

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Pewamo-Westphalia Community Schools
Monday, January 19, 2026
7:00 pm Library
5101 S. Clintonia Road
Westphalia, MI 48894

This meeting is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the agenda.

President's Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Interim Superintendent Richard Dunham at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge to the Flag and Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent:

Election of Officers for 2026

President: *Motion made by L. Pung, supported by J. Pohl, to elect J. Hafner as President. Motion carried 7-0.*

Vice President: *Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Smith, to elect L. Pung as Vice President. Motion carried 7-0.*

Secretary: *Motion made by B. Weber, supported by L. Pung, to elect P. Weber as Vice Secretary. Motion carried XX.*

Treasurer: *Motion made by J. Farmer, supported by B. Weber, to elect J. Pohl as Vice Treasurer. Motion carried 7-0.*

Approval of Agenda

A. Consideration of consent agenda items

B. Approval of Minutes

1. Board Meeting Amended Minutes of January 5, 2026 Special Board Meeting.

Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Pohl, to approve the agenda, consent agenda and amended meeting minutes from the Special Board Meeting of January 5, 2026. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Farmer to amend the agenda, adding Preschool Tuition Discussion to New Business. Motion carried 7-0.

Yeo & Yeo Audit Presentation - Motion made by J. Smith, supported by B. Weber to accept the Yeo & Yeo Audit Presentation.

PWCS Foundation Presentation

Bond Discussion- Addendum No. 5 supersedes and cancels Addendum No. 4. The recommendation is to proceed with Phase 3 of the turf project through Katerberg. While there was an expectation of greater cost savings by managing the project internally, the projected savings would be approximately 10%. If Katerberg is retained, they will submit bids for the project. Whitman owns the display and contract; otherwise, the district would incur a cost of \$288,000. The Board has already approved the turf project, and now that funding is secured, the project must move forward. Proceeding with Katerberg allows remaining funds to be used for the softball parking lot and entrance improvements. Considerations include protecting the track, managing excess dirt from the football field, and addressing potential damage from debris such as pine needles and trees.

Administrator's Reports:

Facilities and Safety Director Report: J. Dygert - Gravel roads are in poor condition, and one bus required towing to Marshall. December expenses were higher than usual due to increased salt usage for winter needs. Approximately 90% of teachers reported that HVAC systems maintained comfortable classroom temperatures.

Technology & Student Specialist Report: J. Miller - Through the CRASH program, six students are completing credit recovery and are now back on track. The MTSS team met and identified ten additional students who would benefit from the CRASH program, and counselors will begin working with those students. Efforts are focused on identifying needs early, and helping students earn credits proactively to prevent last-minute credit recovery. The school website is currently a work in progress, with an emphasis on posting accurate, relevant information and adding photos and videos.

Elementary School Principal Report: E. Fedewa - NWEA math scores increased from 70% to 72%, with growth more challenging at higher levels. Teachers continue to work diligently to support student learning. BK/K registration opens Wednesday, following last year's process. Preschool enrollment is capped at 12 students per class, with an assistant required beyond that, and the daily rate of \$43 is competitive with local daycare. Preschool was full this year, supported by grant funding, and raising the daily rate could generate an estimated \$20,000. The Bags for Bucks fundraiser begins January 30.

Assistant Middle/High School Principal/Athletic Director Report: T. Forton - Professional development at St. Johns was very beneficial, with staff able to choose classes. Guest speaker Bashore was phenomenal, emphasizing a "hunt for the good" approach. Turf bidding is scheduled for February 6, timed to start and finish before football season to avoid project delays, as Week 1 is a home game.

Middle/High School Principal Report: R. Portenga - Ms. Blair's artwork from the archway was preserved to honor her contributions. Staff participated in in-person county PD, with approximately 80 educators engaging and sharing ideas. NWEA growth for grades 6–8 showed positive results: over 30 students participated, 24 made significant gains, and 5 reached the 70–80th percentile, indicating strategies are effective. Lunch engagement has been high, with students active and off their phones, funded by PWSTC; WILX will highlight this initiative. The life skills treasure chest is ready, pending clothing delivery, and will be presented at the February board meeting. Robotics continues to be successful but requires additional funding. Jeremy is taking over 504 coordination following a counselor's retirement. The College Board recognized the school on the AP Honor Roll. Special recognition to Dustin for leadership and teamwork in keeping initiatives on track.

Student Board Representative Report: Tyler reported vape incident has been addressed and removed, with discipline appropriately handled. The school website now includes student-written blurbs about extracurricular activities. Anti-cyberbullying efforts are ongoing. Eve reported a successful first semester and expects a smooth second semester. YouTube access is now available by request, and the team is actively managing this process.

Superintendent Report: Congratulations were given for NWEA testing, noting significant improvement from fall to winter, especially at high performance levels. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of administrators and parents. Regarding 31aA, schools that opted in will receive substantial funding to support their general fund. The administration can now be evaluated, and MDE will be audited next year. The school board was recognized this month on behalf of staff and administration. Special recognition was given to Ryan for leading an impressive professional development session.

Communication on any matter (3 minutes per person)

Alanna George- Appreciation was expressed to the Board for their hard work, time, and thoughtful decision-making.

Tim Schafer- Thanked Ryan for sending out the cyberbullying email and inquired about the technology bid, specifically regarding the funding source discussed at the December board meeting.

Personnel

A. N/A

President's Comments: Thank you all for your dedicated service on the Board; I appreciate the commitment and contributions of each of our members.

Action Items

Old Business

1. N/A

New Business:

Identify Richard Dunham, Interim Superintendent as unevaluated due to extenuating circumstances, in compliance with legislation. *Motion made by J. Pohl supported by B. Weber to identify Richard Dunham, Interim Superintendent as unevaluated due to extenuating circumstances, in compliance with legislation. Motion carried 7-0.*

Approve the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). *Motion made by J. Farmer supported by B. Weber to approve the Emergency Operations Plan. Motion carried 7-0.*

First reading of policies, 2210, 2266, 2412, 4162, 5460, 5517.01, 7540.02, 8300, 8305. *Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Farmer to approve the first reading of policies, 2210, 2266, 2412, 4162, 5460, 5517.01, 7540.02, 8300, 8305. Motion carried 7-0.*

Approve Addendum No. 5 *Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Smith to approve Addendum No. 5. Motion carried 7-0.*

Approve the continuation of services through Thrun Law Firm. *Motion made by J. Farmer, supported by L. Pung to approve the continuation of services through Thrun Law Firm. Motion carried 7-0.*

Preschool Tuition Discussion - By raising the rates of Preschool, we will save General Fund dollars. This needs to be reevaluated every year. This school year Preschool is full. Motion made by J. Farmer, supported by B. Weber to approve the raise of Preschool 2 day monthly rates and 3 day monthly rates for the 2026-27 school year.

Financial:

A. Financial Summary Report, December 31, 2025, including Special Revenue

B. Accounts Payable Listing, December 31, 2025

Upcoming Dates:

A. February 13, 2026 - No School

- B. February 16, 2026 - No School
- C. February 23, 2026 - Board Meeting

Adjourn: At 8:43 pm meeting adjourned.



Approved by Preston Weber, Board of Education Secretary