



Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency  
Board of Education 33500 Van Born Road · Wayne, Michigan

**Regular Meeting  
July 14, 2021**

**MINUTES**

**A. Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency Board of Education was called to order by President Funderburg on July 14, 2021 at 8:52 a.m.

**B. Roll Call**

Present: James Beri, Mary Blackmon, Danielle Funderburg, and James Petrie  
Absent: Lynda Jackson

**C. Approval of Agenda**

Member Blackmon, supported by Member Beri, moved to approve the agenda, as presented. On voice vote, the motion carried 4-0.

**D. Public Participation - none**

**E. President's Remarks and Board Comments**

**Member Petrie**

- Welcomed Wayne RESA's new superintendent, Dr. Daveda Colbert and noted that Dr. Colbert has already been working hard to reintroduce herself, although she is already well known and well respected across the County. Member Petrie added that he looks forward to working with Dr. Colbert.

**Member Beri**

- Welcomed Dr. Daveda Colbert and stated that he is confident she will do a great job in her new role as Superintendent and looks forward to working together.
- Thanked Deputy Superintendent Steve Ezikian and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Kelly Bohl for their guidance during the superintendent search process.

**Member Blackmon**

- Commended the staff that were involved in the planning of Dr. Liepa's farewell event. It was well executed and a great opportunity for staff and colleagues to get a chance to say goodbye.
- Expressed her appreciation for Dr. Liepa's service and dedication to education not only across the County but across the State.
- Welcomed Dr. Daveda Colbert and added that Wayne RESA will be well served by Dr. Colbert. She is well known across the state and has made numerous achievements in education and we appreciate that you are already out blazing the trails.

**President Funderburg**

- Expressed that she is looking forward to the journey with Dr. Colbert adding that her passion for her work is contagious.
- Shared the following Wayne County School District highlights:
  - Congratulations to Melvindale High School Teacher Terry Laesser, as he has been named an Amazon Teacher of the Year. As a result, Melvindale High School will receive a \$25,000 award to expand their computer science and/or robotics education programs.
  - Congratulations to the Lincoln Park and Woodhaven-Brownstown school districts, as they are both recipients of a \$10,000 Future Proud Michigan Educator grant, awarded by the Michigan Department of Education. The grant's intent is to allow districts to create opportunities to inspire more students to consider education as their career choice.

**F. Introduction of New Staff**

Kelly Bohl, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, introduced the following new staff and provided brief background information on each:

- Krista McKinney-King, Manager - Workforce Development & Career Counselors effective July 6, 2021.
- Kai Smith, Education Improvement Consultant, effective July 12, 2021.
- Sandra Dukhie, Application Support Technician, effective June 28, 2021.
- Kristopher Hamade, Server/Network Analyst, effective July 12, 2021.
- Tiesha Norman, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education, effective June 28, 2021.

Dr. Colbert shared that Kelly Bohl, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, was hired during the pandemic, which meant that she was introduced to the Board via Zoom. Therefore, she wanted to recognize Kelly as she has been a phenomenal addition to the Wayne RESA family and in addition, she wanted to personally thank her for joining the amazing team at WRESA.

**G. Communications - none**

**H. Superintendent's Report**

**Executive Director of Legislative Affairs Mike Latvis:**

- Mike reviewed his written legislative handout, highlighting:
  - The Legislature is off for the summer, although they occasionally come back in session for briefings
  - Just prior to the scheduled summer break the Legislature passed the 2021-22 School Aid budget and the 2020-21 Supplemental Budget. Both were signed by the Governor on July 14<sup>th</sup>. He believes the work of the K12 Alliance was quite instrumental in getting this done by July 1.
  - The Supplemental Budget (\$4.4 B) includes the remaining ESSER II funds and all of ESSER III funds. He and the K12 Alliance lobbied hard to get the equalization payment reinstated into the supplemental. It was originally in the House version, but not the Senate's.
  - The new School Aid Budget included a \$723M increase in the foundation allowance which now brings all districts to \$8,700/per pupil, closing the equity gap. Additional funds have also been added for hiring school nurses and counselors, and increasing and expanding the GSRP. What wasn't included in

this budget is any pandemic related flexibility, i.e. seat time waivers, etc. in case we have outbreaks this fall and need to shift back to remote learning. The funding is there to hire nurses and counselors, etc.; however, the pool of candidates is the real issue. Steve added that these additional funds for nurses and counselors fall under the 31n category and MDE has recently loosened the restrictions for hiring under the 31n funding.

- An additional \$25M to help pay down the outstanding Inkster School District debt was appropriated. The funds will be used to pay off the outstanding Emergency Operating Loan debt and the accrued School Bond Loan Fund interest. This was a welcomed surprise as WRESA had been working since last November with the Department of Treasury, Administration and the Legislature on this effort.
- At the end of June, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) released their guidance for schools returning to full in-person learning this fall (A copy of the guidance was included in Mike's written update). Mike reiterated that this newly released information is "guidance", not recommendations. What was released looks much different from what they originally proposed – but we pushed back and said recommendations are not good for districts.
- There was some money earmarked to increase the foundation allowance for those who operate year round schools. Daveda added that the WC Superintendents have created a small subgroup to further explore a balanced calendar.

**Deputy Superintendent Steve Ezikian:**

- The money that was earmarked in the new budget to help with the Inkster debt is good news but doesn't change what the tax payers see. The municipalities have already levied the 18 mills to pay the debt. We have a meeting scheduled with Treasury to further discuss. 2035 is the projected date for paying off the emergency loan.
- Drew the Board's attention to a change in the board recommendation language in the Superintendent's Recommendations document. It has been changed to read that "the Board Authorize Administration to enter into ..." instead of "the Board approve entering into ...". This change reflects a more accurate picture of the process and strengthens our role if changes are needed.
- Ace Academy, a strict discipline academy, has been trying to secure an authorizer so that they could remain open. We were approached and had a lot of pressure to authorize but chose not to. We are, however, working with MDE and Michigan Juvenile Justice to consider authorizing another school, as a strict discipline academy. More to come on that.
- Michigan School for the Deaf – This school, located in Flint, services approximately 30 of our Wayne County students. In addition to a number of compliance issues that the school has, the State is trying to make structural changes to how that school is identified and wants to call it a Placement Program. A change such as that would mean that the school sending students there would be responsible for providing FAPE. We are concerned about these issues and are trying to work with MDE to resolve.
- WRESA is in the process of opening up the building again, and bringing back staff. Additionally, we hope to begin offering professional development, but know that it may be difficult as we try to keep social distancing protocols in place. Therefore, we have established an internal task force that is working on putting into place some protocol on when we offer PD in person and when we offer it virtually. Once ready we will be sure to discuss this with the superintendents.

**Superintendent Dr. Daveda Colbert:**

- Dr. Colbert commended Mr. Ezikian for all of his guidance and support, adding that it has truly made her transition to Superintendent much easier.
- Literacy Coaches: the Ed Services staff are starting to get things all rounded up. There are approximately 51 coaches for the County, and each district has at least one. A formula was developed to determine who would get additional Coaches. Right now we are getting the MOUs in place.
- Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) – Detroit Expansion. She and Lena Montgomery have been fielding a lot of calls from the City of Detroit regarding adding additional classrooms, promoting and support for placement. She and Lena have a meeting scheduled with city officials and others to look at their expansion and work on their plan. Our role is to partner with them and provide support to them for their new expansion. MDE also reached out to us to get more information as they too are very interested in Detroit's expansion. We told them we would update them soon. More to come - Daveda will provide an update to the Board on this topic at the Board Retreat.
- Dr. Colbert commended Rob McCoy, Tom Diroff, as well as the entire Building Services and IT Team, for their dedication and service to the organization. These staff members have truly been outstanding, as they were here throughout the pandemic, keeping the building operations running smoothly and making sure that those working from home had everything they needed to work remotely. They have not missed a beat. There have been numerous compliments made/received from a variety of our staff and constituents and we just want to say thank you!
- In August, she will begin her monthly meetings with the Wayne County Superintendents. A survey was just sent out to them to see if they are ready for an in-person meeting. In addition, she will be meeting with the superintendents individually over the summer (some in person, some virtual) to collect feedback on their needs.
- Lastly, she has already met with a variety of different groups and individuals that Dr. Liepa had worked with during his time as Superintendent.

**I. Consent Agenda**

Member Blackmon supported by Member Beri, moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented:

Items include approval of:

- Superintendent's Recommendations
- Minutes from June 7, 2021, Election Meeting
- Minutes from June 9, 2021, Budget Hearing Meeting
- Minutes from June 9, 2021, Regular Meeting
- June WRESA Check Register
- June Inkster Check Register
- Outstanding Investments, Revenues & Expenditures

On voice vote, the motion carried 4-0.

**1-21-22**

The Board approved the following internal applicant(s) for the position(s):

- Nicholas Holmes, Technology Coordinator – Field Services, effective June 21, 2021.
- Vita Lusk, Manager of Special Education and Early Intervention Services – General Supervision and Accountability, effective July 1, 2021.

**2-21-22**

The Board approved the following external applicant(s) for the position(s):

- Tiesha Norman, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education, effective June 28, 2021.
- Kristopher Hamade, Server/Network Analyst, effective July 12, 2021.
- Kai Smith, Education Improvement Consultant, effective July 12, 2021.
- Margaret Lyons, School Outreach Nurse, effective August 2, 2021.

**3-21-22**

The Board approved the following reclassification(s):

- Laura Begley, Assistive Technology Coordinator, (from Schedule G- 10 Month) to Assistive Technology Consultant (Schedule H -12 Month) effective July 1, 2021.
- Pamela Cunningham, Assistive Technology Coordinator, (from Schedule G – 10 Month) to Assistive Technology Consultant (Schedule H – 11 Month) effective July 1, 2021.
- Marilyn Adolph, from Manager of Implementation – Business Services to Manager of Application Services, effective July 1, 2021.
- Brandon Wilkins, from Manager of Implementation – Student Services to Student Application Business Analyst, effective July 1, 2021.

**4-21-22**

The Board approved the following leave(s):

- Sheri Bartz, Secretary, Family/Medical Leave, effective May 26, 2021.
- D'Anna Courtney-Rives, Early Childhood Consultant, Family/Medical Leave, effective June 1, 2021.
- Regina Baker, Special Ed. Consultant, Family/Medical Leave, effective June 11, 2021.
- Mary Bamrick, Secretary, Family/Medical Leave, effective June 22, 2021.

**5-21-22**

The Board approved the following return from leave(s):

- Steven Michael, Connectivity/Network Consultant, Family/Medical Leave, effective June 7, 2021.
- Jennifer Herbert, Part-time English Learner Program Facilitator, Unpaid Personal Leave, effective June 2, 2021.
- Sheri Bartz, Secretary, Family/Medical Leave, effective May 27, 2021.

**6-21-22**

The Board approved the appointment of the following representative(s) to the Wayne County Parent Advisory Committee (WCPAC) for a three-year term. This is effective for the period July 14, 2021 to June 30, 2024.

Jessica Blackwell	Detroit Premier Academy
Mary Beth Voigt	Van Buren Public School District
Tawana Henderson	Hamtramck Charter Academy
Ebony Payns	Taylor Exemplar Academy

**7-21-22**

The Board approved the following actual and necessary expenses incurred by Wayne RESA Board members in discharging their official duties and in performing functions as authorized by the Board June 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021: Jim Petrie, \$181.27.

**8-21-22**

The Board approved a payment to the K-12 Alliance of Michigan for 2021-22 dues and supplemental funding and support costs in an amount not to exceed \$86,750.

**9-21-22**

The Board authorized administration to enter into agreements with each of the following districts, in the amounts indicated, for implementation of Early-On activities for a total amount of \$1,701,000 for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

AGENCY/DISTRICT	EARLY ON	54D	TOTAL AMOUNT
Detroit Public Schools Community District	\$163,000	\$163,000	\$326,000
Wayne Westland Community Schools	\$94,500	\$94,500	\$189,000
Grosse Pointe Public Schools	\$218,000	\$218,000	\$436,000
Livonia Public Schools	\$117,500	\$117,500	\$235,000
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$250,000
Woodhaven-Brownstown School District	\$132,500	\$132,500	\$265,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$850,500</b>	<b>\$850,500</b>	<b>\$1,701,000</b>

**10-21-22**

The Board authorized administration to enter into an agreement with Roofing Technology Associates, LTD, Livonia, MI for WRESA roof replacement planning, design, specifications, bidding assistance, quality control and onsite monitoring, in an amount not to exceed \$27,300.

**11-21-22**

The Board authorized administration to enter into a contract with Communities In Schools of Michigan (CIS), Lansing, MI to purchase licensed social work services for the Strong Beginnings and Great Start Readiness Program grants, in an amount not to exceed \$104,984 for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

**12-21-22**

The Board authorized administration to enter into agreements with the following subrecipients, for completing Strong Beginnings grant requirements, in the amounts indicated, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

SUBRECIPIENT	AMOUNT
American International Academy	\$146,280
Children's Garden	\$146,280
Dearborn Public Schools	\$146,280
Growing Minds Learning Center	\$146,280

**13-21-22**

The Board authorized administration to enter into a contract with BFDI Training Institute (formerly Black Family Development, Inc.), Detroit, MI to deliver *Restorative Practices* professional learning workshop offerings, coaching, and technical assistance in an amount not to exceed \$29,200 for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

**14-21-22**

The Board authorized administration to enter into a contract with Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association to provide support for the Michigan Department of Education under the terms of the MDE-WRESA ISD Collaboration Grant in the amount of \$150,000 for the period July 21, 2021 through September 30, 2021.

**15-21-22**

The Board approved an amendment to Board Recommendation# 46-20-21 for payments for implementation of Early On remote services and PPE for in person services in the amount of \$176,000, extending the end date from June 30, 2021 through September 30, 2021.

**16-21-22**

The Board approved an amendment to Board Recommendation #49-20-21 to extend the deadline for the reimbursement of approved costs of capital expenditures in Wayne County Center Programs and District ASD Programs operating under the Wayne RESA Center Program agreement through June 30, 2022.

**17-21-22**

The Board authorized administration to approve an amendment to the agreement with TV's Deli & Diner (TV Deli), Trenton, MI, originally authorized in Board Recommendation #55-18-19, to extend the catering and food operations agreement in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

**18-21-22**

The Board authorized administration to sign an amendment to Board Recommendation #226-19-20 to increase the contract with Integrisource, Tallahassee, FL from \$150,000 to \$154,800 for programming services for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

**19-21-22**

The Board approved an amendment to Board Recommendation #152-20-21, to increase the amount of the grant award from \$435,000 to \$466,000:

<b>Grant</b>	<b>Grantor</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
ISD Collaboration	Michigan Department of Education	\$466,000	10/01/2020 - 09/30/2021	Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (WRESA) (Grantee) is granted from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) (Grantor) for reimbursement of costs associated with the Title I Statewide System of Support Program Evaluation grant with the purpose to increase student academic achievement through such strategies as improving teacher and principal quality and increasing the number of highly qualified teachers in the classroom.

**20-21-22**

The Board accepted the following grant for the terms, amounts and purposes noted:

Grant	Grantor	Amount	Term	Purpose
The 1619 Project Education Network Grant	The Pulitzer Center - The 1619 Project Education Network	\$5,000	05/21/2021 - 02/22/2022	1619 is often referred to as curriculum but that is inaccurate. It contains essays, poems, art work, and pod casts that span US history from colonial history through contemporary times. The purpose of the project is for educators to utilize the 1619 resources to support or supplement their existing curricula in order to provide a more complete and comprehensive view of US history by including voices and perspectives that are often excluded. WRESA along with educators from three local districts will participate in the inaugural cohort of this nationwide project. Districts choosing to participate are DPSCD, Dearborn, and South Redford. Grant funds will be used to pay stipends to committee members for their engagement during summer months and beyond the school day.

**21-21-22**

The Board approved an amendment to Board Recommendation #236-20-21, increasing the payments to MAISL Trust from \$50,578 to \$61,271 for property, casualty and liability insurance.

**22-21-22**

The Board approved payments to AJ Gallagher Risk Management Services in the amount of \$118,411.63 for excess coverage for Cyber Liability insurance.

**23-21-22**

The Board approved the purchase of instructional and training materials from Complete Books and Media Supply, LLC in compliance with federal procurement requirements and board policy in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the period July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

**J. Action Item(s)**

- Resolution Authorizing Application to Michigan Department of Treasury – Interest Rate Reduction/Prepayment Provisions on Inkster Emergency Loan**  
 Member Beri, supported by Member Petrie, moved that the Wayne RESA Board approve the attached resolution authorizing application to the Emergency Financial Assistance Loan Board requesting the amendment of the School District of the City of Inkster Amended and Restated Emergency Loan Note.



Steve answered questions from the Board and noted that this is separate and additional to the legislation passed. On voice vote, the motion carried 4-0.

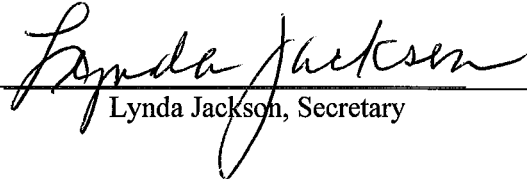
**K. General Board Comments**

- Member Blackmon – thanked Mr. Ezikian and Dr. Colbert for their involvement in the planning of the SEMCOG program that is scheduled this afternoon for the recognition of the Ambassador program.

**L. Adjournment**

Member Beri, supported by Member Blackmon, moved to adjourn the meeting. On voice vote the motion carried 4-0. President Funderburg adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

Submitted by:

  
Lynda Jackson, Secretary