teacher Miss Lainey Hillard. Miss Hillard is very excited about this position. Mr. Huard added that she is a graduate of Whiteford and has hit the ground running. Mr. Fielder introduced Spanish Teacher Mrs. Angela Moore and added she has taught 25 years and is loving it here.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

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Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Janelle Young, seconded by Kristi Mock, to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

- Minutes of the August 12, 2024, Regular Meeting
- Treasurer's Report and Check Register (August 2024)

Motion approved – 6 yes, (1 absent-Bunge)

Administrative Reports

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

- Been busy preparing for the audit which is now postponed until next week due to a conference she is attending and allowing more time to prepare
- The conference is a school nutrition compliance training. We have an administrative compliance review every three years and this year is our year.

Director of Human Resources – Mrs. Cathy Machcinski:

- Thanked everyone for the Series III bond passing in order for us to create the new central office space
- Expressed gratitude and thanked Charlie, Tim and Tony for their hard work. Tim and Tony probably moved 4000 lbs. of documents.
- Eight FMLA's so far this year
- Still working with DocumentLok
- Vector solutions annual training is almost complete

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

- Fixed the High School score board that went out thanks to Transtar already being on site
- NFHS cameras in the gym and field now fixed
- Bus routes getting finalized
- New spaces for Series III getting finalized and people are in their spaces
- Cabinets in Rooms 5 and 6 done and will be delivered Friday, September 13 and will be installed over the weekend. Need to install countertops, sills and window shades yet. Finishing up details.
- Boilers started up today. Fine tuning minor issues.
- Wrapping up Series III and finishing up roof
- New Football bleachers are a big hit. Received many compliments.
- Board Secretary Mike Lott commented on how nice the area looks at the field

Athletic Director – Mr. Marcus Luzier:

- High School fall participation numbers: Football-46; Volleyball-27; Cross Country-17; Cheer-9 for a total of 99 student athletes (37% of our High School students)
- No 2nd JV Volleyball Team due to participation numbers changing
- Middle School participation numbers: Football-38; Volleyball-27, Cross Country-6; Cheer-11 for a total of 82 student athletics (62% of our Middle School students)
- Varsity sports are rolling out with a young Varsity team. Had a great season opening win over Blissfield.
- Shot out to Charlie, Tony and Tim getting the field painted and set up in extreme heat
- Varsity Volleyball had a huge tournament win at Adrian

**Ottawa Lake, Michigan
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Administrative Reports continued...

- Cross Country had to cancel the Nick Haynes Memorial due to the extreme heat index of 100 and storms
- Cross County had their first meet at Erie Mason. Two girls' and two boys' teams medaled.
- JV and Middle School season starts September 11th
- Still no trainer yet
- Amazed and appreciative of help coming from everywhere; staff, students, parents.
- Shout out to Adam Linkey who helps with everything that involved tech

Middle/High School – Mr. Jeremy Fielder:

- First week is always a whirlwind with student schedules and new students
- Thanked Charlie, Tim and Tony for getting the building ready
- Picture day the Monday, September 16th
- NWEA for 6-7 Grades started today for the next two weeks
- Lightspeed filtering system (chrome book monitoring system) in place and training the teachers on it now
- Senior parking spots look great. They did an amazing job and plan to continue this tradition.

Elementary School – Mr. Samuel Marsh:

- September is kindness month
- Teachers are working on values with students
- First week Mrs. Hillard and Mr. Marsh meant with each class regarding being respectful and kind
- They will be doing a different value each month
- Teachers are working these first two weeks on gathering testing data
- Focusing on routines and expectations with students
- Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten going to Gust Brother's on September 24th
- Picture day is Monday, September 16th
- Thanked the WPA for their Back-to-School picnic and both open houses. They had a huge turnout. It was very impressive.
- Thanked Charlie for getting the building ready and all the student home safely
- Thanked Cathy Machcinski for getting teachers ready

Superintendent's Report

1. Schools of Choice – This year, we had another large number of Schools of Choice (SOC), 105c, and Hardship Release applications for the 24-25 school year. We received a total of 46 applications and accepted 44. SOC siblings and Hardship Release from 23-24 school year that are already attending Whiteford Agricultural School District get preference for admittance. SOC guidelines state that we cannot discriminate against a person on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, limited English, or handicap, or have anyone be excluded from participation, denied benefits, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination. For those students gaining SOC acceptance, waitlist, or denial, letters were sent to families on July 22. For 105c applicants, acceptance and denial letters were sent the week of August 1. Hardship Release applications are considered on a case-by-case basis with enrollment being the greatest deterrent from acceptance. Here is the breakdown of SOC, 105c and current enrollment as of 9/4/24 by grade-level

Superintendent's Report continued...

	SOC Applicants	SOC Accepted	SOC Denied	105c Applicants	105c Accepted	105c Denied	Current Enrollment
TK	2	2	0	0	0	0	16
KG	11	11	0	1	1	0	49
1st	5	5	0	0	0	0	65
2nd	2	2	0	0	0	0	73
3rd	2	2	0	0	0	0	56
4th	4	3	0	0	0	0	66
5th	3	3	0	0	0	0	55
6th	1	1	0	0	0	0	58
7th	2	1	0	0	0	0	58
8th	2	2	0	0	0	0	75
9th	2	2	0	1	1	0	69
10th	4	4	0	0	0	0	72
11th	2	2	0	0	0	0	66
12th	1	1	0	1	1	0	59
Totals	43	41	0	3	3	0	837

3. Volunteer Coach Appointments – The following have been appointed as volunteer coaches:

- Softball Kris Hubbard Assistant Coach, HS
- Football Michael Miller Assistant Coach, MS
- XC & Track Robin DeBruyne Assistant Coach, MS/HS
- Volleyball Rylee Grodi Assistant Coach, MS

4. Acknowledgement of Gifts/Donations – Donations were received from the following organizations:

- Mark and Sherri Prange \$50 Derby Fund (Memory of Kay Heiney)
- Mark and Sherri Prange \$50 Class of 2025 (Memory of Conner Hoogendoorn)
- Savage & Associates \$500 Back-to-School Lunch Sponsorship
- Directions Credit Union \$350 Back-to-School Lunch Sponsorship
- Nick and Misty Puhl \$500 Back-to-School Lunch Sponsorship
- Whiteford Parent's Assn. (WPA) Staff Meal Back-to-School Breakfast Sponsorship
- The Nutrition Group Staff Meal Teacher PD Breakfast Sponsorship
- The collaborative Staff Meal Teacher PD Lunch
- Leski Wittman Insurance Agency \$350 Back-to-School Lunch Sponsorship
- Anonymous \$5,000 Students in Need

5. Announcements / Reminders / Informational Items

- September 16 Elementary Picture Day
- September 16 MS/HS Picture Day
- September 17 Constitution Day
- September 23-27 Homecoming Week

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Superintendent's Report continued...

- September 24-October 9 WPA Cookie dough Fundraiser Begins
- September 27 Homecoming vs Summerfield 7pm
- September 28 Homecoming Dance (7:00pm-9:00pm)

Capital Bond Campaign

Superintendent Huard updated the Board on the latest Capital Bond details.

Recommendation to Hire JV Volleyball Coach

A motion was made by Jason Vida, seconded by Mike Iott, to eliminate the JV B Volleyball Coach position approved by the Board on July 23, 2024, that was filled by Madison Peek, and instead contract with Edustaff to hire Madison Peek as an Assistant Volleyball Coach at no cost to the district. Position will be paid through the volleyball program 61 fund (\$1,200.00) and third-party fees (\$211.20) for a total cost of \$1,411.20. Motion approved – 6 yes, (1 absent-Bunge)

Closed Session – To consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of a student if the public body is part of the school district, intermediate school district, or institution of higher education that the student is attending, and if the student or the student's parent or guardian requests a closed hearing.

A motion was made by Dave Dixon, seconded by Janelle Young, to adjourn to closed session at 7:00p.m. for the purpose of discussion regarding items relative to Section 8(b) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Motion approved - 6 yes, (1 absent-Bunge)

Regular Meeting Resumed

The regular meeting resumed at 7:50 p.m.

Other Board Concerns/Reports

There were no Board of Education concerns.

Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes approved _____, President

Minutes approved _____, Secretary