

**Minutes of the
PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA
Board of Education
November 17, 2025
7:00 P.M. Regular Board Meeting**

President's Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Hafner at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge to the Flag and Roll Call:

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

Board Members Absent: P. Weber

Motion made by J. Farmer, supported by L. Pung, to approve the agenda, consent agenda and meeting minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of October 20, 2025. Motion carried 6-0.

Mark Dobais, MASB - Pewamo-Westphalia Priorities Survey Presentation

Administrator's Reports:

Facilities and Safety Director: J. Dygert - The Cotter tree was planted out front, and the family was very appreciative. The next fleet of buses is out for bid; one more bid is required before it can be added to the agenda. There is consideration of selling bus 81 and leasing all remaining buses. The exterior has been winterized.

Technology and Student Specialist: J. Miller - N/A

Elementary School Principal: E. Fedewa - We are in a good position regarding heat and have access to temperature maps. If it needs adjusting a ticket will be submitted with PSI—an efficient process overall. The Knights of Columbus spelling bee will be held at St. Joe's. The holiday concert is scheduled for December 16th in the field house. There was also discussion about remaining punch list items.

Athletic Director/MHS Assistant Principal: T. Forton - The volleyball team plays tomorrow; if they win, semifinals are Friday, and both state finals would be on Saturday, which they will attend. The state football game was moved to 2 p.m. due to Menominee's Central Time Zone, and the winner will play Sunday at 9:30 a.m. There have been zero attendance letters sent home, and students are turning in documentation for doctor appointments. Ericka and Haley are outstanding members of the team. A letter of intent was signed by Jenna Spitzley to attend Hillsdale for discuss, and Grady Eklund will play basketball at Northwood.

Middle-High School Principal: R. Portenga - Eve was named ICCC Student of the Month for plant and animal science and is an excellent representative in off-campus programs. ASL content taught by Mrs. Butcher and Mrs. Thelen is strong, and the school feels fortunate to have two high-quality programs. Communication within the community remains an ongoing focus. The former front-entry archway created by Annette Blair was removed to support the "Champions Culture," emphasizing process, character development, and personal bests, while still preserving Annette's work. PSAT/SAT data has been released, and planning is underway for next year's AP and dual-enrollment classes. Two talent shows were held on Halloween, highlighting the school's "Triple A" focus—arts, athletics, and academics—with Taylor leading the arts initiative. Parent-teacher conferences in the cafeteria received positive feedback.

Student Board Representative Report: Tyler reported that the after-school help program for English and math is a strong initiative, and student participation at fall sports games has been good. Heating in the building has improved, and the talent show was successful. Eve reported, the new school store has opened and is very popular. NHS is active and recently hosted a blood drive, with another planned for December. Many students are tutoring at the elementary school, providing valuable leadership experience. The careers class has been helpful in guiding students through college scholarships and exposing them to various career opportunities.

Superintendent: The threat assessment team will meet at CCRESA on Friday for a practice session to ensure alignment. There have been glitches in the hiring process, but administration met and developed a clearer procedure. The solar panel project carries no financial commitment, and the district can withdraw at any time; however, there are concerns about upkeep, maintenance, and the lack of meaningful long-term savings. The 31aa grant from the State of Michigan supports safety and student mental health,

but accepting the funds requires comprehensive investigations and waives attorney–client privilege and disclosure protections. Overall, the district climate is very positive—students are polite, teachers are smiling, and PW has great kids and great staff.

Communications: (3 minutes per person) - N/A

Personnel:

- A. **Accept the recommendation from Superintendent Richard Dunham to hire Ryan Eklund, girls JV basketball coach, effective November 17, 2025.**
- B. **Accept the recommendation from Superintendent Richard Dunham to hire Addison Bauer, 7th grade girls basketball coach, effective November 17, 2025.**

President's Comments: N/A

Old Business:

- 1. N/A

New Business:

- 1. Approve the recommendation to not take the 31aa funding as amended in the State School Aid Act. If there is a significant change to the language within the 31aa and after consultation with the Board President and legal counsel, the Superintendent may move forward with opting into 31aa funding prior to the November 30, 2025 deadline. **Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Farmer to approve the recommendation to not take the 31aa funding. Motion carried 6-0.**
- 2. Approve the Letter of Agreement for Prefunded HSA. **Motion made by J. Farmer, supported by B. Weber to approve the Letter of Agreement for Prefunded HSA. Motion carried 6-0.**
- 3. Discussion and approve the recommendation to deny the solar panel project. **Motion made by B. Weber, supported by L. Pung to approve the recommendation to deny the solar panel project. Motion carried 6-0.**
- 4. Approve moving forward with the Strategic Plan process.. **Motion made by L. Pung, supported by B. Weber. to approve moving forward with the Strategic Plan process. Motion carried 6-0.**

Financial:

Financial Summary Report, October 31, 2025, including Special Revenue Accounts Payable Listing, October 31, 2025

Upcoming Dates:

- A. November 26-28, 2025 - Thanksgiving Break
- B. December 1, 2025 - High School Holiday Band Concert
- B. December 5, 2025 - MHS Holiday Meal
- C. December 15, 2025 - Elementary Holiday Meal

Adjourn: At 8:29 pm meeting adjourned.



Approved by Preston Weber, Board of Education Secretary