

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2023
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 May 4, 2023.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Ben Wopat led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Heidi Horton recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Chris Peterson, Bob Minard, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Ben Wopat, Heidi Horton, Charlie Alexander, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representative: Sam Stenberg. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Erik Peterson, Mike Malott and Payton Greer.

Approval of Agenda

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Written and Oral Reports

Policy/Communication & Engagement Committee – C. Peterson reported on the agenda item, reviewed policies with legal and recommended changes.

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

Connection with the Community

Sam Stenberg, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Panther Portfolio introduced to the juniors in their English class. Juniors will have until May 19th to propose their project plan if they want to start their project in the summer.
2. Teacher appreciation week is this week with breakfast, treats and cards for teachers.
3. Prom was this past Saturday and Zoe Coder and Gustaf Bang were royalty.
4. Nine members made the dance team from the tryouts.
5. Ecology club did a highway clean up last weekend.
6. SEP presentations are this Wednesday. There will be an early release for the elementary and middle schools.
7. Solo ensemble State was this past Saturday at UW-La Crosse.

8. School Lunch Hero Day was this past Friday to show appreciation for our school lunch workers.
9. Track - last meet tonight at Viroqua before conference, which is this coming Saturday.
Baseball - won last Monday and Tuesday against Prescott and Westby.
Golf - has a conference tournament this Thursday at Drugan's

Correspondence – None.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

R. Fitzgerald moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 24, 2023;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. to accept the donation from Harry Warriner for the high school physical education class, from the West Salem Volunteer Fire Department for the Random Acts of Kindness Fund, from Caren & James Groose, Dixon Engineering, Inc., J.J. Brennan Company, Inc., Jay Wheaton, American Marine La Crosse, LLC, Brian & Christa Kent, Jeremy & Meredith Tomesh, Alter Metal Recycling, Dakota Supply Group, and Northern Battery for the high school Odyssey of the Mind Team, and from the Lassen Family for the Panther Den;
- d. to accept the resignations of Director of Instruction Deanna Wiatt and Early Childhood Teacher Amber Clark; and
- e. to hire Maggie Maxwell as a 1.0 FTE High School Spanish Teacher.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

C. Peterson moved, R. Fitzgerald seconded to approve the second reading of Board Policy #8600 – Transportation, #8660 – Transportation by Private Vehicle and #0175.1 – School Board Conference, Conventions, and Workshops. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Gavaghan moved, T. Grosskopf seconded to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS,
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ESCROW ACCOUNT WITH RESPECT
TO AND THE DEFEASANCE OF CERTAIN OF THE
GENERAL OBLIGATION CORPORATE PURPOSE BONDS, DATED APRIL 6, 2017

WHEREAS, the School District of West Salem, La Crosse County, Wisconsin (the "District") has outstanding its General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, dated April 6, 2017 (the "2017 Bonds") which were issued for the purpose of paying the cost of (i) a school improvement program consisting of: renovations and additions at the current Middle School; renovations and building infrastructure improvements at the Elementary School; site improvements, including additional parking and a new bus transfer area; and acquisition of related furnishings, fixtures and equipment, (ii) District athletic facilities improvements consisting of: replacing the track and constructing additional track/football stadium seating,

constructing and equipping baseball and softball fields, tennis courts, and a multi-purpose sports and events facility; and completing related site improvements and (iii) refunding certain outstanding obligations of the District;

WHEREAS, the District has \$619,295.00 in debt service funds and other funds on hand (the "Funds") sufficient to defease a portion of the debt service on the 2017 Bonds and to pay associated transaction costs;

WHEREAS, the School Board of the District deems it desirable and in the best interest of the District to transfer and apply such Funds to the defeasance and early redemption of a portion of the 2017 Bonds and to pay associated transaction costs; and

WHEREAS, since the 2017 Bonds are not currently callable, it is necessary for the available Funds to be irrevocably deposited into an escrow account, invested in direct obligations of the United States of America, treated as a portion of the debt service fund for the 2017 Bonds and applied to pay the principal of and interest on as much of the outstanding principal of the 2037 maturity of the 2017 Bonds as possible (the "Defeased Obligations") on the April 1, 2025 early redemption date, taking into account the transaction costs and the prevailing market on the direct obligations of the United States of America.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the District that:

1. Establishment of Escrow Account. The School Board hereby authorizes and directs the officers of the District to enter into an Escrow Agreement with Associated Trust Company, National Association, Green Bay, Wisconsin, as Escrow Agent (the "Escrow Agent"), for the purpose of effecting the provisions of the Resolution.
2. Transfer and Deposit to Escrow Account. The School Board hereby authorizes and approves the transfer and deposit of the Funds into the Escrow Account to be established with the Escrow Agent in an amount sufficient, together with earnings thereon, to provide for the payment of the Defeased Obligations concurrently with the execution of the Escrow Agreement, and the subsequent use, investment and disbursement thereof by the Escrow Agent in the manner provided by the Escrow Agreement.
3. Professional Services. The School Board hereby ratifies and approves the retention of Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated ("Baird") to provide general consulting services in connection with this transaction; Quarles & Brady LLP ("Bond Counsel") to provide limited, special counsel legal services in connection with this transaction; and Causey Demgen & Moore P.C. ("Causey") to provide mathematical verification, and, if necessary, bidding agent services for the escrow securities and related services in connection with this transaction.
4. Redemption of the Defeased Obligations, Notice of Defeasance and Redemption. The Defeased Obligations are hereby called for redemption on April 1, 2025. The School Board hereby directs the Escrow Agent pursuant to the Escrow Agreement to provide a notice of the defeasance of said Defeased Obligations and a notice with respect to the redemption of the Defeased Obligations at the times and in the manner set forth in the final Escrow Agreement.

5. Authorization of Officers and Agents. The School Board hereby authorizes the appropriate officers and agents of the District to work with Baird, the Escrow Agent and Causey to review and approve the finalized Escrow Agreement including the escrow deposit and other details, to provide the notices of defeasance and redemption, to facilitate open market bidding, if necessary, and to execute and deliver all documents required by Bond Counsel with respect to this transaction.

Motion carried unanimously.

Director of Instruction search process was reviewed by the Director of Human Resources Crystal Becker. 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.

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) “Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility” regarding salaries for individual district and administrative staff member(s);

and Wis. Stats §19.85(1) (e) deliberating or negotiating or bargaining reasons require a closed session; for the purposes of discussing the employee compensation with the West Salem Education Association for the 2022-2023 school year; and

(d) Except as provided in s. 304.06 (1) (eg) and by rule promulgated under s. 304.06 (1) (em), considering specific applications of probation, extended supervision or parole, or considering strategy for crime detection or prevention, for the purpose of reviewing a draft of the district safety plan.

S. Gavaghan moved, C. Peterson seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:23 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: R. Fitzgerald, Aye; S. Gavaghan, Aye; C. Peterson, Aye; C. Griffin, Aye; T. Grosskopf, Aye; and B. Minard, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Adjournment

S. Gavaghan moved, C. Peterson seconded to adjourn at 8:49 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk