

Minutes

300.25 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG – May

Laila Holloway and Logan Tennant
Schweitzer Elementary School, Emily Fa'asoa, Principal

301.25 ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE – Hines

Board members present: LeWanna Abney-Mitchell, Andrew Ambrus,
David R. Cox, Melandie Hines, Kimberly R. May, Shannon Rochon,
Frederick L. Weaver, Th.D.

302.25 RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS – May

I. District Spelling Bee Winner – Jennifer Curry, Interim Superintendent

Ms. Curry congratulated Calvin Bobo, 6th grader from Stevenson Middle School for winning the District Spelling Bee on February 12, 2025. Calvin competed against 17 other middle school students. Calvin has advanced to the Regional Spelling Bee through Scripps Broadcasting partner.

II. Jack Demmer Donation Presentation – Jennifer Curry, Interim Superintendent

Ms. Curry introduced Ms. Amanda Faughnan from the district's Family Resource Center. Ms. Faughnan recognized the generous donation from Jack Demmer Ford and thanked them for their continued partnership.

III. Building Update Schweitzer Elementary School, Emily Fa'asoa, Principal

Ms. Fa'asoa presented a slide show highlighting Schweitzer Elementary School focusing on School Demographics, Attendance, Student Well-Being, Student Achievement and Points of Pride.

Board members were given an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

IV. Building Update Wayne Memorial High School, Cory Gildersleeve, Principal

Mr. Gildersleeve presented a slide show highlighting Wayne Memorial High School focusing on School Demographics, Attendance, Student Well-Being, Student Achievement and Points of Pride.

Board members were given an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

303.25 CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: AGENDA ITEMS – May

T. Karpinski - spoke on behalf of MEA unions spoke in support of Jennifer Curry for the permanent Superintendent position.

A. Gridley - spoke in support of naming Jennifer Curry as Superintendent.

S. Grove - spoke in support of naming Jennifer Curry as Superintendent.

M. Mallad - spoke in support of naming Jennifer Curry as Superintendent.

N. Schulz - spoke in support of naming Jennifer Curry as Superintendent.

D. McBride - spoke in support of naming Jennifer Curry as Superintendent.

S. Robertson - spoke in support of naming Jennifer Curry as Superintendent.

304.25 CONSENT AGENDA

I. MINUTES

a. Regular Board Meeting Minutes – February 24, 2025

b. Closed Session Minutes – February 24, 2025 [under separate cover]

II. HUMAN RESOURCE ITEMS

a. Resignations/Terminations: Administrative, Instructional, Non-Instructional and/or Non-Affiliated Personnel

Emily Deeter
Deanna Beck
Jeff Trink
Bruce Kendrick

b. Placements: Administrative, Instructional, Non-Instructional and/or Non-Affiliated Personnel

Trisha Brewer
Reuben Wiley
Dolores Guerra-Schnapp
Sarah Helter
Laura Beck-Seannell

Kali Corredino
Jeffrey McKinney
Adam Pruden
Janelle Triestra

- c. Leave of Absence: Administrative, Instructional, Non-Instructional and/or Non-Affiliated Personnel

Caitlyn Zahor

III. BUSINESS & FINANCE ITEMS

- a. Payment of Invoices [under separate cover]
- b. Investment Report [under separate cover]

IV. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

- a. Field Trips
 - i. John Glenn High School, DECA Field Trip [under separate cover]
 - ii. William D. Ford, Culinary Arts Competition [under separate cover]
 - iii. Hicks Elementary School, 5th grade Field Trip [under separate cover]
 - iv. Adams Middle School, 8th grade Field Trip [under separate cover]

Resolved, that the board approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion by D. Cox, support by L. Abney-Mitchell.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

MOTION PASSED

305.25 BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT – May

I. Finance & Facility Committee Report – Ambrus

Mr. Ambrus shared the following comments from a prepared statement:

The Financial Committee meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm with the following in attendance:

Mr. Andrew Ambrus, Treasurer, Ms. LeWanna Abney-Mitchell, Vice President, Ms. Melandie Hines, Secretary, Ms. Jennifer Curry, Interim Superintendent, Mr. Daryl Bebee, Executive Director of Technology & Innovation, and Ms. Kim Markey, Scribe.

Mr. Bebee presented to the committee the following proposals to be voted on at tonight's board meeting:

1. Installation of additional cameras at Taft and Graham Elementary Schools and Stevenson Middle School. School principals reached out to Mr. Bebee that after the bond work was completed, that there were many open areas on these properties without adequate camera coverage. An inspection of the properties in question with Moss and a team from the district determined what was needed to fill the coverage gaps. The district was able to use consortium pricing which would cost the district just under \$48,000 and the funds to cover the costs would come from the sinking fund. Also, Mr. Bebee may approach the board for additional cameras as the remainder of the buildings are reviewed.

Questions were asked by the board members about the cameras.

Are the cameras connected to the internet? No, the cameras are hard wired through the system and have battery backups that allow the cameras to still record in the event of a power outage.

Is there a grant that can cover the purchase? No there is no grant currently available.

What are the chances the price will increase after we approve? The price is locked in to consortium pricing.

How fast would installation start, if the board approves? Installation would happen within a few weeks.

2. The renewal of Genetec Advantage Support for licensing of our cameras and badge readers. The district looked at 3 different suppliers and recommends Moss at a cost of approximately \$29000, with funding coming from the general fund. Mr. Bebee stated with the district recovering from the recent cyber-attack that the district would be better served using Moss, the company currently providing this service.

Question was asked if the Board members would have access to all the buildings. Ms. Curry stated that access is only for employees

and only a few staff members have access to all buildings in the district. Most employees have access restricted to their assigned buildings.

3. The updating of fiber optic cables within the district. This is part of the e-Rate funding. We have until March to spend the funds allocated to the district. Technology believes the best use of the funds is to replace some of the fiber optic lines which are between 25-30 years old. E-Rate covers 85% of the costs with the district covering the final 15%. The district received 2 bids and Mr. Bebee recommends that the district approve AMCOMM. The total cost with a contingency of \$7400 built in would be \$154,824. E-Rate would cover \$131,600 and the remainder, \$23,223.60 would be paid through the General Fund.

A discussion happened around the surrounding quote and possible cost increases. Mr. Bebee stated that AMCOMM is required to honor the quote if approved by the board.

Ms. Curry then walked the committee through the State Aid Report. New items for February was Local Produce, a grant to get more locally sourced produce into our food service program, and 147g funds that will be reimbursed to our employees for overages paid into retirement health care.

The check register was reviewed and expenses across all funds totaled just over \$3.2 million for the month.

During the investment report, Ms. Curry stated that the interest rates are down on the MILAF Cash and MILAF Max funds. Chase interest rates are down to 1.35%. The change in the district cash position is due to the Bond Fund decreasing as the district is making the final payments.

Questions were asked about how payments were being paid. Ms. Curry stated that no payment was being made to a contractor until Mr. Tocco reviewed the work performed and signed off. After his sign off, the invoices are then paid.

During the board comments, a discussion was held about the school resource officer removal at Wayne Memorial. Ms. Curry shared that while the removal was not ideal, Wayne PD stated that they will still support in the case of an emergency.

The meeting then adjourned at 6:20PM.

II. Policy & Procedure Committee Report – Weaver

Dr. Weaver shared the following comments:

The Policy & Procedure Committee meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. with the following in attendance: Dr. Weaver, Mr. Rochon, Ms. Hines, Dr. Ofili, Ms. Curry and Ms. Markey (note-taker).

Changes for the Board Operating Procedures were reviewed for recommendation. Dr. Weaver shared with the President that there changes were made previously and had never been brought forth by the previous President.

There was discussion surrounding policy goals with the Student Achievement Committee and working with them as current data is being collected.

We discussed new guidelines and executive orders that will need to be followed. Miller Johnson has made some changes that are coming down from the state level.

We discussed getting feedback from the Finance Committee on what changes are needed in the Board Operating Procedure when budgets will be presented. Currently, the committee is recommending quarterly presentations.

There was discussion surrounding an election policy to include that members should not verbally support other members of the board for positions as was done in the last year. We asked for guidance from Brad Banasik (MASB) who recommended taking board member comments off of the agenda which the committee would not suggest.

We discussed Intra-County School of Choice stating that all information should be received by the school designee with confirmed behavior history established. Major incidents must be defined with district administration.

We discussed implementing a cell phone policy/usage policy. Miller Johnson advised the state is coming up with something with the possibility of disallowing cell phone usage except for lunch and passing times. The committee will be looking into this further.

Ms. Curry shared that there will be AI training on April 10 with Michigan Virtual. Following that training, we will need to look into a policy which Michigan Virtual will be able to assist with the verbiage.

Dr. Weaver is happy to announce that we are looking into facility dogs for the district. His belief is that we need this. The dog will be housed at Hamilton and used throughout the district for crisis incidents. We have a handler for the therapy dog.

Dr. Ofili reviewed the Miller Johnson recommendations with the committee. The committee will continue to look into the necessary changes.

Ms. Hines thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and congratulated Mr. Rochon on becoming a member of the committee.

Mr. Rochon shared that he would like to have a board workshop surrounding a cell phone policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

MOTION

Motion for the Board of Education to take a recess.

Resolved, that the board approve to take a recess at 8:18 p.m. Motion by D. Cox, support by A. Ambrus.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	7
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION

Motion for the Board of Education to return from recess.

Resolved, that the board approve to return from recess at 8:26 pm. Motion by D. Cox, support by A. Ambrus.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	7
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION PASSED

306.25 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BUSINESS SERVICE & FINANCE

- I. Recommendation to Install Cameras at Taft-Galloway, Stevenson and PD Graham - Ofili

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item I. as presented. Motion by D. Cox, support by M. Hines.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

MOTION PASSED

- II. Recommendation to Purchase Genetec Advantage Support – Ofili

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item II. as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by M. Hines.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

MOTION PASSED

- III. Recommendation to Update Fiber Optic Cabling for Building Networks - Ofili

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item III. as presented. Motion by L. Abney-Mitchell, support by M. Hines.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION That this board vote tonight in a straight up or down vote to hire Ms. Jennifer Curry as our next Superintendent.

Resolved, that the board vote to appoint Ms. Curry as Superintendent. Motion by F. Weaver, support by M. Hines.

Dr. Weaver shared that Ms. Curry has exceptional buy-in from the community, the union, the teachers and administrators. He also shared the many ways Ms. Curry is qualified for this position. Additionally, Ms. Curry has held two roles since stepping into the Interim Superintendent's position for the district successfully. The board was not called together to have a discussion and in a previous closed session, members were stopped from having such a conversation. The cost to the district to go out for a search would run between \$15 thousand and \$25 thousand. Dr. Weaver provided a copy of the motion to the President.

Mr. Cox shared that he has been on the board for 9 years and has been involved in searches for 5 superintendents. The board's role is to hire and monitor the superintendent. Currently, the board is in a good position; there is a leader who is doing an excellent job. However, it is the board's responsibility to look for someone so he believes both can be done. He suggests entering into a contract with Ms. Curry and use that time to develop a process to begin a search.

Ms. Hines shared that she has been on the board for 12 years and Ms. Curry has been in the district for over 20 years. The district has been through a lot of turmoil and Ms. Curry has proven her worth. Currently, there is a superintendent shortage with over 19 open positions. She is in favor or support Ms. Curry and is concerned that we could lose her as she will not apply if there is a search.

Ms. Abney-Mitchell agrees with all of the comments. There are several new board members who have not participated in a search. She feels there needs to be a lot of conversation so the members know what there are looking for in a superintendent.

Mr. Ambrus shared that he is torn on this decision. He understands the community's desire to have Ms. Curry continue to service the district as our superintendent on a full-time basis. He believes she has helped move the district forward, however, the board would not be doing the district a service if they did not interview other candidates to see what they have to offer the district. He hopes Ms. Curry would not take herself out of consideration. He also feels that we don't have to do an immediate search and that the board can take their time.

Mr. Cox suggested that Dr. Weaver amend his motion so that the board has the opportunity to take advantage of having competent leadership while they conduct a search.

Dr. Weaver shared that he is willing to amend his motion if the board were to vote that Ms. Curry will become superintendent and give her a two-year contract. After the two-year contract, the board could then go into a superintendent search.

Mr. Cox shared that there needs to be an understanding that the board recognizes its responsibility to find a superintendent long term and the board is going to use the next two years to prepare the board for that and also to determine the best way to do the search.

Dr. Weaver shared that his amendment would include that this board vote tonight in a straight up or down vote to hire Ms. Jennifer Curry as our next superintendent for the next two years while the board continues a process toward our next superintendent.

Ms. Hines voiced her concern over losing Ms. Curry in the process.

Ms. May confirmed that all members understood the amended motion.

MOTION That this board vote tonight in a straight up or down vote to hire Ms. Jennifer Curry as our next superintendent for the next two years while the board continues a process toward our next superintendent.

Resolved, that the board approve the amended motion. Motion by F. Weaver, support by D. Cox.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 7
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

MOTION PASSED

307.25 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BOARD OF EDUCATION – May

Item 307.25 was not addressed; previous substitute motion addressed this agenda item.

308.25 CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: NON-AGENDA ITEMS (GENERAL) – May

E. McGovern - shared that many wonderful things are happening at Wayne Memorial High School and have been highlighted this evening. He wanted the board aware that many great academic things are happening there as well. He thanked administration and the board for the contract, thanked Ms. Curry as the

central office staff as great strides are being made to set up a process to implement new classes.

E. Truchon – spoke in support of Melinda Harris.

M. Harris – spoke regarding volunteer opportunities.

309.25 INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT/COMMENTS – Curry

Ms. Curry thanked everyone for their kind comments, the discussion and the confidence; she truly loves this district.

Ms. Curry shared the following comments from a prepared statement:

Many of our schools are celebrating March is Reading Month with engaging activities, school spirit days, and special events that highlight the joy of reading.

Franklin Middle School hosted Women's Career Day, featuring presentations on career development, and future opportunities, fostering meaningful connections between students and professionals.

Congratulations to the Wayne Memorial High School Men’s Basketball Team for finishing their season as the Division I State Runner-Up’s this past Saturday and A special shout out to the Wayne Memorial pep band for performing the National Anthem to kick off the game. Best of luck to the Women’s Basketball Team as they compete in the state quarterfinals tomorrow!

We are proud to announce that several of our board members have completed individual leadership and board development courses through MASB in 2024. Congratulations to Ms. Abney Mitchell, Ms. Hines, and Ms. May on their achievement.

Lastly, as we wrap up a great month, we look forward to Spring Break next week! Enjoy a well-deserved break, and safe travels to those heading out of town.

310.25 REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS, BOARD OF EDUCATION – May

Mr. Rochon shared the following comments:

- No Comments

Dr. Weaver shared the following comments:

- Shared his appreciation of Ms. May's leadership.
- He offered a substitute motion in the spirit of cooperation he accepted the two-year time span. As a board member he is impressed with what she has done, he has seen her in action and what she does is tell the truth even when difficult. He has seen her under former board administration to be very capable. He looks forward to the next couple of years.

Ms. Hines shared the following comments:

- Congratulated Ms. Curry on being the next superintendent, this is exciting news. Twenty years in the district says a lot.
- Thanked all the new hires.
- Congratulations to all of the winning teams. It is so nice to have the Wayne and Glenn spirit.
- She shared upcoming community free events and Kiwanis events.

Mr. Cox shared the following comments:

- Shared his appreciation of Ms. May's leadership.
- Brought forth that the discussion regarding the superintendent position which needed to happen in open session, not in a closed session.
- He was asked to take an active role to find a solution to the problem in transportation. He attended a meeting with administration and transportation. He shared that transportation employees and administration are doing their jobs but it is just not enough. He believes to solve this issue that the board needs to give a little bit more in the way of resources. There is a follow up meeting scheduled and he feels that this issue can be fixed.

Mr. Ambrus shared the following comments:

- He shared that he has attended the Band and Orchestra festival at Wayne Memorial High School.
- He also attended an event where both the middle school and high school students competed. It was an exciting event where Mr. Mety set up smartboards to view scores.
- Thursday night was a concert where middle and high school students performed.
- The athletic program last week was amazing.
- Wayne-Westland celebrates the success of our students and there is no bigger cheering section than ours.

- Next month our Career-Tech students will be competing in Grand Rapids and he wishes them luck as they represent our district.

Ms. Abney-Mitchell shared the following comments:

- Congratulated Ms. Curry and shared that there will be lots of conversations upcoming. She appreciates Ms. Curry and shared that she is doing a good job.
- We have students competing out of state to represent our wrestling team. There are so many successes throughout our district.
- She appreciates the union, the educators, the professionals, the students and the community.
- She attended the Spelling Bee; it is a great feeling to support our kids at the events.

Ms. May shared the following comments:

- Thanked our pledge students for leading us in the pledge.
- Congratulated our spelling bee winner.
- Thanked Jack Demmer for supporting our district and recognized the partnerships within the district.
- Congratulations to the WM boys' basketball team on their win.
- Good Luck to the Lady Zebras' basketball team on their upcoming games.
- Acknowledged Jen on her new permanent role.
- She highlighted the community events that Ms. Curry and her staff have put on. The conversations with parents and students have been wonderful and in a relaxed setting. Wayne-Westland services six different cities.
- Appreciated the discussion that took place this evening. Over the last two years the board has discussed being more transparent and having those conversations at an open meeting versus behind closed doors. The varying perspectives and thoughts should be able to be shared.

311.25 FOLLOW UP TO BOARD OF EDUCATION QUESTIONS

There was no follow up discussion.

312.25 ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, that the board adjourn the meeting at 9:21 pm. Motion by M. Hines, support by F. Weaver.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES:	7
NAYS:	0
ABSTAIN:	0
ABSENT:	0

MOTION PASSED

Melandie Hines
Board of Education Secretary
Wayne-Westland Community Schools