

**Minutes of the
PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA
Board of Education
December 15, 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. Pohl, L. Pung, B. Weber, J. Smith, J. Hafner, P. Weber

Board Members Absent: J. Farmer

Motion made by J. Smith, supported by B. Weber, to approve the agenda, consent agenda and meeting minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of November 17, 2025. Motion carried 6-0.

Kahler Foundation Grant Presentation

Facilities Presentation - R. Portenga

Administrator's Reports:

Facilities and Safety Director: J. Dygert - Winter arrived earlier than expected, and two plow trucks broke down, requiring repairs. Brandon Platte loaned a skid loader to help in the meantime. The district will also be reviewing bus leases.

Technology and Student Specialist: J. Miller - Six students regained credits and are now back on track for graduation through the CRASH program. Preparing for the April 2026 Privacy Protection Act by reviewing third-party apps to ensure certification and prevent data from being sold to outside vendors. Maintaining COPA compliance remains a priority; a recent meeting with a NEOLA representative confirmed that the district's current practices are compliant.

Elementary School Principal: E. Fedewa - Held a holiday lunch with thanks to special visitors; holiday concert took place in the field house to ensure everyone had seating and visibility. Classroom holiday parties are scheduled for Thursday. Elementary building heat is functioning at about 90% satisfaction, but units are noisy; engineers are addressing the issue and tickets are being submitted. The board inquired about ways to support Evan and the elementary staff in improving heat and noise concerns. NWEA testing is being completed before break (instead of after) to prevent learning loss over the holiday.

Athletic Director/MHS Assistant Principal: T. Forton - All-State Academic Team GPAs: Football 3.98, Boys Cross Country 3.809, Volleyball above 3.3. Appreciation to Katy, Kali, Haley, Ericka, Ericka Nartker, and Aubrey Portenga for their support—small efforts that make a big impact for staff and offices. Taylor and Randy's concert was outstanding and marked the first year combining stage arts with the band. Tardies program will restart for the second semester with a focus on consistency and follow-through. Parents are doing well with communicating student absences.

Middle-High School Principal: R. Portenga - No Student Voice meeting took place due to snow days and exam preparation. Teachers were asked about adjusting the exam schedule; consensus was to keep the current schedule in place. Appreciation to Haley Weber for her work on the Holiday Blessing project and the Student Council food drive—an impactful service for the community.

Student Board Representative Report: Tyler reported last week's Holiday Meal went very well. Exam Week was stressful, but appreciation was expressed for staff and facilities for helping manage the situation. Eve reported that overall things are going well; however, the building feels cold and walking conditions are concerning due to icy, slushy sidewalks. Acknowledged that staff is doing their best to keep areas clean and safe.

Superintendent Report: The district applied for 31aa grant funds; it was recommended but optional to accept. A court ruling is expected by Friday. If school districts prevail: the district would receive approximately \$104,000 for mental health support. If not, the district has until December 30th to opt out. Congratulations to the All-State Academic Teams—outstanding achievement. Appreciation to Jeff and Tim for managing recent snow events despite equipment issues. The Yeo & Yeo audit report was postponed due to their scheduling conflict and is rescheduled for January 19th, along with MASB's

strategic plan discussion. Superintendent search will be discussed at the January board meeting. Shoutout to the holiday concerts—students showcased exceptional talent.

Communications: (3 minutes per person) -

Alonna George - Stated viewing district needs as a whole through strategic planning, including Ryan's points about grounds and facilities. There is interest in involving community members on the strategic planning committee and providing them with an overview of district goals. Student Voice participants were praised, and the idea of adding a curriculum committee including both students and community members was explored. The group also discussed donors, Phase 3, and the current shortfall, raising questions about how the donation process works moving forward.

Shannon Wirth - There is a concern that confidence and trust in PSI has been lost, leading to the question of whether the district should consider contracting with a different provider.

Tim Schafer - Concerns were raised about PSI's lack of quality references and uncertainty about why the district remains committed to them. It was previously suggested to Jenny that the district should discontinue using PSI and rely on general contractors instead, but after her departure the situation has become disorganized. Repeated requests for financial numbers were made but never provided. Sam Miller acknowledged the past can't be changed but noted that financial figures should have been calculated after each phase rather than waiting until Phase 3, resulting in major financial decisions being made without accurate information.

Personnel:

- A. **Accept the recommendation from Superintendent Richard Dunham to accept the resignation from Ashley Trierweiler, Special Education Paraprofessional, effective December 19, 2025.**

President's Comments: N/A

Old Business:

1. N/A

New Business:

1. Approve the lunch price increases, per Paid Lunch Equity guidance. ***Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Smith to approve the recommendation to approve lunch price increases. Motion carried 6-0.***
2. Approve the recommendation to issue a credit card to Mike Kurka, Vocational Education, with a credit limit of \$5,000. ***Motion made by J. Pohl, supported by L. Pung to approve the recommendation to issue a credit card to Mike Kurka, Vocational Education, with a credit limit of \$5,000. Motion carried 6-0.***
3. Discuss and approve the recommended bus lease from Holland Bus Company. Discussion was held regarding our current bus lease and recommended bus lease. ***Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Smith to approve the recommended bus lease from Holland Bus Company. Motion carried 6-0.***
4. Discuss and approve the proposal for Data-Based Strategic Planning Services. ***Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Pohl to table the discussion and approval the proposal for the Data-Based Strategic Planning Services.***

Financial:

Financial Summary Report, November 30, 2025, including Special Revenue Accounts Payable Listing, November 30, 2025

Upcoming Dates:

- A. December 17-19, 2025 - ½ days of school
- B. December 22, 2025 - January 2, 2026 - Winter Break

Adjourn: At 8:47 pm meeting adjourned.



Approved by Preston Weber, Board of Education Secretary