Monday, December 12, 2022 7:00 p.m. 36745 Marquette, Westland MI 48185

## **MINUTES**

#### 189.23 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG – COX

Thomas Corson Buckalew Jr. Creighton Andrew Buckalew

# 190.23 ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE - Hines

Board members present: John F. Albrecht, Tom Buckalew, David R. Cox, Melandie Hines, Frederick L. Weaver, Th.D.

Board members absent: Kimberly R. May, Mark F. Neal

# 191.23 RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS – Dignan

I. William D. Ford Career-Technical Center – Early Childcare/Teacher Education

Dr. Dignan introduced the Early Childcare and Teacher Education students from William D. Ford Career-Technical Center.

Carrie Christesen is a Plymouth-Canton High School student who attends the Early Childcare and Teacher Education program at William D. Ford Career-Technical Center. She shared that on Mondays and Tuesdays they do lesson plans for the preschoolers, on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays they teach the preschoolers math, English, fine and gross motor skills, science and social studies. Carrie expressed that they constantly learn new skills and ways to improve themselves to become future teachers. She is thankful to be a part of the program.

Ace Thornton is a student at Wayne Memorial High School who attends the Early Childcare and Teacher Education program at William D. Ford Career-Technical Center. The Early Childcare and Teacher Education high school students visited the Holocaust Center to learn how to teach the preschoolers about the event of the holocaust without traumatizing them. The program has formed a partnership with the Teacher Cadet program at Stevenson Middle School, the middle school students join the Early Childcare and Teacher Education program on some Mondays and Tuesdays for lesson planning and on some Thursdays for teaching the preschoolers. Ace was thankful to be a part of the program and stated that it has been a great experience.

#### II. Annual Audit – Plante Moran, Jamie Essenmacher and Stacie Michaud

Dr. Dignan introduced Jamie Essenmacher, Lead Partner from Plante Moran, to present the results of the district's June 2022 audit.

Stacie Michaud, Manager for the Plante Moran audit engagement, thanked the business office and gave a special "thank you" to Chanda Cleaves and Kim Markey.

The audit contained audited financial statements, independent audit, management discussion and analysis, face statements, notes to the financials and required supplemental information. The auditors issued Wayne-Westland Community Schools an unmodified "clean" opinion. This is the highest assurance auditors can provide to indicate that the financial information is free of financial misstatements.

#### III. Walker-Winter Board Recommendation - Brohl

Dr. Dignan introduced the Walker-Winter Committee and thanked Mr. John Silveri, Michigan Leadership Institute for his assistance with this proposal.

Kate Brohl, Executive Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction, thanked members of the committee and Mr. John Silveri for their dedication and hard work in developing this proposal. Ms. Brohl stated that the committee recommends that Walker-Winter remain open with the current student boundaries, grade configuration and staffing.

In addition to keeping Walker-Winter open, it is being suggested that Walker-Winter become a magnet school. The plan to become a magnet school will be developed with the help of the district and community stakeholders.

Joseph Lane, Assistant Principal at Hamilton Elementary, mentioned that the advisory committee received a demonstration from Gabrielle Myers, a representative from Apple on how Apple products can help educate Wayne-Westland students. The possible vision that the advisory committee is considering is that all members of the Walker-Winter community will experience creative and innovative learning that strengthens their critical thinking, inspires confidence and collaboration and leads into a lifelong passion for learning.

Karen Dickelman, a teacher at Wildwood Elementary, discussed three potential instructional options that are being considered: Project-based learning, STEM Integration Challenge Based Learning, and Design for Change all aligned with the future vision for Walker-Winter. These options will be shared and explored to determine what will work best for all students.

Julie Mytch, Principal at Walker-Winter Elementary School, discussed the implementation process. In January the Walker-Winter staff will be working

together to redefine the new vision, implement a timeline, and engage in professional development.

The official recommendation is that Walker-Winter Elementary does not close at the end of the 22-23 school year. Instead, it is recommended that Walker-Winter remains open with the current student boundaries, grade configuration, and staffing.

In addition, it is intended to use this as an opportunity to explore different instructional frameworks and approaches that align with our vision for Walker-Winter.

# IV. Recognition of Tom Buckalew – Cox

David Cox shared the following comments from a prepared statement:

Mr. Buckalew graduated from Flint Central High School in 1963. Following graduation, he enrolled at Eastern Michigan University, earning All-American Honors in wresting at 177 lbs. and a Master's Degree. He also attained an Educational Specialist in Administration Master's Degree from Wayne State University.

During his time at Eastern Michigan University, he met Claudia Bruner and they were married in 1967.

Mr. and Mrs. Buckalew both began teaching for Wayne-Westland Community Schools in 1968. Mr. Buckalew was initially hired to teach English at John Glenn High School and a couple of years later began teaching Social studies. During his time at John Glenn, he also served as a Driver Education Teacher, Curriculum Planner, Social Studies Department Head, Assistant Wrestling Coach, Head Wrestling Coach, Senior Class Sponsor, Junior Class Sponsor, Sophomore Class Sponsor, Freshman Class Sponsor, and Cafeteria Supervisor.

He was the John Glenn Assistant Wrestling coach for 15 years, taking over as head coach from Bob Lusk in 1983. Bob Lusk was Mr. Buckalew's dear friend and mentor, who unfortunately passed away on Oct 26th. Mr. Buckalew served as head coach until 1990.

Both of Mr. Buckalew's children graduated from John Glenn High School, Anne Elliott (Buckalew) in 1989 and Cory Buckalew in 1990. His grandson Tommy is currently a freshman at John Glenn and is on the wrestling team.

Mr. Buckalew reached tenure in the district in 2003 and retired from John Glenn in 2009.

After retiring in 2009, he decided he still had more to give to our community, so he ran for School Board, was elected and has served on the board of education for 12 years.

# 192.23 CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: AGENDA ITEMS - Cox

There were no public comments.

# 193.23 CONSENT AGENDA

- I. MINUTES
  - a. Regular Meeting Minutes November 14, 2022
- II. HUMAN RESOURCE ITEMS
  - a. Resignations: Administrative, Instructional, Non-Affiliated Personnel

Charles Sorentino Taura Sadvery Kayla Jarrells

b. Placements: Administrative, Instructional, Non-Instructional, Non-Affiliated Personnel

Scott Kelley
Kelleen Villa
Jessica Acosta
Dawn Adkins
Melissa Beaven
Sarah Bellers-Napier
Angela Christy
Teara Doutre
Courtney Kirkpatrick
Renee Kuczeski
Kirsten Ollis
Leslie Theodorakakos

#### III. BUSINESS & FINANCE ITEMS

- a. Payment of Invoices (under separate cover)
- b. Investment Report

Felicia Adams Erica Morell Trenten Arthur

- IV. HEAD START MONTHLY REPORT (under separate cover)
- V. 2023 Board of Education Regular Meeting Schedule

# VI. DONATIONS

The following donation was made to Wayne-Westland Community Schools for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Rewards:

a. Hype Athletics - Ali Sayed: Hype Athletic Day Passes

The following donation was made to Schweitzer Elementary School for the purchase of tickets to the Henry Ford Museum IMAX Polar Express field trip:

a. Dermatology Center of Lake Orion – Dr. Madeline Turner:
 Monetary donation

The following donation was made to Wayne-Westland Community Schools for the Monthly Compassion Student Winner Reward:

a. Wayne Ford Civic League – Vic Barra: Gift cards

Resolved, that the board approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion by J. Albrecht, support by F. Weaver.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

MOTION PASSED

#### 194.23 BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Cox

I. Superintendent's Evaluation Committee – Albrecht

Mr. Albrecht shared the following comments from a prepared statement:

This meeting was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. Present were John Albrecht, John Dignan, Kimberly May, Mark Neal, April Ostrander and Cheryl Watson (notetaker).

Dr. Dignan reviewed his goals as they relate to the Strategic Plan:

- School planning and support PLCs and MTSS with a focus on Tier 1 supports.
- 2. Student Growth Focus on literacy using NWEA and Read 180 data.
- 3. Continue to review, analyze, and adapt resources for efficient alignment to meet student and community needs.

Dr. Dignan also included a personal goal of engaging the community with consistent communication using a variety of platforms to keep parents and students continuously informed. Opportunities for parent/community engagement and feedback, strategies for attracting and retaining students and staff, and easily accessible information on our website will also be part of the focus of his work.

Possible internship opportunities for students based on funding that might be released, and focusing on ways to enhance soft skills for our students were also discussed.

There will be a number of ways to collect artifacts to present to the board for the final evaluation of the superintendent. The next meeting will be held at the end of February or early March of 2023.

A full copy of these minutes is included in the December 12, 2022 board agenda book.

# II. Finance Committee Report – Cox

Mr. Cox shared the following comments from a prepared statement on behalf of Ms. May:

The Finance Committee met on December 1, 2022, at 4:30 pm via Zoom.

Mrs. Nathan presented a two-year proposal for Design for Change funded by both ESSER funds and donations.

Mr. Wenzel shared the purchase of Chromebooks for Hicks, Roosevelt/McGrath, and Taft using Title I funds. He also shared the purchase of ten network switches and licensing to support the devices using general funds.

Mr. VanderZee explained the recommendation for digital signage. Mr. Underwood shared the bid package 8 award for Elliot, Hicks, Roosevelt/McGrath.

Mrs. Cleaves presented the purchase of Humanex on behalf of Dr. Offili. The purchase will be made using general funds. She also shared both the Investment Report and the Monthly Check Register.

Dr. Dignan shared district updates and kind words to Mr. Buckalew. Mr. Buckalew shared his farewell sentiments with the committee and Ms. May thanked Mr. Buckalew for his mentorship and trust.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm.

# 195.23 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BUSINESS SERVICE & FINANCE - Cleaves

I. Recommendation to Purchase Title I Technology

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item I. as presented. Motion by J. Albrecht, support by M. Hines.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

#### MOTION PASSED

II. Recommendation for Digital Signage

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item II. as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by J. Albrecht.

# **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

#### MOTION PASSED

III. Recommendation Regarding Bid Pack #8 – Addition and Remodeling Projects for Elliott, Hicks & Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary Schools

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item III. as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by J. Albrecht.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2

#### MOTION PASSED

# IV. Recommendation to Purchase Meraki Network Switches and Licensing

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item IV. as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by J. Albrecht.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2

#### MOTION PASSED

## V. Recommendation to Award Humanex Ventures Contract

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item V. as presented. Motion by J. Albrecht, support by F. Weaver.

# **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2

#### MOTION PASSED

# VI. Recommendation to Purchase Design for Change

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item VI. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by F. Weaver.

# **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2

#### MOTION PASSED

# VII. Recommendation to Approve Out-of-State Conference

Was removed and will be discussed by the policy committee.

# 196.23 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT ITEMS – Curry

- New Program or Course Proposal
  - a. Advanced Placement Pre-Calculus

Resolved, that the board approve Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Item a. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by F. Weaver.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2

# MOTION PASSED

# b. Financial Math Literacy

Resolved, that the board approve Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Item b. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by F. Weaver.

# **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

#### MOTION PASSED

#### 197.23 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF HUMAN RESOURCE ITEMS – Ofili

- Assistant Principal of John Glenn High School Scott Kelley
  - Dr. Alex Offili shared Mr. Kelley's academic and professional background.

Mr. Scott Kelley - Thanked everyone, very excited and cannot wait to start building relationships.

Resolved, that the board approve Human Resource Item I. as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by T. Buckalew.

# **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

#### MOTION PASSED

II. Assistant Principal of Wayne-Westland Innovative Academy Kelleen Villa

Dr. Alex Ofili shared Ms. Villa's academic and professional background.

Resolved, that the board approve Human Resource Item II. as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by J. Albrecht.

# **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2

MOTION PASSED

#### 199.23 BOARD OFFICER INTERESTS – Hines

Board trustees were reminded that now is the time to think about whether or not they would like to hold an officer seat for the upcoming calendar year. If board trustees are interested in holding a specific position, they should notify Ms. Melandie Hines of their interests.

# 200.23 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS – Dignan

Dr. Dignan shared the following comments from a prepared statement:

- Thank you to the Walker-Winter Committee that has been meeting the last few months.
- The Communications Department has reviewed our internal and external communications methods. Here is an update on how we share district information with staff and our families.
  - The Wayne-Westland Wrap-Up- A digital newsletter emailed to all staff, secondary students and our families every other week.
  - Connections Newsletter- A printed newsletter mailed to the entire community three times a year in January, June and August

- Superintendent Letters- As needed based on topics.
- I wish everyone the best over the holidays. Second semester starts on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Tonight - we are honored to pay tribute to Mr. Tom Buckalew's service on the WWCS Board of Education, Mr. Buckalew not only spent many years serving WWCS as a board member, but was also a teacher in the district and we know that his service here is just one example of his lifetime of service.

He was proud of our school system and he was dedicated to making us the best we could be. His life blessed ours, and will remind us to be cheerful, encouraging, and to put children first as we lead WWCS. Thank you for everything you have done.

# 201.23 CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: NON-AGENDA ITEMS (GENERAL) - Cox

Eric Cleereman, City of Wayne Council Member, asked the district to contact Wayne County to request a school zone posted speed limit on Newburgh near Marquette.

Shanna Hartwell, parent, staff member, and union president for the paraprofessional's union - introduced herself.

# 202.23 REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS, BOARD OF EDUCATION - Cox

- F. Weaver: Welcomed Mr. Kelley and Ms. Villa, thanked Ms. Cleaves and staff and gave a special thank you to Mr. Buckalew for everything.
- M. Hines: Thanked Mr. Buckalew for being an amazing mentor. She mentioned being able to attend the basketball game at Wayne Memorial High School. She thanked Ms. Cleaves and her team for their hard work on the audit. She was happy to hear that Walker-Winter will remain open. She loves having Dr. Dignan on staff and the things happening in the district. She is thankful to be a board member and congratulated the new staff.
- J. Albrecht: Congratulated Mr. Kelley and Ms. Villa, and thanked Thomas and Creighton Buckalew for leading the pledge. He reminisced about his time spent working with Mr. Buckalew as an educator, administrator and fellow board member. He mentioned being awed by Mr. Buckalew's commitment to the community and his integrity.
- D. Cox: Mentioned that he and Mr. Buckalew first met at a parent-teacher conference for his child. He commented that all of the wonderful things that have been said about Mr. Buckalew are absolutely true, that he is unflappable and has always maintained an attitude to listen and see the point of the person speaking before responding. He expressed a warm welcome to Ms. LeWanna Abney-

Mitchell on being the newest elected board member. Mr. Cox mentioned the loss of a dear friend of the district Mr. Andrew Spisak.

Mr. Cox also shared the following comments from a prepared statement on behalf of Ms. May:

Mr. Buckalew, I consider you a colleague, a confidante, and a friend. You welcomed me to the board with open arms. You took the time to get to know me, to share and listen to multiple perspectives and ask questions, and most importantly, we have laughed! Over the last two years, we have established a genuine friendship built upon respect and love.

You have a genuine love for Wayne-Westland Community Schools and you disseminate that love to all that you encounter. Your dedication is never in question and I thank you for sharing that with me. Because of you I understand the importance of pausing thus allowing me to be more thoughtful and thorough in my decision-making, not to be afraid to ask questions and to extend myself to others.

While I know this is not goodbye because you can't get rid of me! I want to take this moment to say, thank you for being you, thank you for being ALL that you have been to Wayne-Westland Community Schools; a teacher, coach, board member, supporter, and most importantly a friend. P.S. I will miss my buddy kicking my butt with his closing comments!

Buckalew: Mentioned that the county may want to consider a pedestrian light at Newburgh and Marguette. He expressed that the district is committed to the students and taxpayers and the audit shows that the district does it well. He applauded Ms. Cleaves and the business staff for their work. He has enjoyed hearing all of the nice things about himself. He expressed that he has taken far more away from his experience as a board member. His takeaway is that he has been able to work with over 12 board members, dealt with serious issues and developed some lasting friendships. During his time on the board of education, the district has seen 4 superintendents and 3 interim superintendents. He mentioned that Dr. Dignan has been a pleasure to work with. He has had the opportunity to participate in learning opportunities at MASB, which was probably the equivalent of another master's degree. Mr. Buckalew loved being a part of the school board and felt that it had been truly rewarding, he appreciated that the pledge for this meeting was led by his grandsons and the support of his family. He mentioned serving on the finance committee and learning from the staff members why and how things get done. Tony Spisak, Chanda Cleaves, Yvonne Scott and Kim Markey as a group are invaluable. Wayne-Westland is a team and a family and he was proud to have been a part of it.

# 203.23 ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, that the board adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm. Motion by T. Buckalew, support by J. Albrecht.

# **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

**MOTION PASSED** 

Melandie Hines Board of Education Secretary Wayne-Westland Community Schools

Monday, December 12, 2022 7:00 p.m. 36745 Marguette, Westland MI 48185

#### **MINUTES**

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# 190.23 ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE - Hines

Board members present: John F. Albrecht, Tom Buckalew, David R. Cox, Melandie Hines, Frederick L. Weaver, Th.D.

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#### ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2

#### MOTION PASSED

#### 194.23 BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Cox

Superintendent's Evaluation Committee – Albrecht

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The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm.

# 195.23 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BUSINESS SERVICE & FINANCE - Cleaves

I. Recommendation to Purchase Title I Technology

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item I. as presented. Motion by J. Albrecht, support by M. Hines.

# **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

# **MOTION PASSED**

II. Recommendation for Digital Signage

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item II. as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by J. Albrecht.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2

# **MOTION PASSED**

III. Recommendation Regarding Bid Pack #8 – Addition and Remodeling Projects for Elliott, Hicks & Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary Schools

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item III. as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by J. Albrecht.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

#### MOTION PASSED

# IV. Recommendation to Purchase Meraki Network Switches and Licensing

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item IV. as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by J. Albrecht.

# **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

#### MOTION PASSED

#### V. Recommendation to Award Humanex Ventures Contract

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item V. as presented. Motion by J. Albrecht, support by F. Weaver.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

#### MOTION PASSED

# VI. Recommendation to Purchase Design for Change

Resolved, that the board approve Business Service & Finance Item VI. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by F. Weaver.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

#### MOTION PASSED

# VII. Recommendation to Approve Out-of-State Conference

Was removed and will be discussed by the policy committee.

# 196.23 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT ITEMS – Curry

- I. New Program or Course Proposal
  - a. Advanced Placement Pre-Calculus

Resolved, that the board approve Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Item a. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by F. Weaver.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

# MOTION PASSED

b. Financial Math Literacy

Resolved, that the board approve Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Item b. as presented. Motion by M. Hines, support by F. Weaver.

# **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2

#### MOTION PASSED

#### 197.23 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF HUMAN RESOURCE ITEMS – Ofili

I. Assistant Principal of John Glenn High School Scott Kelley

Dr. Alex Offili shared Mr. Kelley's academic and professional background.

Mr. Scott Kelley - Thanked everyone, very excited and cannot wait to start building relationships.

Resolved, that the board approve Human Resource Item I. as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by T. Buckalew.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

#### MOTION PASSED

II. Assistant Principal of Wayne-Westland Innovative Academy Kelleen Villa

Dr. Alex Ofili shared Ms. Villa's academic and professional background.

Resolved, that the board approve Human Resource Item II. as presented. Motion by F. Weaver, support by J. Albrecht.

# **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2

#### MOTION PASSED

#### 199.23 BOARD OFFICER INTERESTS – Hines

Board trustees were reminded that now is the time to think about whether or not they would like to hold an officer seat for the upcoming calendar year. If board trustees are interested in holding a specific position, they should notify Ms. Melandie Hines of their interests.

#### 200.23 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS – Dignan

Dr. Dignan shared the following comments from a prepared statement:

- Thank you to the Walker-Winter Committee that has been meeting the last few months.
- The Communications Department has reviewed our internal and external communications methods. Here is an update on how we share district information with staff and our families.
  - The Wayne-Westland Wrap-Up- A digital newsletter emailed to all staff, secondary students and our families every other week.
  - Connections Newsletter- A printed newsletter mailed to the entire community three times a year in January, June and August

- Superintendent Letters- As needed based on topics.
- I wish everyone the best over the holidays. Second semester starts on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Tonight - we are honored to pay tribute to Mr. Tom Buckalew's service on the WWCS Board of Education, Mr. Buckalew not only spent many years serving WWCS as a board member, but was also a teacher in the district and we know that his service here is just one example of his lifetime of service.

He was proud of our school system and he was dedicated to making us the best we could be. His life blessed ours, and will remind us to be cheerful, encouraging, and to put children first as we lead WWCS. Thank you for everything you have done.

# 201.23 CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: NON-AGENDA ITEMS (GENERAL) - Cox

Eric Cleereman, City of Wayne Council Member, asked the district to contact Wayne County to request a school zone posted speed limit on Newburgh near Marquette.

Shanna Hartwell, parent, staff member, and union president for the paraprofessional's union - introduced herself.

## 202.23 REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS, BOARD OF EDUCATION - Cox

- F. Weaver: Welcomed Mr. Kelley and Ms. Villa, thanked Ms. Cleaves and staff and gave a special thank you to Mr. Buckalew for everything.
- M. Hines: Thanked Mr. Buckalew for being an amazing mentor. She mentioned being able to attend the basketball game at Wayne Memorial High School. She thanked Ms. Cleaves and her team for their hard work on the audit. She was happy to hear that Walker-Winter will remain open. She loves having Dr. Dignan on staff and the things happening in the district. She is thankful to be a board member and congratulated the new staff.
- J. Albrecht: Congratulated Mr. Kelley and Ms. Villa, and thanked Thomas and Creighton Buckalew for leading the pledge. He reminisced about his time spent working with Mr. Buckalew as an educator, administrator and fellow board member. He mentioned being awed by Mr. Buckalew's commitment to the community and his integrity.
- D. Cox: Mentioned that he and Mr. Buckalew first met at a parent-teacher conference for his child. He commented that all of the wonderful things that have been said about Mr. Buckalew are absolutely true, that he is unflappable and has always maintained an attitude to listen and see the point of the person speaking before responding. He expressed a warm welcome to Ms. LeWanna Abney-

Mitchell on being the newest elected board member. Mr. Cox mentioned the loss of a dear friend of the district Mr. Andrew Spisak.

Mr. Cox also shared the following comments from a prepared statement on behalf of Ms. May:

Mr. Buckalew, I consider you a colleague, a confidante, and a friend. You welcomed me to the board with open arms. You took the time to get to know me, to share and listen to multiple perspectives and ask questions, and most importantly, we have laughed! Over the last two years, we have established a genuine friendship built upon respect and love.

You have a genuine love for Wayne-Westland Community Schools and you disseminate that love to all that you encounter. Your dedication is never in question and I thank you for sharing that with me. Because of you I understand the importance of pausing thus allowing me to be more thoughtful and thorough in my decision-making, not to be afraid to ask questions and to extend myself to others.

While I know this is not goodbye because you can't get rid of me! I want to take this moment to say, thank you for being you, thank you for being ALL that you have been to Wayne-Westland Community Schools; a teacher, coach, board member, supporter, and most importantly a friend. P.S. I will miss my buddy kicking my butt with his closing comments!

Buckalew: Mentioned that the county may want to consider a pedestrian light at Newburgh and Marquette. He expressed that the district is committed to the students and taxpayers and the audit shows that the district does it well. He applauded Ms. Cleaves and the business staff for their work. He has enjoyed hearing all of the nice things about himself. He expressed that he has taken far more away from his experience as a board member. His takeaway is that he has been able to work with over 12 board members, dealt with serious issues and developed some lasting friendships. During his time on the board of education, the district has seen 4 superintendents and 3 interim superintendents. He mentioned that Dr. Dignan has been a pleasure to work with. He has had the opportunity to participate in learning opportunities at MASB, which was probably the equivalent of another master's degree. Mr. Buckalew loved being a part of the school board and felt that it had been truly rewarding, he appreciated that the pledge for this meeting was led by his grandsons and the support of his family. He mentioned serving on the finance committee and learning from the staff members why and how things get done. Tony Spisak, Chanda Cleaves, Yvonne Scott and Kim Markey as a group are invaluable. Wayne-Westland is a team and a family and he was proud to have been a part of it.

# 203.23 ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, that the board adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm. Motion by T. Buckalew, support by J. Albrecht.

# **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2

**MOTION PASSED** 

Melandie Hines

**Board of Education Secretary** 

Wayne-Westland Community Schools