

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
April 22, 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 April 18, 2024.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Caitlin Wilson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Bob Gollnik recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Tom Grosskopf, Bob Minard, Bob Gollnik, Catherine Griffin, Caitlin Wilson, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Heidi Horton, Mike Malott, Ben Wopat, Alex Hubing, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Jessa Hickey and Brennon Anderson. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Alyssa Harlan

Approval of Agenda

T. Grosskopf moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Reorganization of the 2024-2025 School Board

E. Peterson moved to nominate Catherine Griffin for the office of President. T. Grosskopf moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Catherine Griffin as the President of the West Salem School Board. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Gavaghan moved to nominate Tom Grosskopf for the office of Vice President. E. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Tom Grosskopf as the Vice President of the West Salem School Board. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Gavaghan moved to nominate Erik Peterson for the office of Clerk. T. Grosskopf moved, B. Gollnik seconded to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Erik Peterson as the Clerk of the West Salem Board of Education. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved to nominate Sean Gavaghan for the office of Treasurer. T. Grosskopf moved, C. Wilson seconded to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Sean Gavaghan as the Treasurer of the West Salem School Board. Motion carried unanimously.

T. Grosskopf moved, B. Minard seconded a resolution to authorize the Board officers to borrow money for the 2023-2024 and the 2024-2025 school years pr Wisconsin state Statutes 67.12(3). Motion carried unanimously.

T. Grosskopf moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to select the Union State Bank of West Salem as the bank depository. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to authorize the use of facsimile and digitized signatures. Motion carried unanimously.

T. Grosskopf moved, B. Minard seconded to authorize the Board officers to invest surplus funds. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to continue with the current schedule to select the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. for Regular School Board Meetings; and to set only one meeting for December 2024 and January 2025, December 9, 2024, at 7:00 and May 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to appoint Patrick Bahr as the Deputy Clerk and Shawn Handland as the Deputy Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Board members should provide their input to the Board President regarding committee assignments within the next week.

T. Grosskopf moved, B. Minard seconded to select Catherine Griffin as the CESA #4 Representative. Motion carried unanimously.

Written and Oral Reports

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

Policy/Communication and Engagement Committee – E. Peterson reported on the agenda item policy updates.

Workforce Engagement and Development Committee – S. Gavaghan reported on the agenda items: preparing for negotiations with the West Salem Education Association.

Human Resource updates: the hiring of Michelle Evenson as the elementary school kitchen manager, Jill Iliff as the District Accounts Receivable/Accounts Payable Specialist and Terese Murch as a high school cook, and to accept the resignations of George Fisher and Brent Schroeder as high school custodians.

Connection with the Community

Jessa Hickey, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The National Honor Society selected Victoria Lysne as their president for the 2024-25 school year. The induction ceremony for new members will take place on Sunday, May 5th.
2. Students involved in band and choir took a trip to New York City last week. They left on Tuesday and arrived home yesterday. Their trip included watching *Six* and *Wicked* on Broadway, a dinner cruise, and a visit to the 9/11 Memorial.
3. Students from Mrs. Haas' Intro to Early Childhood Education class participated in the 7 Rivers Education and Training Day. They toured Western Technical College, Viterbo, and UWL to learn about their education programs, and asked questions to a panel of staff from various school districts.
4. Prom is coming up on Saturday, May 4th. The theme of the dance is Rapunzel.
5. Seniors are presenting their Panther Portfolios in class. Their final presentations in front of judges will take place on May 8th.
6. The IDS classroom competed in the Job Skill Olympics at Onalaska High School this past Thursday and received the first place all around award for the third year in a row.
7. On Wednesday, April 10th, the HOSA club hosted a CCLR day that included pickleball, hiking, self-defense, and more.
8. On May 3rd, FFA will host Food for America at the fairgrounds where they will teach 4th graders about livestock and aspects of farm life.

Brennon Anderson, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Baseball has started their season with a 3-5 record. This past weekend they played a triangular here in West Salem, where they took down Belleville 9-0, and they lost to Madison Edgewood 4-7.
2. The girls' soccer team took down Arcadia last Friday night 8-0. They have had a great start to the season, with a record of 4-0, and they haven't let up a goal yet this season.
3. The softball team has played 6 games and has won 4. Josie Brudos has pitched 2 no-hitters this season.
4. Last week the track team competed at Luther High School and Arcadia where the girls' and boys' teams took first at the Luther meet. They have 3 meets this week.
5. Tennis team played Black River Falls on April 9th where they won as a team. They have also beat Central and Logan.
6. The golf team has had two competitions. They took second place at the Coulee Golf Bowl, and they took 4th at Arcadia.
7. DECA students Elliot Sjoquist, Brennan Garbers, Philip Gabrielsen, Noah Stewert, Taylor Burch, Elyse Bee, and Emily and Kate Fechner will all be leaving on Saturday for ICDC in California.
8. Dance team will be hosting tryouts May 8th-10th.

Correspondence

A thank you note from Amy Reedy was read.

A thank you note from Payton Greer and Sam Stenberg was read.

Public Comments – None.

Boys' and Girls' Club Update

Maggie Solberg, Jake Erickson and Brett Gullicksrud provided an update on the events at the Don & Cheryl Brenengen Club.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2024, and the Special Board Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2024;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendation for Jamie Olson as the head girls' hockey coach, and Orin Schwier as an assistant track coach;
- d. to hire Jennifer Tashner as a 1.0 FTE Speech and Language Pathologist, Brienna Broughton as a 1.0 FTE Middle School Counselor, David Braun as a 1.0 FTE High School Social Studies Teacher, and Mariah Wick as a 1.0 FTE High School Health & Physical Education Teacher;
- e. to accept the donation from 1st Community Credit Union for the Nutrition Services Jane Doe Fund, from the Corinne Zielke Fund for the high school baseball program, from St. Huberts Club of St. Elizabeths, Ann Seton Parish for the high school trip team, from an anonymous donation for the Scholar Athlete Scholarship Fund, from the La Crosse Area Autism Foundation for the middle school and high school special education intellectual disabilities classrooms, and from WXOW's Tools for Schools Grant (River Bank of Stoddard, Board Store, Dependable Solutions, Ryan Schultz and Associates) for 3rd grade teacher Heidi Vergin.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

- a. S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to accept the Policy/Communication and Engagement Committee's recommendation for a first reading of policies: Po0100 – Definitions, Po0122 - Board Powers, Po0144.3 – Conflict Of Interest, Po0171.3 – Clerk, Po2250 – Innovative And Pilot Programs, Po2413 – Health Education, Po2460.03 – Independent Educational Evaluation (LEE), Po3431 – Employee Leaves, Po4431 – Employee Leaves, Po5517 – Student Anti-Harassment, Po5610 – Suspension And Expulsion, Po6325 – Procurement - Federal Grants/Funds, Po6611 - New Policy - District-Supported/Sponsored Student Activity Accounts, Po7440 – Facility Security, Po7540 – Technology, Po8120 – Volunteers, Po8330 - Student Records, Po8407 – School Resource Officer Program, Po8431 – Preparedness For Toxic Hazards, Po8700 – Lactating Employees, Po9130 - Public Requests, Suggestions, Or Complaints, Po9140 – Citizens' Advisory Committees, Po7544 – Social Media, Po5461 - Children At-Risk Of Not Graduating From High School, and Po8310 - Public Records. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the teacher and school psychologist contracts for the 24-25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. E. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to approve the contracts for vehicle drivers for the 24-25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

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 issuing preliminary notice(s) of non-renewal to professional staff.

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:14 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: C. Wilson, Aye; S. Gavaghan, Aye; E. Peterson, Aye; B. Gollnik, Aye; C. Griffin, Aye; T. Grosskopf, Aye; and B. Minard, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

B. Minard moved, B. Gollnik seconded to reconvene into Open Session at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Session

Board Development

Superintendent Rieber provided a new Board Member welcome and orientation to all the Board Members.

Adjournment

T. Grosskopf moved, C. Wilson seconded to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Peterson, Clerk