

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from the July 16, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Wayne RESA Board of Education.

The Wayne RESA Board of Education approved the following items as part of the Consent Agenda:

Approved the following internal applicant(s) for the position(s):

- Garrid Blair, Technology Coordinator – Field Services, effective July 1, 2025
- Jonathan Turner, Technology Coordinator - Field Services, effective July 1, 2025

Approved the following external applicant(s) for the position(s):

- Carrie Rexroat, Administrative Assistant – IT Solutions, effective June 10, 2025
- Shawn Schiappacasse, Junior Server/Network Analyst, effective July 1, 2025
- Sarah Pope, Special Education Consultant – Youth/Adult Division, effective July 7, 2025
- Samantha Holt, Part-time Technical Assistant Internship, effective July 17, 2025
- Ahmad Bshara, Part-time Technical Assistant Internship, effective July 18, 2025

Approved the following leave(s):

- Markita Hall, Executive Director of Educational Services, Intermittent Family/Medical Leave, effective May 29, 2025

Approved the following return from leave(s):

- Jim Stalbaum, Network Architect, Family/Medical Leave, effective July 1, 2025
- Kelly Anderson Parr, Early Childhood Social and Emotional Development Consultant, Family/Medical Leave, effective July 4, 2025

Approved the following schedule premium(s):

- Elizabeth Nelson, General Supervision and Accountability Lead Coordinator, effective July 7, 2025

Schedule Premium pursuant to article 20.8 of the WCSSF Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Approved the nomination of the following representative(s) to the Wayne County Parent Advisory Committee (WCPAC). This is effective as of May 21, 2025.

Samara Wolf	Taylor School District
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Authorized the purchase of a FortiGate Firewall with a 5-year maintenance plan, and 10 fiber transceiver modules from Delta Network Services, Bloomfield Township, MI, in the amount not to exceed \$124,822.54 for the period from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

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, 2025 – June 30, 2025:

Mary Blackmon: \$204.14
Danielle Funderburg: \$ 12.32

Lynda Jackson: \$ 61.88
James Petrie: \$143.80

Approved payment to the K-12 Alliance of Michigan for 2025-2026 dues and supplemental funding and support costs in an amount not to exceed \$85,250.

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Authorized a payment to Eastern Michigan University (EMU) for the Para-to-Teacher program in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Authorized a payment to Wayne State University (WSU) for the Para-to-Teacher program in an amount not to exceed \$675,000 for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Authorized a payment to Grand Valley State University (GVSU) for the Special Education Director program in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Authorized payment of the Administrative Outreach Program Medicaid Claim reimbursement to the following local School Districts and Public-School Academies for services to Medicaid-eligible students, in the amount of \$495,959.39.

DISTRICT/LEA	AMOUNT	DISTRICT/LEA	AMOUNT
Allen Park Public Schools	\$9,779.68	Northville Public Schools	\$26,873.17
Crestwood School District	\$8,920.94	Old Redford Academy	\$1,797.56
David Ellis Academy West	\$4,329.68	Plymouth-Canton Community Schools	\$32,884.50
Dearborn Heights School District #7	\$4,423.67	Redford Union Schools, District No. 1	\$13,702.60
Dearborn City School District	\$38,432.71	School District of the City of River Rouge	\$1,453.79
Detroit Service-Learning Academy	\$1,225.97	Riverview Community School District	\$3,644.61
Ecorse Public Schools	\$3,926.65	Romulus Community Schools	\$3,112.95
Flat Rock Community Schools	\$6,194.93	South Redford School District	\$5,338.30
Garden City Public Schools	\$21,078.69	Southgate Community School District	\$12,707.75
Gibraltar School District	\$7,127.17	Summit Academy – North	\$2,156.86
Grosse Ile Township Schools	\$6,366.99	Taylor School District	\$18,862.44
Grosse Pointe Public Schools	\$21,034.68	Trenton Public Schools	\$11,193.76
School District of the City of Hamtramck	\$7,773.54	Trillium Academy	\$268.24
School District of the City of Harper Woods	\$1,794.19	Van Buren Public Schools	\$8,155.72
Huron School District	\$7,463.87	Wayne-Westland Community School District	\$50,312.79
School District of the City of Lincoln Park	\$48,338.25	Westwood Community School District	\$6,644.13
Livonia Public Schools School District	\$22,241.80	Woodhaven-Brownstown School District	\$33,878.75
Melvindale-North Allen Park Schools	\$10,371.13	School District of the City of Wyandotte	\$32,146.93
TOTAL:			\$495,959.39

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Authorized administration to enter into a contract with Lambert Global, LLC, to provide public relations support including press release development, media relations, and crisis communications to Wayne RESA and Wayne County School Districts in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Authorized the renewal of a contract with Kelley Cawthorne, LLC for legislative consulting and legal services in the amount of \$4,500 per month, for a total of \$54,000 for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Authorized administration to enter into an agreement with DiHydro Services, Inc., Sterling Heights, MI to provide water sampling, analysis and corrosion control and disinfection services at the Wayne RESA Education Center, Annex building, Burger Baylor school and Beacon Center in the amount not to exceed \$51,000 for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Authorized administration to enter into an agreement with NBS Commercial Interiors, Chicago, IL to purchase and install Steelcase furniture for the GSRP project located at Burger school in an amount not to exceed \$302,000 for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Authorized administration to enter into an agreement with W.J. O'Neil Company (W.J. O'Neil), Livonia, MI, for integration of the Annex building HVAC controls graphical interface hosted at the Education Center to the Education Center in the amount not to exceed \$32,600.00 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Authorized administration to enter into agreements with the following subrecipients for completing Strong Beginnings grant requirements in the amounts indicated, for a total amount not to exceed \$1,270,080 for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Subrecipient	Amount
American International Academy	\$181,440
Children's Garden, LLC	\$181,440
Dearborn City School District	\$362,880
Empowered Community Learning Center	\$181,440
Growing Minds Learning Center	\$181,440
Van Buren Public Schools	\$181,440
Total:	\$1,270,080

Authorized administration to enter into contracts with the following Local Education Agencies (LEA), Public School Academies (PSA), and Community-Based Organizations (CBO) for one-time payment for start-up funding for the Great Start Readiness Programs (GSRP) in the amounts indicated, for an amount not to exceed \$2,933,900 for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Subrecipient	Amount
Agape Love Child Care Center, LLC	\$40,000
Al-Wali Child Care Center	\$17,900
Alawie Educational Services	\$35,800
Alhadi Childcare Center, INC	\$17,900
Bridge Academy	\$40,000
Bright Beginnings Montessori DBA Montessori Child Development Center	\$93,700
Children'z Place 2	\$17,900

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Childrens Paradise Learning Center, Inc.	\$107,400
Childtime Childcare, Inc.	\$120,000
Commonwealth Community Development Academy	\$40,000
Creative Montessori Academy	\$40,000
Cross Bridge Action Network	\$35,800
David Ellis Academy West	\$40,000
Detroit Service Learning Academy	\$40,000
Empowered Community Learning Center	\$17,900
Franklin Wright Settlements Inc	\$17,900
Garden City Public Schools	\$161,100
Greater Ebenezer MISS BAPT Church	\$17,900
Greater Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church	\$80,000
High Achievers Montessori Learning Center, L.L.C.	\$40,000
Himawari Preschool, L.L.C.	\$40,000
Inkster Preparatory Academy	\$40,000
Island Kiddie Kampus Child Development Center, Inc.	\$40,000
It Takes a Village Academy LLC	\$40,000
IXL Northville, LLC	\$40,000
IXL Plymouth LLC	\$40,000
KUEHG Corp.dba: KinderCare	\$120,000
Little Hearts Learning Home LLC	\$40,000
Meadowbank Inc.	\$40,000
New Paradigm College Prep	\$40,000
Northville Public Schools	\$160,000
Old Redford Academy	\$40,000
Play Time Day Care LLC	\$40,000
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools	\$435,800
Premier MI Brownstown LLC	\$40,000
Rhema Child Care Center	\$17,900
Riverview Community School District	\$75,800
Someplace Else Learning Factory LLC	\$40,000
Southgate Community School District	\$89,500
Spreading Childcare GS	\$40,000
Summit Academy North	\$57,900
The Basilica of St. Mary Montessori Academy	\$40,000
The Learning Tree Child Care Center - South	\$40,000
The Learning Tree Child Care Center - West	\$40,000
Trillium Academy	\$35,800
Trinity Schools, LLC	\$80,000
Tutor Time (Childtime Group)	\$40,000
University Yes Academy	\$40,000
Wayne-Metropolitan Community Action Agency	\$80,000
Total:	\$2,933,900

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Authorized administration to enter into a contract with Dearborn City School District for a one-time payment for start-up funding for a Strong Beginnings classroom in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Authorized administration to enter into a contract with BFDI Training Institute for Restorative Practices professional learning workshop offerings, coaching, and technical assistance in an amount not to exceed \$34,394.18 for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Authorized administration to enter into an agreement with The Hanover Research Council for Program Evaluation in an amount not to exceed \$51,000 for the period September 1, 2025 through August 30, 2026.

Authorized an amendment to Board Recommendation #124-23-24 to amend allocations for following districts for engaging in Wayne County Executive Office Award, enhancing and expanding the availability of mental health services and supports to K-12 students in Wayne County (WCEO-MH) in the amounts indicated, for a total amount not to exceed \$795,000 for the period October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025.

District	Original Amount	Amended Amount
Dearborn City School District	\$450,000	\$561,335.40
Grosse Ile Township Schools	\$345,000	\$233,664.60
Total:	\$795,000	\$795,000.00

Authorized an amendment to Board Recommendation #292-23-24 to implement Early On activities and services in Wayne County in the amounts indicated, for a total amount not to exceed \$2,339,000 for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Agency	Original Amount	Amended Amount
Chitter Chatter P.C.	\$1,500,000	\$1,572,000
MiSide – Development Center	\$650,000	\$767,000
Total:	\$2,150,000	\$2,339,000

Authorized an amendment to Board Recommendations #334-23-24 and #22-24-25 to extend the expenditure period for the following Public School Academies (PSAs) in the amounts indicated, for a total amount not to exceed \$750,000 for the period July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.

PSA	Amount
Barack Obama Leadership Academy	\$125,000
Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences	\$125,000
Detroit Service Learning Academy	\$125,000
Highland Park Public School Academy System	\$125,000
Hope Academy	\$125,000
Inkster Preparatory Academy	\$125,000
Total:	\$750,000

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Authorized an amendment to Board Recommendation #59-24-25 to amend contracts with the following vendors to provide support to the Statewide System of Support identified Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Schools in the amounts indicated, for a total amount not to exceed \$218,000 for the period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.

Vendor's Name	Original Amount	Amended Amount
BJP Educational and Literacy Coaching LLC	\$60,000	\$60,000
EduVation Consulting	\$80,000	\$98,000
Williams and Associates Consulting Group LLC	\$60,000	\$60,000
Total:	\$200,000	\$218,000

Authorized an amendment to Board Recommendation #320-24-25 to increase Detroit Public School Community District's allocation from \$160,000 to \$180,000 for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Authorized an amendment to Board Recommendation #329-24-25 to amend the following subrecipient transportation allocations for the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) in the amounts indicated, for a total amount not to exceed \$4,410,089 for the period October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.

Subrecipient	Original Amount	Amended Amount
Above & Beyond Learning CTR	\$64,000	\$64,000
Academy for Business and Technology	\$165,000	\$183,000
Al-Wali Child Care Center	\$50,000	\$50,000
Angel Land Child Care and Parent Institute	\$10,000	\$10,000
Arab American Children Center	\$144,000	\$144,000
Audrey's Little Love Bugs	\$30,000	\$30,000
Bambi Land Learning Center	\$96,000	\$96,000
Blessed Beginnings Learning Center	\$65,000	\$65,000
Brainiacs Clubhouse CDC	\$64,500	\$64,500
Bright Start Learning Center LLC A&W Day Care Center	\$75,500	\$75,500
Caniff Liberty Academy	\$0	\$0
Caring Hands Childcare Academy	\$20,000	\$20,000
Chapel Hill Early Childhood Education	\$6,000	\$6,000
Child Star Development Center	\$40,000	\$40,000
Children First Learning Center	\$40,000	\$40,000
Childrens Garden LLC	\$120,000	\$120,000
Children's Paradise Learning	\$160,000	\$160,000
Children'z Place 2	\$40,000	\$40,000
Christios Child Care & Academy	\$4,789	\$4,789
Commonwealth Community Development Academy	\$35,000	\$35,000
Creative Kidz Learning Center	\$0	\$0
Cross Bridge Action Network	\$22,800	\$22,800
Detroit Community Schools	\$20,000	\$20,000
Detroit Leadership Academy	\$28,500	\$28,500
Detroit Public Schools Community District	\$600,000	\$600,000

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Detroit Service Learning Academy	\$28,500	\$28,500
Development Centers Inc	\$5,000	\$5,000
Dk's Childcare and Academy	\$60,000	\$60,000
Dreamy Childrens Center	\$125,000	\$125,000
Dreamy Daycare 2, LLC	\$85,000	\$85,000
Early Learning Prep Greater Sonora Missionary Baptist	\$45,000	\$45,000
Ecorse Public Schools	\$195,000	\$195,000
Education Consulting Solutions It Takes a Village Academy	\$150,000	\$150,000
For Kids Sake	\$10,000	\$10,000
Garden City Public Schools	\$92,000	\$92,000
George Washington Carver Academy	\$75,000	\$75,000
Greater Ebenezer MISS BPT Church Childcare Greater Ebenezer Christian Child Care Center & Kin	\$23,000	\$23,000
Growing Minds Learning Center INC	\$165,000	\$165,000
Hanley International Academy	\$15,000	\$15,000
Jade Child Development Center, INC	\$35,000	\$35,000
Joy Preparatory Academy	\$4,000	\$4,000
Jude Family Childcare Learning CTR	\$20,000	\$20,000
Kid Connection Kid Connection, Inc	\$0	\$0
Kids' Avenue Christian Learning Center	\$50,000	\$50,000
Kingdom Kare Learning Center	\$10,500	\$10,500
Kristy's Early Childhood Development CTR	\$52,500	\$52,500
LACC Childcare Academy INC	\$45,000	\$45,000
Learning Links Academy	\$0	\$0
Little Scholars Day Care Center	\$130,000	\$130,000
Livonia Public Schools School District	\$100,000	\$100,000
Martin Luther King Jr Day Care	\$0	\$0
ndividualME Early Learning Academy LLC	\$45,000	\$45,000
Nene's Little Angel's Daycare LLC	\$65,000	\$65,000
New Greater Bethlehem Temple We Care Child Development Center	\$53,000	\$53,000
New Paradigm Glazer-Loving Academy	\$60,000	\$60,000
Oakland International Academy	\$0	\$0
Oakman Child Care & Development	\$150,000	\$150,000
Quality Child Care & Learning Center	\$50,000	\$50,000
Ready 2 Learn Childcare Center	\$0	\$0
Redford Union Schools, District No. 1	\$35,000	\$35,000
Reign Development Center	\$30,000	\$30,000
School District of the City of Hamtramck	\$53,500	\$53,500
School District of the City of River Rouge	\$75,000	\$100,000

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Someplace Else Learning Factory LLC	\$45,000	\$45,000
Southgate Community School District	\$150,000	\$150,000
Sunrise Education Center	\$14,000	\$14,000
Van Buren Public Schools	\$70,000	\$70,000
Village of Shiny Stars Child Care Center	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total:	\$4,367,089	\$4,410,089

Accepted the following grant(s) for the terms, amounts, and purposes noted:

Grant	Grantor	Amount	Term	Purpose	Responsible Party
Title IX – McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Assistance Grant (i.e. 2025 Homeless Education Grant)	Michigan Department of Education	<p>Total Allocation Amount: \$444,630</p> <p>Carryover: \$333,301</p> <p>Needs Based Additional Funding: \$287,500</p> <p>Snowball Funding: \$143,652</p> <p>Total Availability for the 2024-25 School Year: \$1,209,083</p>	<p>07/01/2024 – 09/30/2025</p>	In collaboration and coordination with Wayne County educational entities to provide comprehensive services to homeless children, youths, and their families.	Educational Services
Wayne County Executive Project Funds	Charter County of Wayne	\$1,000,000	<p>10/01/2025 – 09/30/2026</p>	<p>The Wayne County Executive Project Funds are awarded to assist with the following initiative:</p> <p>Increasing Access to High Quality, High Interest, Culturally Relevant</p>	Educational Services

				Student Texts Across Disciplines to Increase Literacy Outcomes in Wayne County - \$3,788,540	
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The Board also considered and approved the following Action Items:

1. Appointment of Executive Director of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (SEEIS)– Elizabeth Santer

Superintendent’s Comments

Dr. Colbert shared:

- The 2025–2026 school year is officially opened, and Wayne RESA has already moved from planning to execution. We have transitioned seamlessly with a full agenda for the new school year.
 - Today, a candidate has been presented to the Board for an appointment as Executive Director of Special Education and Early Intervention Services.
 - Encouragement is in the air, though fiscal challenges remain. Ongoing concerns about both state and federal funding persist across our districts. Districts have been encouraged to continue to do what they know is best, because schools will open and scholars will arrive ready to learn. RESA remains committed to supporting our constituents throughout the county, while urging state leaders to do what is right for our students, families, communities, and educators.
- Gratitude was extended to the RESA board, legislative team and each district and community for their continued advocacy. Whether it is to denounce federal cuts to Medicaid, or the impact of block grants being proposed for McKinney-Vento funding, or cuts to Title funding, concerns have been expressed about the anxiety that is being created and the harm this will do to students and communities alike. RESA stands committed to promoting public education, as it remains the backbone of this country, and it holds deep importance for us in Michigan.
- Last week, Dr. Colbert and Mike Latvis, Sr. Executive Director of Legislative Affairs, attended the AASA Legislative Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. Michigan was well represented, with new appointments to the Legislative Governing Board, and Dr. Colbert appointed to the AASA Executive Committee. RESA will continue advocating at every level of government.
- The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) continues to stand strong, and RESA encourages all families with four-year-olds to enroll. GSRP offers free, research-based programming that supports academic and social-emotional development, laying a strong foundation for kindergarten and beyond. RESA is especially excited about our GSRP addition and looks forward to the 2026 opening of four-year-old classrooms serving as a top tier training lab for educators and support staff.
- State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice has announced his retirement, and the statewide search for his successor is now in progress. The posting went live on June 25, 2025, and interviews are scheduled for mid-August. The full timeline and process are available on the Michigan Department of Education’s website. The goal is to have the new Superintendent in place by October 4, 2025.

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- Congratulations to Wayne RESA on achieving Cognia accreditation. The following excerpt from Cognia's June 29, 2025 communication was shared with the Board:
We are delighted to inform you that your institution has been awarded Accredited status by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). The three listed regional agencies provide your institution with a highly regarded accreditation that is recognized throughout the world. This action was conferred by the Cognia Global Commission on June 26, 2025.
This accreditation extends five years beyond the previous term ending June 30, 2025. The achievement reflects the collective efforts of RESA Cabinet members, departmental teams, consultants, and Board members who participated in Cognia's interview process.
 - Special thanks to Kurt Rheame for his expertise and proficiency in managing the technological components.
 - Thanks to Dana Chicklas for her attention to detail and coordination of all submitted materials.
 - Appreciation to Deputy Superintendents Kelly Bohl and Beth Gonzalez for their leadership on the accreditation review process, coordinating teams, collecting data, and overseeing submission, with Kurt streamlining the process.
 - Gratitude to Cabinet members, Drew McMechan, Dr. Jennifer Taiariol, Mike Latvis and Rob McCoy, for their contributions to ensure that we showcased all of the data and information on how RESA partners, collaborates and leads in alignment with our vision and mission.
 - Additional thanks to Tiesha Hakim for coordinating meetings and providing support to the team.
 - Kudos to each department and every team member for their intentional focus on improving outcomes. Everyone is responsible for the accreditation review process status. Each person plays a role in our success. Thanks to all for their continued service.
- Congratulations to Khalil El Saghir, RESA Multilingual Consultant, on his election to the National Association of English Learner Program Administrators. Khalil will serve as Vice President for 2025–2026 and transition to President the following year. He joins three other Michigan educators elected to national positions: Kelly Alvarez (Treasurer), Wassam Abdelaziz, and Dr. Isabel Haller-Gryc (Members-at-Large).
- Dr. Colbert also addressed questions related to immunizations, sharing that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services continues to recommend routine immunizations, including recommending the COVID 19 vaccination for everyone ages 6 months and older. This aligns with long standing guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Vaccinations remain one of the most effective ways to prevent serious illnesses, hospitalization and death from vaccine preventable diseases.
- RESA is excited for the academic year ahead. The Wayne County Schools Superintendents' Association Opening Retreat is scheduled for the second week of August, and the full calendar of Wayne County LEA/PSA Superintendents' meetings has been scheduled. RESA will continue to support all districts and district leadership and looks forward to an outstanding school year of service, leadership and collaboration in excellence.

Board Highlights are published by the Office of the Superintendent following monthly meetings of the Wayne RESA Board of Education.