

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
April 24, 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 7:02 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 20, 2023.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Sean Gavaghan led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Chris Peterson recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Reorganization of the 2023-2024 School Board

S. Gavaghan moved to nominate Catherine Griffin for the office of President. E. Peterson 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.

E. Peterson moved to nominate Tom Grosskopf for the office of Vice President. S. Gavaghan moved, E. Peterson 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 Robin Fitzgerald for the office of Clerk. C. Peterson moved, E. Peterson seconded to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Robin Fitzgerald 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, R. Fitzgerald 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.

Introductions of the new student board representatives Payton Greer and Sam Stenberg were made.

T. Grosskopf moved, R. Fitzgerald seconded a resolution to authorize the Board officers to borrow money for the 2022-2023 and the 2023-2024 school years per Wisconsin State Statutes 67.12(3). Motion carried unanimously.

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

T. Grosskopf moved, R. Fitzgerald seconded to authorize the use of facsimile and digitized signatures. Motion carried unanimously.

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

S. Gavaghan moved, T. Grosskopf seconded to set December 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. as the only December Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

T. Grosskopf moved, E. Peterson 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. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to set Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. as the second Board Meeting in May of 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Gavaghan moved, T. Grosskopf 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 by April 28, 2023.

S. Gavaghan moved, R. Fitzgerald seconded to select Catherine Griffin as the CESA #4 Representative. Motion carried unanimously.

Written and Oral Reports

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

Teaching & Learning Committee – R. Fitzgerald reported on the agenda items: St. Croix Central debrief and the mid-year data check-in.

Policy/Communications and Engagement Committee – E. Peterson reported on the agenda items: three policies for a first reading and policies with technical changes.

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

Human Resource updates: the hiring of Thomas Cunningham as a middle school limited-term cook; the retirements of high school custodian Ellen Hendricks, elementary school paraprofessional Kelly Schneider, elementary school paraprofessional Tracy Sell; and the resignations of elementary school custodian David Carlson, nurse Laurie Nelson, and elementary school LMC paraprofessional Sara Oldenburg.

Connection with the Community

Payton Greer, Student Representative, reported on:

1. NHS school clean up happened this past weekend. It went very well. The members picked up garbage all around the schools.
2. NHS induction will be this Sunday night, April 30.
3. Senior art show reception was Thursday, April 20, it was a great success.
4. Forensics team had state this past weekend in Madison and the whole team qualified for it.
5. Madison MacRogers, Noah Stewart, Ben Holter, Mr. Holter are at ICDC right now in Orlando, Florida
6. Brett McConkey was selected one of 16 WIAA Scholar Athletes in the state for the 22-23 school year.

Sam Stenberg, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Ecology Club Earth Week was celebrated with different activities every day.
2. SEP Presentations Coming up. In-class presentations are currently happening.
3. Spring sports are at a standstill because of the weather.
4. Baseball had a game on April 21 against Luther in which they won, and Saturday they played Belleville and won.
5. Dance Team tryouts are coming up this week for the 2023-2024 team.
6. Prom is coming up May 6.

Correspondence

A thank you note from Madison MacRogers and Brennan Kennedy was read.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

R. Fitzgerald moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 10, 2023;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. to accept the administration's recommendation for co-curricular contracts for volunteer baseball coach-Adam Helgeson, volunteer track coach-Brady Niemeier, volunteer Odyssey of the Mind advisor;

- d. to accept donations from Kelly Schneider and Charity Tofte for the Nutrition Services Jane Doe Fund; from Peg Lyga for the Mike & Peg Lyga Scholarship fund, from Noodlehead Inc., to the Tiny Orchard Scholarship Fund, from the La Crosse Area Autism Foundation for the Special Education Department, from Keenan's Cherryland, Ltd., Midwest Well Services, Inc., Ronco Engineering Sales Inc., Dahl Automotive, and Morrie's La Crosse for the High School Odyssey of the Mind Team.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

T. Grosskopf moved, C. Peterson seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee's recommendation to change the contract for the School Nurse from 190 to 220 days. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Peterson moved, R. Fitzgerald seconded to approve the teacher and school psychologist contracts for the 23-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved. T. Grosskopf seconded to approve the contracts for vehicle drivers for the 23-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

R. Fitzgerald moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to approve for the first reading of policy #8600 – Transportation, #8660 – Transportation by Private Vehicle, and #0175.1 – School Board Conference, Conventions, and Workshops. Motion carried unanimously. There was no action needed on policy #3460 – Programs for Students with Disabilities.

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 a professional staff employee.

R. Fitzgerald moved, S. Gavaghan seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:58 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: R. Fitzgerald, Aye; S. Gavaghan, Aye; E. Peterson, Aye; C. Peterson, Aye; C. Griffin, Aye; and T. Grosskopf, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

E. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to reconvene into open session at 8:19 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Session

The board, if appropriate, will return to open session following the closed session to take action on the items discussed in the closed session.

C. Griffin announced the retirement of High School Spanish Teacher Shelly Helland.

Adjournment

R. Fitzgerald moved, C. Peterson seconded to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk