

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2024
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

As noted on the Public Meeting Notice: Live streaming of this meeting was available on our District's YouTube page.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Catherine Griffin. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee Courier, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district website, and district office on January 4, 2024.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Erik Peterson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Sam Stenberg recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Chris Peterson, Bob Minard, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Ben Wopat, Heidi Horton, Mike Malott, Alex Hubing, Alyssa Harlan, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Payton Greer and Sam Stenberg. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: N/A.

Approval of Agenda

S. Gavaghan moved, C. Peterson seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Written and Oral Reports

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Superintendent's Cabinet Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Business Operations Committee - T. Grosskopf reported on agenda items review of architect firms, and department 5-year plans.

CESA #4 Board of Control – C. Griffin reported on the Board of Control's agenda.

Connection with the Community

Payton Greer, Student Representative, reported on:

1. DECA Districts: The DECA team competed at the district level this past week. Noah Stewart was West Salem's top finisher placing first in his event. DECA will travel to Lake Geneva at the end of February for the state competition.
2. Interact Club is having a winter clothing drive this week.
3. The semester is almost done but students will not have regular finals this year.

4. Boys' basketball hosted a holiday tournament over winter break. They will also play in the Midwest Classic at the La Crosse Center this weekend. They play against Fox Valley Lutheran.
5. Girls' basketball hosted a holiday tournament over the break where they beat Milwaukee Academy of Science in an exciting game with Megan Johnson hitting a buzzer-beater to win the game. They play at Viroqua tomorrow.
6. Wrestling, boys and girls, competed at the Bi-State Classic tournament over winter break.
7. Boys' swim upcoming competition is Saturday at Middleton against 14 other schools.

Sam Stenberg, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Boys' hockey had a game Thursday. They play Wisconsin Rapids this week at home.
2. Gymnastics won their last meet against Caledonia.
3. Dance team has a competition this weekend in Kaukauna.
4. Ski and snowboard team practices started today.
5. Theater students are practicing for their upcoming play.
6. Show choir had a competition at Holmen on Saturday and placed 14th.
7. Band and choir alumni pep band will perform this Friday at the boys' basketball game.

Correspondence

A thank you note from Tricia Mulholland was read.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

C. Peterson moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 11, 2023 and the Special Board Meeting of January 2, 2024;
- b. invoices to be paid;
- c. to accept donations from CESA #4 for the High School Tech. Ed. Department, Stephen and Deborah Kraus for the Horace Moran Memorial Fund, from Joshua & Kathleen Stewart for the Middle School STEM Program, from Dinah James for the high school library, from Leo & Shirley Servais and Compeer Financial for the FFA Program, from Duane & Ana Schaper and Daniel Thelen Survivor's Trust for the Angela Labus Memorial Fund, from Bobbi & Jeff Sevier for the High School Art Department;
- d. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendation for 7th grade girls' basketball assistant coach-Tanner Davis and Anna McConkey;
- e. to accept the administration's recommendation for WIAA co-op agreements for boys' hockey, girls' hockey, and gymnastics.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Superintendent Rieber, Elementary Principal Alex Hubing and Director of Pupil Services Heidi Horton presented preliminary information on Open Enrollment limits for the 24-25 school year in regular education and special education. No action was taken.

Superintendent Rieber and High School Principal Mike Malott reviewed topics around policy 5451.01 Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholarship. No action was taken.

The list of to do items / information requests was reviewed. No action was taken.

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended, as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

Board Development

Superintendent Rieber and Director of Instruction Alyssa Harlan discussed topics around Policy 2240 Controversial Issues in the Classroom. No action was taken.

Closed Session

C. Griffin welcomed the motion for closed session: The Board will discuss, consider and, if appropriate, take action pursuant to Wis. Stats §19.85(1) (c) regarding the mid-year evaluation of the superintendent; and regarding nonrenewal/renewal, nonextension/extension, and employment of administrators.

B. Minard moved, R. Fitzgerald seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:51 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: R. Fitzgerald, Aye; S. Gavaghan, Aye; E. Peterson, Aye; C. Peterson, Aye; C. Griffin, Aye; T. Grosskopf, Aye; and B. Minard, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Adjournment

C. Peterson moved, B. Minard seconded to adjourn at 10:04 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk