



# **Waverly Community Schools**

## **Regular Meeting**

**Monday, September 24, 2007 7:30 PM**

# Agenda of Regular Meeting

## The Board of Education Waverly Community Schools

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A Regular meeting of the Board of Education of Waverly Community Schools will be held September 24, 2007, beginning at 7:30 PM in the Board Room, 515 Snow Road, Lansing, MI.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are as listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order shown on this meeting notice.

Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time.

- I. Call to Order and Pledge to the Flag - President John Broughton
- II. Special Presentations
  - A. Presentation of Audit Report - Plante & Moran
- III. Correspondence - Secretary Edith Suttles
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Student Representative Report
- VI. Board Member Comment
- VII. Adoption of Meeting Agenda
- VIII. \*\*\*Approval of Minutes 4
- IX. Presentation of Reports
  - A. Curriculum Committee Report
    - 1. For Discussion - Summer School Report
    - 2. \*\*\*For Information - Extended Field Trips 10
  - B. Facilities/Policy Advisory Report
  - C. Finance/Personnel Advisory Report
- X. Superintendent's Report

- XI. Public Comment
- XII. Other Board Business
- XIII. Adjournment

**WAVERLY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 10, 2007**

***Opening of Meeting***

The regular meeting of the Waverly Community Schools Board of Education was called to order by President John Broughton at 7:32 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administrative Center, 515 Snow Road, Lansing, Michigan.

***Members Present:***

Mr. John Broughton, President  
Mr. Britt Slocum, Vice President  
Mrs. Edith Suttles, Secretary  
Mr. Calvin Jones, Treasurer  
Mr. Don Knechtel, Vice Secretary-Treasurer  
Mrs. Mary Ann Martin, Trustee  
Mrs. Fonda Brewer-Williams, Trustee

***Staff Present:***

Dr. Thomas J. Pillar, Superintendent  
Mrs. Jacklin Blodgett, Asst. Superintendent for Finance & Personnel  
Mr. Bruce Johnson, Director of Operations and Student Services  
Mrs. Dorothy Blackwell, Director of Curriculum  
Mr. Rob Spagnuolo, Business Manager  
Karen Burgess  
Gretchen Mikula  
Patty Little  
Beth D'Mello  
Rebecca Pease

***Others Present:***

Andrew Fritz, Student Representative  
Peter Koenigsknecht  
Jenny Sturdevant  
Karen Shippey  
Steve Slater  
Suzy Slater  
Bruce Chapman  
Marsha Chapman  
Anne Slocum  
Brett Berry  
Mary Jo White

***Pledge***

Student Representative Andrew Fritz led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

***Special Presentation***

The Special Presentation featured the presentation of a resolution to Bruce and Marsha Chapman for their generous donation to the Marching Band, which helped make it possible to purchase new uniforms. President Broughton read the resolution. A motion was presented by Member Jones and supported by Member Slocum. MOTION: The Board of Education adopt the resolution as presented.

Motion carried. VOTE: AYES: - 7; NAYS – 0.

Band students Peter Koenigsknecht and Jenny Sturdevant modeled the new uniforms. Band Booster President Karen Shippey read an inscription from a plaque which will hang in the high school recognizing the donation.

***Correspondence***

Member Suttles reported an email had been received from a parent which would be copied and distributed to Board members.

***Public Comment***

None

***Student Representative Report***

Student Representative Andrew Fritz reported several student organizations had been involved with Wavapalooza as volunteers and performers. Waverly won its football game against Owosso on September 7<sup>th</sup>. He reported issues with students not having classes have been resolved.

***Board Member Comment***

Member Brewer-Williams thanked the staff for Wavapalooza, noting people seemed to be enjoying themselves and it was a great way to bring the community into the schools. She also thanked the Chapman family for its generous donation.

Member Jones thanked the Chapmans for their donation. He congratulated the football team on their victory and thanked everyone involved with Wavapalooza. Member Jones also thanked administration for the productive professional development session on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Member Slocum stated that Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup> was an awesome night he might not forget for awhile. Wavapalooza was a huge success attracting staff, volunteers, students, and a ton of community people to a great event. He noted the Waverly Education Foundation signed up seven new President Club members that night. Member Slocum stated the Chapmans “rock and roll” and he is honored to be one their closest friends. Member Slocum said the professional development session went well and that he was sorry to miss the opening day breakfast.

Member Suttles stated she was sorry she missed all the fun at Wavapalooza. She said it sounded like a great start to the school year and she hoped it would be an annual event. She thanked Jackie Blodgett and everyone who helped make it a fun and exciting evening. Member Suttles congratulated the administration on a successful start to the school year. She stated it was a pleasure to be at East and Windemere View to welcome students on the first day of school, and thanked Principal Gonzalez and Principal Tisdale for their welcome. She noted she was able to sit in on orientation for Kindergarten students at Windemere View which she enjoyed. Member Suttles thanked the Chapmans for their generous donation and stated the uniforms are beautiful. Member Suttles told Board members she cannot guarantee she will be at every meeting over the next few months as she is dealing with issues with her parents.

Member Knechtel congratulated the Chapmans, stating they really jump-started the acquisition of new uniforms. He stated the rest of the Band Boosters and families stepped up to make the purchase a reality. Member Knechtel thanked Board members for their frank discussion of test scores at the Board professional development session. He stated he was sorry that he missed Wavapalooza, noting he arrived after 10:00 p.m. and the parking lot was empty. Member Knechtel stated he appreciated the food service staff for pulling together at Wavapalooza, and expressed disappointment in the actions of some of the district’s professional staff at the opening day breakfast.

Member Martin welcomed Andrew Fritz to the Board table. She thanked the Chapmans, noting their contribution will be remembered for a long time. Member Martin also thanked the Band Boosters for coming up with the rest of the money. Member Martin stated she, too, was sorry she missed Wavapalooza. She echoed sentiments of other Board members about the Board’s PD Session, noting there were good discussions held. Member Martin reported she attended the opening day breakfast and said it was nice to see the band come into the room and play the fight song. Member Martin informed the Board she was at the middle school, high school, and Winans on the first day of school, and they all had smooth openings.

***Board Member Comment (continued)***

President Broughton thanked the Chapmans and congratulated Jackie Blodgett and everyone who made Wavapalooza possible. He said the activities and food were great. He thanked the generosity of the sponsors and stated he would like to make it a yearly event. Member Broughton stated he was at the middle school and Colt on opening day and noted it was great seeing the kids and their parents.

***Adoption of Agenda***

A motion was presented by Member Knechtel and supported by Member Martin. MOTION: The Board of Education adopt the meeting agenda as presented.

Motion carried. VOTE: AYES – 7; NAYS – 0.

***\*\*\*Approval of Minutes***

The minutes of the regular meeting of August 13, 2007 and the special meeting of August 27, 2007 were approved as presented.

***Policy – Second Reading – Report #07-22 – For Action***

A motion was presented by Member Slocum and supported by Member Brewer-Williams. MOTION: The Board of Education approve the policy updates in Report #07-22 at second reading.

It was recommended word changes be made to two policies.

Motion carried. VOTE: AYES – 7; NAYS – 0.

***\*\*\*Financial Recommendation – Report #07-23 – For Action***

The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

***\*\*\*Certification of Winter Tax Levy – City of Lansing, Lansing, Delta, Windsor, and Watertown Townships – Report #07-24 – For Action***

The Board of Education adopted the proposed winter tax levy for the City of Lansing, Lansing, Delta, Windsor, and Watertown Townships. A certified copy is attached to the official minutes of this meeting.

***Personnel Recommendations – Report #07-24 – For Action***

A motion was presented by Member Slocum and supported by Member Jones. MOTION: The Board of Education approve the employment of Michael Pixley (high school art teacher), Jennifer Risner (Winans special education teacher), Leo Blundell (Colt Elementary teacher), Michael Schriener (HS/MS ESL teacher), Brittany Wilson (high school special education teacher), and Amy Henry (high school English teacher); and also approve the position change of Tony Terranova from high school social studies teacher to high school dean of students, and Christine Holman from high school assistant principal to middle school assistant principal.

Member Slocum stated he was excited about the dean of students position at the high school. Member Suttles asked if the district had hired any minority staff and how many African-American certified females there are at the high school. Jacklin Blodgett indicated two minority candidates had applied for positions at the high school. She stated there were currently no African-American certified females at the high school. Member Martin and Member Knechtel asked about salary steps of newly hired teachers, stating they were all above the beginning level of the pay scale. Jacklin Blodgett stated administrators chose individuals who had the needed certification and varying experiences. She stated the district did realize a savings of about \$21,000 per teacher from the teachers who took the early retirement incentive.

Member Slocum asked if the Personnel Office did the very best for the students of Waverly. Mrs. Blodgett answered yes. He asked if this leaves the district ahead financially. Mrs. Blodgett said yes.

***Personnel Recommendation (continued)***

Motion carried. VOTE: AYES – 7; NAYS – 0.

Dr. Pillar stated the district has an excellent teaching staff. He indicated the hiring process is very deliberate and he commended the personnel department for their efforts.

***Superintendent's Report***

Dr. Pillar announced that Governor Granholm has asked school districts to observe a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m. on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Principals have received this information and will plan accordingly for their buildings.

Dr. Pillar reported the 2007-2008 school year opened relatively smoothly. There are always glitches, however, they get ironed out and everyone eventually gets to where they are supposed to be.

Dr. Pillar asked Bruce Johnson and Rob Spagnuolo to present unaudited, preliminary enrollment counts to the Board. The counts were Colt (354); Elmwood (227); Winans (308); Windemere View (206); East (476); Middle School (460); and High School (1050). Mr. Johnson stated the fifth grade is completely full, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade has 18 slots open, and the high school number is the most fluid number in the district. All high school grades are below 300, with the 10<sup>th</sup> grade being the largest class at 285. NEC has 74 students enrolled, with 45 of them being Waverly students. These numbers indicate a total unaudited count of 3155, which would indicate a blended count of 3164 which is up 24 students from the budgeted amount.

Dr. Pillar announced Phil Odlum will be inducted into the MHSAA Coaches Hall of Fame on September 16<sup>th</sup> in Mt. Pleasant.

Dr. Pillar reported the *Lansing State Journal* published a nice article on Waverly's new K-4 Spanish program. Michelle Frederick and Kysha Crenshaw are very enthusiastic and they bring high energy and a positive attitude that are the driving forces behind the program's early success. Dr. Pillar stated he hopes to have a mid-year report to the Board about the program.

Dr. Pillar announced the NSBA spring conference is scheduled for March 29-April 1 in Orlando. Interested Board members should contact Becky for more information.

Dr. Pillar announced the MASB fall conference is coming up November 1-4 at the Amway Grand in Grand Rapids. If any Board members are interested, please contact Becky as soon as possible. This year's theme is LEAD STRONG.

Dr. Pillar reported there is a MASB link on Waverly's website which speaks to the crisis in school funding and encourages the public to contact their legislators.

Dr. Pillar informed the Board the district was in receipt of a book of professional development opportunities from the Ingham Intermediate School District. Winans principal, Shawn Talifarro, is pictured on page 65 of the book. Dr. Pillar indicated Board members would be receiving a copy in the near future.

Dr. Pillar announced there is an initiative across the region to underscore the importance of learning. Organized by Capital Area Michigan Works! the campaign is called "Keep Learning... Our Future Depends on It". Businesses and other organizations throughout the capital region are being asked to display a decal as a visual symbol of this awareness campaign. School districts are being asked to send home letters highlighting the importance and value of obtaining a high quality education. For more information, Board members may go to [learningforourfuture.org](http://learningforourfuture.org). This will become a link on Waverly's website.

***Superintendent's Report (cont.)***

Dr. Pillar reported Waverly faculty and staff joined 2,000 other educators in the capital region at the Wharton Center on August 30<sup>th</sup> to hear a presentation by Alan Blankstein who is the author of "Failure is not an Option". He set the tone for the year for student achievement and high performing schools. His remarks were timely, powerful, and inspiring.

Dr. Pillar announced the audit report from Plante and Moran will be presented at the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Board will be asked to vote to accept the audit at the October 8th Board meeting.

Dr. Pillar recognized Jacklin Blodgett for her lead responsibility for Wavapalooza. He stated it involved a lot of work and was a wonderful event. Dorothy Blackwell worked closely with Jacklin planning Wavapalooza, along with several parents and staff. He congratulated Jacklin on a job well done.

***Public Comment***

None

***Other Board Business***

Member Suttles gave support to the comments made by Superintendent Pillar regarding the "Keep Learning...Our Future Depends on It" campaign. She stated Doug Stites of Capital Area Michigan Works! asked media sources to commit to a 10-year campaign as sponsors. She is pleased to say that everyone committed to the campaign with the understanding there is no money. Member Suttles encouraged business owners to put the decals in their windows.

Member Martin reported she attend the ISOA meeting last week. Discussion took place about moving the legislative breakfast from a February date to late November/early December. With regard to the IISD book on professional development opportunities, Member Martin indicated every teacher received one. She indicated Board members can also participate in the classes.

Member Knechtel commended the *Lansing State Journal* for the article on the K-4 Spanish emersion. He noted it is nice to read something very positive and be ahead of the curve.

Member Knechtel expressed a concern about customer service and urged a review of how people are treated at Waverly High School.

Dr. Pillar asked the Board to consider going to closed session for the purpose of discussing negotiations. A motion was presented by Member Slocum and supported by Member Jones. MOTION: The Board of Education enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing negotiations. No further action will take place in the meeting.

Roll call vote was taken, with all members present (Members Brewer-Williams, Jones, Broughton, Slocum, Suttles, Knechtel, and Martin) voting aye.

The Board entered into closed session at 8:30 p.m.

***Adjournment***

The Board returned to open session at 10:11 p.m. and adjourned immediately thereafter.

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Respectfully submitted,

Edith J. Suttles, Secretary

rlp  
\*\*\*Consent Agenda

**WAVERLY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 10, 2007**

**FOR INFORMATION\*\*\***

**Subject:           Extended Field Trips**

**Extended Field Proposal**

LuAnn Stuible, middle school teacher, has received permission to plan an extended field trip to Orlando, Florida for an estimated 75 eighth grade students. Tentatively planned in March of 2008, students will be transported by plane and tour bus and will be away from the traditional classroom setting two days. The goal of the annual trip is to broaden student understanding of science and technology and how it relates to life through real world application. Each student will be responsible for his/her own payments. Numerous fundraisers will be offered to help students defray the cost of the trip.

David Gorbe, David Rosin, and Benjamin Knapp, middle school music teachers, have received permission to plan an extended field trip to Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio. The trip is planned for seventh and eighth grade band, orchestra, and choir students as a reward for good grades and behavior. An estimated 150 students are expected to travel by charter bus on Friday, May 30, 2008. Fundraisers will be offered to help students defray the cost of the trip. Students will be away from the traditional classroom setting one day.

A proposal for an extended field trip submitted by Matt Oppenheim, high school teacher and baseball coach, has been approved. The proposed departure date is April 4, 2008, with a return date of April 10, 2008. The destination is Disney World Wide World of Sports in Orlando, Florida. The trip is for the varsity baseball team, plus invited players from the freshman and J.V. teams. It is estimated 16 players will make the trip. The goal of the trip is to continue to build self-discipline and teamwork. The students will benefit by building friendships and teamwork, as well as skills and ability. The students will travel by airplane and ground transportation. The cost per student is approximately \$860, which will be paid by each individual, with fundraising opportunities available. No school will be missed as the trip is planned over Spring Break.