

**Minutes of the  
PEWAMO-WESTPHALIA  
Board of Education  
July 21, 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. Hafner, J. Pohl, L. Pung, J. Smith, B. Weber, P. Weber

**Board Members Absent:**

***Motion made by J. Hafner, supported by B. Weber, to approve the agenda, consent agenda and meeting minutes from the Special Board Meeting on June 23, 2025. Motion carried 7-0.***

***Motion made by J. Hafner, supported by L. Pung to remove VII A - Resignation of Kerri Hafner from the consent agenda and move to New business carried 7-0.***

**Bond/Facilities Subcommittee Report** - MHS cafeteria is to be complete by July 31st, paneling is installed and lighting will be done mid-week. The fire alarms are being installed at the Elementary School, once they are inspected we can move forward with the State inspection. Concrete repair for the rear entrance will begin at the end of this week. J. Hafner stated that we need to move things along, as we do not want to push back the start date of school.

**Administrator's Reports:**

**Facilities and Safety Director:** J. Dygert reported that the MHS cafeteria ceiling is installed, the drop ceiling and floors need to be completed. Elementary occupancy is the first priority. Preparing for bus routes, we are unfortunately losing a dependable bus driver and are looking to hire a bus driver specifically for sports trips.

**Technology and Student Specialist:** J. Miller stated that the BenQ Smartboard is installed at the Elementary School. Staff will be provided training. At the MHS, we are half way done with projector installation. There are eight students in the summer CRASH program, making up credits towards graduation. This program has been a huge success. Getting ready for Chromebook deployment in August.

**Elementary School Principal:** E. Fedewa introduced Paige Platte, the new Special Education teacher. The Elementary School staff reports back August 19th, when the BenQ Smartboard training will take place. Discussion was held regarding ChatGPT.

**Athletic Director/MHS Assistant Principal:** T. Forton welcomed Victoria Luzier, the new MS Cross Country Coach, excited to have her on our team. The weight room project should be complete before the last dead week, Athletic passes are now available, same price as last year.

**Middle-High School Principal:** R. Portenga welcomed Victoria Luzier, the new MS Health/PE teacher. We organized an AI Gemini session with CCRESA, a 3 hour training session will be held on August 18th. Haley and Ericka, in the front office, have come in and ordered supplies to ensure nothing gets delayed, I appreciate their hard work. R. Portenga discussed our PSAT/SAT/AP scores from the past year and how much the numbers have grown over the years. Foosball and ping pong tables were purchased for the cafeteria, solely from fundraisers and parent donations.

**Superintendent:** Five total students interviewed for the position of BOE Student Representatives. Eve Martin and Tyler Spitzley will be the Student Representatives. The other 3 students agreed to be on the Superintendent Board Committee. Discussion was held regarding cost for Neola versus Thrun. Thrun is holding a webinar, anyone is welcome to attend.

**Communications:** (3 minutes per person) -

Carol Sanborn - Against the turf, it is a want not a need. Turf should not be considered for health and financial reasons. The community should donate to the turf.

Dean Schaffer- Thanked the board for their service, has attended every meeting the last two years. Presented dollar amounts for operating/maintaining costs for turf versus natural grass. Believes we can do better with the funds available.

Ashley Kline - Expressed concerns regarding the toxins in turf and possible long term effects. Children are especially vulnerable. We need to make the safest decision possible.

Alanna George - Has attended board meetings for the past 5 years and has witnessed difficult board votes. PQ funds were only going to be used for turf if there were funds left. There are lots of versatile options to use the remaining funds.

Bernie Lehman - Has had kids graduate through PW. We have first class education and need first class facilities to go with it.

Jessie Thelen - Appreciates everything the board has done and appreciates the efforts of the sub committee. Big supporter of the turf.

Jimmy Lehman, History Teacher and Coach - All kids can benefit from the turf surface, it's not just football. Baseball, softball, and band, can use the artificial surface. PE classes will have a lot more use from the turf.

Tim Schafer- The way this bond is going, will be shocked if another bond goes through.

Adam Bennett - Played Division 1 high school and college. There are advantages of playing on real grass. When playing on turf we saw an increase in non contact injuries.

John Arens - Takes care of the fields at PW, discussed costs for field maintenance.

Nathan Thelen - Wants to see the bond finishing strong, not cutting any corners.

Michelle Kline - Thanked the board for their work and dedication. Expressed concerns with health issues from the chemicals in turf.

Lou Markle - Concerned about not having enough money to finish the bond, wants us to pay the interest.

Barb Thelen - Concerns about turf, asked to move the meeting out to the football field.

#### **Personnel:**

**Accept the resignation of Kerri Hafner, Shared Services Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.**

**Approve the recommendation to hire Paige Platte, Special Education Teacher, effective August 11, 2025.**

**Approve the recommendation to hire Callie Simmon, Elementary Student Council, effective August 1, 2025.**

**Approve the recommendation to hire Victoria Luzier, Middle School Physical Education Teacher, effective July 21, 2025.**

**Approve the recommendation to hire Victoria Luzier, Middle School Cross Country Coach, effective July 21, 2025.**

**Approve the recommendation to hire a designated sports trip bus driver.**

**President's Comments:** J. Hafner stated that we are faced with an important decision, I ask that we have healthy respectful conversations. It's okay to not agree and not support everything. One thing I do ask of all of us, whatever decision is made, let's not let it ruin our relationships as a community and the board. We have a job and task before us; let's treat the community and board with respect. This is not an easy decision. Let's have a healthy conversation.

#### **Old Business:**

**Approve the MHS Student-Parent Handbook for the 2025-26 School Year - Motion made by B. Weber, supported by L. Pung, to approve the MHS Student-Parent Handbook for the 2025-26 -school year. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Approve the Athletic Handbook for the 2025-26 School Year - Discussion was held for the Field House and MHS gym being open on Sundays from 12pm-8pm. Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Smith, to approve the Athletic Handbook for the 2025-26 school year. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Approve the Revised L-4029 for 2025 - Motion made by J. Pohl, supported by J. Farmer, to approve the revised L-4029 for 2025. Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **New Business:**

**Approve the MHS School Staff Handbook for the 2025-26 School Year - Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Pohl, to approve the MHS School Staff Handbook for the 2025-26 School Year. Motion carried 7-0.**

Approve the recommendation to reduce the Athletic Director/MHS Assistant Principal's (T. Forton) credit card limit to \$15,000 and increase the MHS Principal's (R. Portenga) credit limit to \$10,000 - *Motion made by J. Farmer, supported by L. Pung, to approve the recommendation to reduce the Athletic Director/MHS Assistant Principal's (T. Forton) credit card limit to \$15,000 and increase the MHS Principal's (R. Portenga) credit limit to \$10,000. Motion carried 7-0.*

Approve the recommendation to issue a credit card to Kali Feldpausch, Human Resources Business Professional, with a credit limit of \$5,000 - *Motion made by J. Pohl, supported by B. Weber, to approve the recommendation to issue a credit card to Kali Feldpausch, Human Resources Business Professional, with a credit limit of \$5,000. Motion carried 7-0.*

Approve the MHSAA Cooperative Team Agreement - Discussion was held regarding future Cooperative Team Agreements. *Motion made by J. Pohl, supported by L. Pung, to approve the MHSAA Cooperative Team Agreement. Motion carried 6-1. Aye; J. Farmer, B. Weber, J. Smith, J. Hafner, L. Pung, J. Pohl. Nay; P. Weber*

Approve the School Loan Revolving Fund Annual Loan Application - *Motion made by J. Smith, supported by B. Weber, to approve the School Loan Revolving Fund Annual Loan Application. Motion carried 7-0.*

Approve tenure year for Britney Nurenberg and Erica Nartker - *Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Farmer, to approve tenure for Britney Nurenberg and Ericka Nartker. Motion carried 7-0.*

Approve the recommendation to create and post a new position- sports trip bus driver - *Motion made by J. Smith, supported by L. Pung, to approve the recommendation to create and post a new position- sports trip bus driver. Motion carried 7-0.*

Approve the Shared Services Agreement with St. Mary's Parish - *Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Pohl, to approve the Shared Services Agreement with St. Mary's Parish. Motion carried 7-0.*

Approve the Shared Services Agreement with St. Joseph's Parish - *Motion made by B. Weber, supported by J. Smith, to approve the Shared Services Agreement with St. Joseph's Parish. Motion carried 7-0.*

Approval to award the following bid: Bid Package Field: Katerberg Verhage – Extensive discussion was held regarding Phase I and Phase III. *Motion made by J. Hafner, supported by J. Farmer to take a 5 minute recess at 10:07pm. Motion by B. Weber, supported by J. Smith to return from recess at 10:12pm. Motion made by J. Farmer, supported by B. Weber, to approve the following bid: Bid Package Field: Katerberg Verhage. Motion carried 4-3. Aye; J. Farmer, B. Weber, J. Smith, P. Weber. Nay; J. Hafner, L. Pung, J. Pohl.*

Accept the resignation of Kerri Hafner, Shared Services Teacher, effective June 30, 2025 - *Motion made by J. Smith, supported by L. Pung, to accept the resignation of Kerri Hafner, Shared Services Teacher, effective June 30, 2025. Motion carried 6-0-1 abstained.*

Financial:

Financial Summary Report June 30, 2025, including Special Revenue  
Account Payable Listing, June 30, 2025

Upcoming Dates:

August 4 -10, 2025 - Second Summer Shutdown Week

August 18, 2025 - August Board Meeting

Adjourn: At 10:44 pm meeting adjourned.

  
Approved by Preston Weber, Board of Education Secretary