

**Amended Minutes of the
PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA
Board of Education
January 5, 2026
6:30 P.M. Special Board Meeting**

President's Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Hafner at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge to the Flag and Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent:

Approval of Agenda

A. Consideration of consent agenda items

B. Approval of Minutes

1. **Board Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2025, Regular Board Meeting. Board Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2025, Special Board Meeting.**

Motion made by J. Farmer, supported by L. Pung, to approve the agenda, consent agenda and meeting minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of December 15, 2025 and Special Board Meeting of December 15, 2025. Motion carried 7-0.

Communication on any matter (3 minutes per person)

Personnel

Accept the recommendation from Superintendent Richard Dunham to hire Patience Harrington, Special Education Paraprofessional, effective January 6, 2026.

Data-Based Strategic Plan Discussion - The Board of Education is committed to an open and transparent process. All board members are engaged and working together as a team. Community members are encouraged to share honest feedback with our consultant, who will compile and report that input directly to the board. This ensures all voices are heard and considered as decisions are made.

Superintendent Search Discussion - The Board of Education is committed to an open and transparent process as we plan for the district's future leadership. All board members are working together as a unified team to determine the best path forward for our students, staff, and community. We are currently considering several options, including conducting our own superintendent search, partnering with MASB (a service the district has used in the past), considering internal candidates, and evaluating a short-term extension of our current superintendent, Dick, whose evaluation is upcoming. Dick has provided stability and continuity for the district, particularly during important bond work and ongoing initiatives. At the same time, his certification will expire at the end of next year, making it clear that this would not be a long-term solution. We also recognize that members of our community are eager to understand who the district's next superintendent will be. As part of this process, the Board is committed to honest communication. Community input will be gathered through our consultant, who will listen carefully to feedback and accurately relay it to the Board to inform our decision-making.

Phase 3 Bond Discussion - There are 25 punch list items remaining, and the warranty on completed work remains in effect regardless of the process moving forward. The Board will need to decide whether to continue working with PSI or manage remaining projects and bidding internally. If PSI receives a 30-day notice, the district could handle all contracting and bidding independently, potentially allowing better use of remaining funds. Existing PSI bids may or may not be usable, so that will need to be confirmed. To ensure efficient completion, the subcommittee should be reconvened to review the punch list, establish project priorities, and track remaining funds carefully so that all critical items are completed within budget.

Motion made by L. Pung, supported by B. Weber, to create Addendum No. 5, to cancel Addendum No. 4, ending PSI's involvement with Phase 3 of the bond. Motion carried 7-0.

Action Items

Old Business:


Approve the Data-Based Strategic Plan and retain Scott Morrell as the designated consultant for its development and implementation. ***Motion made by J. Farmer supported by J. Smith to approve the Data-Based Strategic Plan and retain Scott Morrell as the designated consultant. Motion carried 7-0.***

New Business:

Approve proceeding with the Superintendent search in partnership with MASB. ***Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Farmer to approve the Superintendent search in partnership with MASB. Motion carried 7-0.***

Approve Katy Gilliland to have access to the Union Bank Fund General Bank Account. ***Motion made by J. Pohl, supported by L. Pung to approve Katy Gilliland to have access to the Union Bank General Fund Account. Motion carried 7-0.***

Adjourn: At 7:39 pm meeting adjourned.



Approved by Preston Weber, Board of Education Secretary