

Highlights from the March 18, 2026, 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):

- Jenni Munroe, Business Services – Business Analyst, effective March 10, 2026

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

- Qasem Yousef, Building Operations Assistant I, effective April 6, 2026

Approved the following leave(s):

- Daymon Tabako, Building Operations Lead, Family/Medical Leave, effective March 3, 2026

Approved the following return from leave(s):

- Nick Mulka, Building Operations Assistant, Family/Medical Leave, effective February 19, 2026

Authorized a purchase from E7 Solutions, Troy, MI 48046 for one year of software licenses and maintenance for Jira Service Manager Data Center for a total not to exceed \$110,398. The renewal is for the period of April 22, 2026, through April 22, 2027.

Authorized purchases from Integrow Numeracy Solutions for assessment and intervention kits (Add+Vantage Numeracy Foundations, Add+Vantage Addition and Subtraction Concepts, and Add+Vantage Course 2) and training (AddVantage Champion) in an amount not to exceed \$85,000 for the period March 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

Authorized a purchase from Nutty Scientists of SE Michigan (Nutty Scientists) of Canton, Michigan for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) kits in an amount not to exceed \$64,110 for the period January 31, 2026 through August 31, 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, February 1, 2026 – February 28, 2026:

Mary Blackmon	\$450.10	Lynda Jackson	\$ 65.25
Danielle Funderburg	\$ 28.13	James Petrie	\$180.20

Authorized payment to the following districts for the 2026 summer learning initiatives in the amounts indicated, for a total amount not to exceed \$521,000 for the period February 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026.

Districts	Amount
Dearborn City School District	\$100,000
Detroit Academy of Arts and Science	\$40,000
Detroit Public Schools Community District	\$156,000
Detroit Service Learning Academy	\$75,000
Redford Union Schools, District No. 1	\$50,000
School District of the City of Lincoln Park	\$50,000
Southgate Community School District	\$50,000
Total:	\$521,000

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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 \$736,979.74.

DISTRICT/LEA	AMOUNT	DISTRICT/LEA	AMOUNT
Allen Park Public Schools	\$13,839.96	Old Redford Academy	\$3,852.95
Crestwood School District	\$18,615.54	Plymouth-Canton Community Schools	\$42,825.24
Dearborn Heights School District #7	\$17,147.89	Redford Union Schools, District No. 1	\$24,746.16
Dearborn City School District	\$73,238.25	School District of the City of River Rouge	\$5,593.37
Detroit Service-Learning Academy	\$4,130.25	Riverview Community School District	\$4,966.80
Ecorse Public Schools	\$2,467.84	Romulus Community Schools	\$3,842.84
Flat Rock Community Schools	\$8,179.97	South Redford School District	\$10,173.45
Garden City Public Schools	\$35,270.42	Southgate Community School District	\$16,164.95
Gibraltar School District	\$10,917.44	Summit Academy – North	\$2,948.50
Grosse Ile Township Schools	\$10,043.31	Taylor School District	\$24,831.61
Grosse Pointe Public Schools	\$29,526.08	Trenton Public Schools	\$17,232.71
School District of the City of Hamtramck	\$13,159.82	The James and Grace Lee Boggs School	\$709.31
School District of the City of Harper Woods	\$1,612.45	Trillium Academy	\$262.53
Huron School District	\$10,340.58	Van Buren Public Schools	\$12,386.11
School District of the City of Lincoln Park	\$88,118.96	Wayne-Westland Community School District	\$59,385.84
Livonia Public Schools School District	\$34,296.32	Westwood Community School District	\$11,106.28
Melvindale-North Allen Park Schools	\$15,691.65	Woodhaven-Brownstown School District	\$40,688.12
Northville Public Schools	\$31,417.76	School District of the City of Wyandotte	\$37,248.48
		TOTAL:	\$736,979.74

Authorized administration to execute a contract with Bayview Electric Company, LLC of Redford, MI for electrical services at Wayne RESA’s (WRESA) Education Center, Burger Baylor, and the Annex building in the amount not to exceed \$60,000 for the period of March 18, 2026 through June 30, 2026.

Authorized administration to enter into a contract with Enviro-Clean Services, Inc. Holland, MI for custodial services at Wayne RESA’s (WRESA) Education Center, Burger Baylor, and the Annex building in the amount not to exceed \$1,126,000 for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Authorized administration to enter into a renewal contract with Follett Software Company in Chicago, Illinois for Destiny Library Software building licenses for Wayne County schools along with annual support in an amount not to exceed \$325,000 for the period July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

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Authorized administration to enter into a renewal contract with Discovery Education of Charlotte, North Carolina for 2026-2027 license fees and annual support for Discovery Education Streaming in an amount not to exceed \$140,000 for the period July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

Authorized administration to enter into contracts with the following recipients for one-time payments for Round 1 start-up funding for the Great Start Readiness Programs (GSRP) in the amounts indicated, for a total amount not to exceed \$39,120 for the period December 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026.

Subrecipient	Legal Vendor Name	Amount
International Child Care Center	INTERNATIONAL CHILD CARE CENTER INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE SOLUTIONS	\$19,560
Nene's Little Angel's Daycare LLC	NENE'S LITTLE ANGELS DAYCARE LCC	\$19,560
Total:		\$39,120

Authorized administration to amend Board Recommendation 182-25-26 with Barton Malow, Southfield, MI for the Wayne RESA's (WRESA) Annex conference center renovation project to correct a typographical error in the contingency amount previously stated. The Board authorizes an amount not to exceed \$9,176,430 which includes \$7,204,294 for construction trades, 15% contingency plus \$60,000 for the main stairway enclosure for a total contingency of **\$1,140,644**; \$102,068 for architectural and civil design, and \$729,424 for CM labor costs, general liability insurance and fees.

Authorized an amendment to Board Recommendation #165-24-25 to increase Flat Rock Community Schools' allocation for purchasing and implementing high-quality mathematics instructional material program from \$29,264.24 to \$32,264.24 for the period February 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026.

Authorized an amendment to Board Recommendation #54-25-26 to alter an agreement with Livonia Public Schools School District for the implementation of Early On activities from \$740,375 to \$760,690 for the period October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026.

Authorized an amendment to Board Recommendation #147-25-26 to amend the following Strong Beginnings operating allocations in the amounts indicated, for a total amount not to exceed \$1,396,800 for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Subrecipient	Legal Vendor Name	Original Amount	Amended Amount
American International Academy	AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY	\$181,440	\$181,440
Children's Garden LLC	CHILDREN'S GARDEN LLC	\$181,440	\$181,440
Dearborn City School District	DEARBORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$362,880	\$362,880
Empowered Community Outreach Services/Empowered CO	EMPOWERED COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES/EMPOWERED CO	\$181,440	\$181,440
Focus Hope	FOCUS HOPE	\$132,000	\$126,720
Growing Minds Learning	GROWING MINDS	\$181,440	\$181,440

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Center INC.	LEARNING CENTER INC		
Van Buren Public Schools	VAN BUREN PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$181,440	\$181,440
Total:		\$1,402,080	\$1,396,800

Authorized an amendment to Board Recommendation #180-25-26 to the following Educational Entities for 61b State Aid funded activities related to Early Middle College (EMC) and Dual Enrollment state approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in the amounts indicated, for a total amount not to exceed \$106,054 for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Educational Entities	Original Amount	Amended Amount
Advanced Technology Academy	\$21,081.11	\$20,027.00
Gibraltar School District	\$2,714.67	\$2,579.00
Grosse Ile Township Schools	\$7,555.11	\$7,177.00
Livonia Public Schools School District	\$9,284.62	\$8,821.00
Riverview Community School District	\$11,075.63	\$10,522.00
Southgate Community School District	\$15,241.46	\$14,479.00
Trenton Public Schools	\$27,602.57	\$26,233.00
Wayne RESA	\$0.00	\$5,292.00
Woodhaven-Brownstown School District	\$11,498.79	\$10,924.00
Total:	\$106,053.96	\$106,054.00

Authorized an amendment to Board Recommendation #197-25-26 to amend the following subrecipient contracts for one-time payments for Round 3 start-up funding for the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) in the amounts indicated, for a total amount not to exceed \$3,059,200 for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Subrecipient	Legal Vendor Name	Original Amount	Amended Amount
Agape Love Child Care Center, LLC	AGAPE LOVE CHILD CARE CENTER, LLC	\$40,000	\$40,000
Al-Wali Child Care Center	AL- WALI CHILD CARE CENTER	\$17,900	\$17,900
Alawie Educational Service	ALAWIE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	\$35,800	\$35,800
Al Hadi Child Care Center INC	AL HADI CHILD CARE CENTER INC	\$17,900	\$17,900
ALL B Home Daycare	ALL B HOME DAYCARE	\$17,900	\$0
Blessed Beginnings Learning Center	BLESSED BEGINNINGS LEARNING CENTER	\$35,800	\$35,800
Bridge Academy	BRIDGE ACADEMY	\$40,000	\$40,000
Bright Beginnings Montessori Child Development Center	BRIGHT BEGINNINGS MONTESSORI-MONTESSORI CHILD DEVE	\$53,700	\$53,700
Children'z Place 2	CHILDREN'Z PLACE 2	\$17,900	\$17,900
Childrens Paradise Learning Center Inc.	CHILDRENS PARADISE LEARNING CENTER INC.	\$107,400	\$107,400

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Childtime Childcare, Inc.	CHILDTIME CHILDCARE, INC	\$120,000	\$120,000
Creative Montessori Academy	CREATIVE MONTESSORI ACADEMY	\$40,000	\$40,000
Cross Bridge Action Network	CROSSBRIDGE ACTION NETWORK	\$17,900	\$17,900
Early Childhood University	EARLY CHILDHOOD UNIVERSITY PLAY TIME DAY CARE LLC	\$40,000	\$40,000
Empowered Community Learning Center	EMPOWERED COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES/EMPOWERED CO	\$17,900	\$17,900
Focus Hope	FOCUS HOPE	\$80,000	\$80,000
Garden City Public Schools	GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$161,100	\$161,100
Greater Ebenezer Miss BPT Church Childcare Greater Ebenezer Christian Child Care Center & KIN	GREATER EBENEZER MISS BPT CHURCH CHILDCARE GREATER EBENEZER CHRISTIAN CHILD CARE CENTER & KIN	\$17,900	\$17,900
Hanley International Academy	HANLEY INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY	\$35,800	\$35,800
High Achievers Montessori Learning Center, L.L.C.	HIGH ACHIEVERS MONTESSORI LEARNING CENTER	\$40,000	\$40,000
Himawari Preschool, L.L.C.	HIMAWARI PRESCHOOL LLC	\$40,000	\$40,000
Inkster Preparatory Academy	INKSTER PREPARATORY ACADEMY	\$40,000	\$40,000
International Child Care Center	INTERNATIONAL CHILD CARE CENTER INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE SOLUTIONS	\$19,650	\$0
Island Kiddie Kampus Child Development Center, Inc.	ISLAND KIDDIE. KAMPUS. CHILD DEVELOPMENT. CENTER.	\$40,000	\$40,000
It Takes a Village Academy LLC	IT TAKES A VILLAGE ACADEMY LLC	\$40,000	\$40,000
IXL Northville, LLC	IXL NORTHVILLE, LLC	\$40,000	\$40,000
IXL Plymouth LLC	IXL PLYMOUTH, LLC	\$40,000	\$40,000
Kids-In-Zion Greater Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church	KIDS-IN-ZION GREATER MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	\$80,000	\$80,000

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KUEHG Corp - KinderCare Education LLC	KUEHG CORP	\$120,000	\$120,000
Little Hearts Learning Home LLC	LITTLE HEARTS LEARNING HOME	\$40,000	\$40,000
Meadowbank Inc.	MEADOWBANK INC.	\$40,000	\$40,000
Nene's Little Angel's Daycare LLC	NENE'S LITTLE ANGELS DAYCARE LLC	\$19,650	\$0
Northville Public Schools	NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$160,000	\$160,000
Oakland International Academy	OAKLAND INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY	\$40,000	\$40,000
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools	PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	\$480,000	\$480,000
Premier MI Brownstown LLC	PREMIER MI BROWNSTOWN LLC	\$40,000	\$40,000
Prosperity Early Learning Center LLC	PROSPERITY EARLY LEARNING CENTER LLC	\$40,000	\$40,000
R.A.C.E Reaching All Children Equally	R.A.C.E Reaching All Children Equally	\$35,800	\$35,800
Rhemas Child Care Center	RHEMAS CHILD CARE CENTER	\$17,900	\$17,900
Riverview Community School District	RIVERVIEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$75,800	\$75,800
Someplace Else Learning Factory LLC	SOMEPLACE ELSE LEARNING FACTORY LLC	\$40,000	\$0
Southgate Community School District	SOUTHGATE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$89,500	\$89,500
Spreading Light Ministry	SPREADING SERVICES LTD.	\$40,000	\$40,000
Starfish Family Services	STARFISH FAMILY SERVICES	\$80,000	\$80,000
Summit Academy North	SUMMIT ACADEMY NORTH	\$57,900	\$57,900
The Basilica Of Saint Mary Montessori Academy	The Basilica Of Saint Mary Montessori Academy	\$40,000	\$40,000
The Goddard School of Canton	THE GODDARD SCHOOL OF CANTON	\$80,000	\$80,000
The Learning Tree Child Care Center, INC South	The Learning Tree Child Care Center, INC South	\$40,000	\$40,000
The Learning Tree Child Care Center, INC West	THE LEARNING TREE-WEST	\$40,000	\$40,000
Trillium Academy	TRILLIUM ACADEMY	\$35,800	\$35,800
Tutor Time Learning Care LLC	TUTOR TIME LEARNING CENTERS LLC	\$40,000	\$40,000

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Village of Shiny Stars Child Care Center	VILLAGE OF SHINY STARS CHILD CARE CENTER	\$17,900	\$17,900
Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency	WAYNE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY	\$80,000	\$80,000
Wayne State University	WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY	\$35,800	\$71,600
Total:		\$3,120,600	\$3,059,200

Authorized an amendment to Board Recommendation #43-25-26 to Act 18 payments to school districts operating special education center programs, to be paid in ten monthly installments for estimated allowable costs in the amounts indicated, for a total amount not to exceed \$164,537,517 for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

DISTRICT/LEA	Original Amount	Amended Amount
Allen Park Public Schools	\$844,603	\$894,167
Dearborn City School District	\$18,281,789	\$17,703,034
Detroit Public Schools Community District	\$47,668,956	\$37,712,005
Garden City Public Schools	\$8,042,657	\$7,056,565
Grosse Pointe Public Schools	\$7,421,255	\$6,619,837
Huron School District	\$2,128,719	\$2,140,804
School District of the City of Lincoln Park	\$19,838,797	\$17,914,973
Livonia Public Schools School District	\$14,412,501	\$13,239,281
Northville Public Schools	\$6,699,467	\$6,779,998
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools	\$7,672,497	\$7,346,454
Redford Union Schools, District No. 1	\$6,854,146	\$6,943,162
South Redford School District	\$1,043,078	\$1,028,281
Taylor School District	\$3,432,058	\$3,421,315
Trenton Public Schools	\$2,865,973	\$2,954,210
Van Buren Public Schools	\$2,038,007	\$1,872,222
Wayne-Westland Community School District	\$13,357,136	\$13,379,959
Westwood Community School District	\$211,337	\$355,149
Woodhaven-Brownstown School District	\$5,716,536	\$5,270,768
School District of the City of Wyandotte	\$14,753,249	\$14,702,781
Total:	\$183,282,762	\$164,537,517

Authorized an amendment to Board Recommendation #61-25-26 to adjust 2025-26 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Flowthrough allocations to local Public-School Academies (PSAs) for utilization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Flowthrough funds for the period of July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

Public School Academy (PSA) IDEA Flowthrough 2025-26	Original Amount	Amended Amount
Academy for Business and Technology	\$145,656	\$145,656
Achieve Charter Academy	\$97,020	\$97,020
Achieve-Detroit	\$0	\$66,402

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Advanced Technology Academy	\$179,172	\$179,172
American International Academy	\$183,456	\$183,456
American Montessori Academy	\$147,609	\$147,609
Barack Obama Leadership Academy	\$73,521	\$73,521
Branch Line School	\$49,266	\$49,266
Bridge Academy	\$85,680	\$85,680
Caniff Liberty Academy	\$25,704	\$25,704
Canton Charter Academy	\$157,752	\$157,752
Canton Preparatory High School	\$104,958	\$104,958
Capstone Academy Charter School (SDA)	\$128,520	\$128,520
Cesar Chavez Academy	\$695,079	\$695,079
Chandler Park Academy	\$220,563	\$220,563
Clara B. Ford Academy (SDA)	\$66,402	\$66,402
Commonwealth Community Development Academy	\$17,136	\$17,136
Cornerstone Jefferson-Douglass Academy	\$79,254	\$79,254
Covenant Schools Detroit	\$289,170	\$289,170
Creative Montessori Academy	\$335,538	\$335,538
David Ellis Academy	\$19,278	\$19,278
David Ellis Academy West	\$118,377	\$118,377
Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences	\$144,900	\$144,900
Detroit Achievement Academy	\$166,320	\$166,320
Detroit Community Schools	\$119,952	\$119,952
Detroit Edison Public School Academy	\$146,286	\$146,286
Detroit Enterprise Academy	\$139,230	\$139,230
Detroit Innovation Academy	\$64,197	\$64,197
Detroit Leadership Academy	\$201,348	\$201,348
Detroit Merit Charter Academy	\$131,355	\$131,355
Detroit Premier Academy	\$137,781	\$137,781
Detroit Public Safety Academy	\$62,118	\$62,118
Detroit Service Learning Academy	\$265,482	\$265,482
Discovery Creative Pathways	\$136,332	\$136,332
Dove Academy of Detroit	\$111,384	\$111,384
Escuela Avancemos	\$41,391	\$41,391
Flagship Charter Academy	\$106,344	\$106,344
Fostering Leadership Academy	\$21,420	\$21,420
Frontier International Academy	\$82,719	\$82,719
George Crockett Academy	\$84,231	\$84,231
George Washington Carver Academy	\$65,646	\$65,646
Global Heights Academy	\$69,867	\$69,867
Hamtramck Academy	\$47,124	\$47,124
Hanley International Academy	\$159,894	\$159,894
Henry Ford Academy	\$111,384	\$111,384
Highland Park Public School Academy System	\$74,907	\$74,907

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Hope Academy	\$91,350	\$91,350
Hope of Detroit Academy	\$301,896	\$301,896
Inkster Preparatory Academy	\$25,704	\$25,704
Ivywood Classical Academy	\$116,361	\$116,361
Jalen Rose Leadership Academy	\$107,100	\$107,100
Joy Preparatory Academy	\$17,136	\$17,136
Keystone Academy	\$172,620	\$172,620
KIPP Detroit Imani Academy	\$25,704	\$40,635
Legacy Charter Academy	\$125,622	\$125,622
Lincoln-King Adams-Young Academy	\$289,170	\$289,170
MacDowell Preparatory Academy	\$64,260	\$64,260
Madison-Carver Academy	\$57,834	\$82,782
Martin Luther King, Jr. Education Center Academy	\$12,852	\$12,852
Metro Charter Academy	\$122,031	\$122,031
Michigan Educational Choice Center	\$32,823	\$32,823
New Paradigm College Prep	\$26,397	\$26,397
New Paradigm Glazer-Loving Academy	\$34,272	\$34,272
Oakland International Academy	\$87,822	\$87,822
Old Redford Academy	\$159,201	\$159,201
Pathways Academy	\$38,556	\$38,556
Pembroke Academy	\$58,464	\$58,464
Plymouth Scholars Charter Academy	\$165,501	\$165,501
Quest Charter Academy	\$211,302	\$211,302
Regent Park Scholars Charter Academy	\$147,798	\$147,798
Riverside Academy	\$72,828	\$72,828
Rutherford Winans Academy	\$34,965	\$34,965
SER YouthBuild Learning Academy	\$55,692	\$55,692
South Canton Scholars Charter Academy	\$175,455	\$175,455
Star International Academy	\$213,381	\$213,381
Summit Academy North	\$578,907	\$578,907
Taylor Exemplar Academy	\$131,985	\$131,985
Taylor Preparatory High School	\$104,958	\$104,958
The Dearborn Academy	\$79,884	\$79,884
The James and Grace Lee Boggs School	\$70,686	\$70,686
Tipton Academy	\$181,251	\$181,251
Trillium Academy	\$283,248	\$283,248
Universal Academy	\$94,185	\$94,185
Universal Learning Academy	\$134,883	\$134,883
University Preparatory Academy (PSAD)	\$515,340	\$515,340
University Preparatory Art & Design	\$369,747	\$369,747
University Preparatory Science and Math (PSAD)	\$311,283	\$311,283
University Yes Academy	\$64,260	\$64,260
Vista Meadows Academy	\$47,124	\$47,124

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Voyageur Academy	\$173,502	\$173,502
Warrendale Charter Academy	\$134,883	\$134,883
Washington-Parks Academy	\$74,214	\$74,214
W-A-Y Academy	\$72,828	\$72,828
WAY Michigan	\$42,840	\$42,840
West Village Academy	\$66,402	\$66,402
Westfield Charter Academy	\$341,208	\$341,208
Weston Preparatory Academy	\$85,617	\$85,617
Total:	\$12,914,055	\$13,020,336

Authorized administration to amend Board Recommendation 201-25-26 to update the ISD Collaboration grant based on notification from the Michigan Department of Education that the grant for October 1, 2025 should reflect reimbursement costs associated with “M-V Homeless,” rather than “ARP,” as ARP utilized COVID funding that is no longer available.

Grant	Grantor	Amount	Term	Purpose	Responsible Party
ISD Collaboration	Michigan Department of Education	\$260,000	10/01/2025 - 01/31/2027	Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (WRESA) (Grantee) is granted from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) (Grantor) for reimbursement of costs associated with M-V Homeless, expanding the state's compliance with federal requirements and enhancing the capacity at the Intermediate School District (ISD) level to Assist local school districts.	Finance

The Board also considered and approved the following Action Items:

1. Superintendent's 2025-2026 Evaluation and Contract Extension

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Colbert shared:

- March Madness signals the transition into the fourth quarter of the school year. March is recognized and celebrated as Reading Month while continuing to encourage literacy each and every day. It is always inspiring to spend time in classrooms across the county, and Dr. Colbert had the opportunity to visit classrooms in the city of Dearborn, including The Dearborn Academy and Dearborn Public Schools' McDonald Elementary School. It was a grateful time spent with kindergartners and third graders.
- Women's History Month is also recognized as a time to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements, leadership, and contributions of women who have shaped our communities, our country, and our world. In March 2026, the theme "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future" is honored. Opportunities such as Wayne RESA's Women's History Breakfast ensure that women's contributions are remembered, inspire future generations of leaders, and elevate women's voices, leadership, and influence. During this month, we honor the women who came before us and those alongside us today, while we educate, inspire, connect, and envision a future in which women's leadership remains central to thriving communities, including education.
- As one of the Wayne County Tribe of Women Superintendents, Dr. Colbert was honored to join four colleagues in the *Getting to the Core* podcast, a Wayne RESA-sponsored podcast hosted by Dr. Carla Postell and Vonetta Clark-Tooles, Educational Improvement Consultants. Participating superintendents included Amy Conway (Gibraltar), Dr. Andrea Tuttle (Grosse Pointe), Dr. Catherine Cost (Interim Superintendent, Wayne-Westland), and Dr. Monica Merritt (Plymouth-Canton). The podcast, recorded in February and published in March, was a meaningful conversation. Participation reflects a commitment to service, sharing stories, and providing content that encourage and inspire school communities.
- Dr. Colbert acknowledged a deep appreciation for the women whose shoulders she stands on, including Dr. Doris Hope Jackson, Dr. Connie Calloway, Dr. Emma Epps, Dr. Sandra Harris, Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson, Dr. Stephanie Burrage, Dr. Vickie Markovitch, and Dr. Marlene Davis. Many of these leaders were included in her dissertation. She also recognized the men who poured into her through mentorship, sponsorship, inspiration, and encouragement, including Dr. William Keane, former Berkley and Oakland Schools superintendent and doctoral program advisor; Superintendent Chris Wigent; Superintendent Mike Flanagan; and Dr. Randy Liepa.
- Dr. Colbert shared that she remains humble and honored to serve as Superintendent of Wayne RESA and does not take the responsibility lightly. The expectations for impact are real, and the importance of influence, credibility, partnership, follow through, and relational trust are significant. Wayne RESA continues to provide intensive support and guidance for more than 43 communities, including 33 school districts and 97 public school academies, serving approximately 261,000 students. Each student matters. The standard of care remains excellent, with a deliberate focus on areas for continuous improvement, which is actively acknowledged and reinforced across the organization each day.
- Every member of the Wayne RESA family plays a vital role in the organization's success and in the support we provide to our constituents. Success is grounded in relational trust, credibility, follow-through, and ongoing support. This work is complex, as not all systems and structures are positioned for immediate progress. While funding is a contributing factor, systemic barriers also persist. Every district is deeply committed to its students, though some require additional support and guidance. Wayne RESA remains committed to both pushing forward and partnering with

districts, recognizing that while this work is challenging, it is essential to ensure that no child or generation is left behind.

- RESA is proud to partner and celebrate with our community partners, such as SEMCA, celebrating its 30th anniversary. This milestone reflects thousands of lives changed through workforce development, training, and career services, and highlights the importance of continued collaboration and innovation.
- RESA was also proud to partner and celebrate with the United Way for Southeastern Michigan at the 10th Annual Women of Influence Summit in Detroit. This work empowers local women, supports early childhood education, and strengthens families. The event honored leaders, including Governor Gretchen Whitmer, City of Detroit Mayor Mary Sheffield, and the Honorable Alice Thompson, with proceeds benefiting vital community programs aligned with Wayne RESA's mission.
- Congratulations were extended to Chief Deputy Superintendent Dr. Sue Carnell of the Michigan Department of Education for 40 years of exemplary service. She was honored by the Wayne RESA Board of Education and the Wayne County Association of School Boards Executive Board and membership. The recognition resonated deeply, reflecting Dr. Carnell's impact across Wayne County and the state of Michigan.
- Special thanks were extended to Redford Service Learning Academy, CEO Maurice Evans, and the school community for inviting Dr. Colbert to participate in the Evans Effect podcast livestream alongside Superintendent Dr. Derrick Coleman (River Rouge Schools). The discussion highlighted early childhood education, pathways into the education profession, Grow Your Own programs in partnership with Eastern Michigan University and Wayne State University, Talent Together, the Michigan Educator Workforce Initiative (MEWI), and the teacher training lab at the new Wayne RESA Early Childhood Center launching in fall 2026. The program will air on Channel 56 in two 30-minute segments.
 - Career and technical education opportunities across the county were also emphasized, including regional aviation, aeronautics, and aerospace initiatives in partnership with the Wayne County Executive's Office and constituent districts.
- RESA is excited to celebrate the first cohort of 36 students graduating from Eastern Michigan University with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Cognitive Impairment (CI) endorsements on Thursday, April 23 at 5:30 p.m. at Wayne RESA.
- Appreciation was extended to the Educational Services department, including the Educational Improvement and Content and Assessment teams, for their leadership in the Instructional Impact Collaborative held at the Ted Scott Belleville Campus of Wayne County Community College District. Gratitude was also extended to UnboundEd for its strong partnership and to CEO Lacey Robinson for serving as a dynamic keynote speaker.
- RESA Board members were encouraged to attend upcoming school visits on Tuesday, April 21, featuring career technical education programs in South Redford School District and Ecorse Public Schools. They were also asked to mark their calendars for Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in Wayne-Westland Community Schools for the MASB Award Ceremony.
- Congratulations to the Wayne RESA Board of Education as a 2025 Whole Board Award Recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award, and to Wayne County school boards having more than 70 Individual Board Award Recipients. These recognitions reflect a continued commitment to ensuring public education remains the backbone of our country.

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