

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2025
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 9, 2025.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Brennon Anderson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Caitlin Wilson 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, Justin Jehn, Ben Wopat, Alex Hubing, Cody Braun Alyssa Harlan, and Shawn Handland; Student representative: Brennon Anderson. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr and Jennifer Larson. Excused: Jessa Hickey

Approval of Agenda

S. Gavaghan moved, T. Grosskopf seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Written and Oral Reports

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

Business Operations Committee – T. Grosskopf reported on the agenda item, selection of a construction manager.

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

Director of Buildings and Grounds, Scott Johnson, presented information on the events around the emergency purchase of elementary school boiler.

Connection with the Community

Brennon Anderson, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The National Honor Society had their giving tree up for the holiday season. 170 tags were collected for a total of \$6300 in gift cards that were donated to families in need.

2. Last Friday night senior Megan Johnson hosted an Alzheimer's Awareness night during the boys' and girls' basketball doubleheader. This included a bake sale and a miracle minute to raise money. Both the girls' and boys' teams won against Luther.
3. In the boys' basketball game against Verona on January 4th, senior Kyle Hehli hit 1000 career points.
4. Over winter break the wrestling team participated in the annual Bi-State tournament at the La Crosse Center. The team finished 5th out of 25 teams along with 4 wrestlers placing individually in their weight class. There will be a dual against Sparta at the middle school tomorrow night.
5. The show choir teams had their first competition on the 4th at Tomah. The Salem Singsations finished 3rd and Vivace finished 6th. Syd Martin and Kaylee Curran earned the show-stopper award.
6. The dance team competed in Kaukauna on Saturday. They placed in the top half with both of their team routines.
7. The semester comes to an end this week at the high school on Friday, and students will start their new schedules along with a CCLR day next Tuesday.

Correspondence – None.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2024;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendation for Heidi Propson & Janel Lochen as assistant middle school girls' basketball coach, and Lauren Lovely as the head 7th grade girls' basketball coach.
- d. to accept donations from Union State Bank and the La Crosse County Community Contribution Committee for the Nutrition Services Jane Doe Fund, from Compeer Financial, Joshua & Whitney Westbrook and an anonymous donor for the Nutrition Services department to assist families in need over the Christmas break, from the La Crosse County Community Contribution Committee, Cynthia & William Innes, Ledegar Roofing and the West Salem Lions Club for the Random Acts of Kindness; from Compeer Financial for the high school Future Farmers of America; from Duane & Ana Schaper for the Angela Labus Memorial Scholarship Fund; from the Wisconsin State Council Knights of Columbus for the Special Education Department, from Stephen & Deborah Kraus for the Horace Moran Memorial Fund, from Jane Bangsberg for the Elementary School LMC;
- e. to hire Jennifer Larson as the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/School Board;
- f. to approve WIAA co-op agreements for girls hockey, girls wrestling, boys wrestling, boys swim and gymnastics.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Administrators Ryan Rieber, Heidi Horton, Ben Wopat and Alyssa Harlan presented information on the Open Enrollment limits for the 2025-2026 school year for special education and regular education. No action was taken.

S. Gavaghan moved. B. Gollnik seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee's recommendation to contract with Kraus-Anderson as the Construction Manager for the building project.

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to allow Caitlin Wilson to vote as she sees fit at the Delegate Assembly for the 2025 proposals. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Griffin moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve the first reading of policy 8500 – Food Services. 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.

Board Development

High school graduation requirements and Career and Technology Education (CTE) elective option information was shared by High School Principal Justin Jehn and Director of Instruction Alyssa Harlan.

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) (a) Deliberating concerning a case which was the subject of any judicial or quasi-judicial trial or hearing before that governmental body; and (f) Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations; and pursuant to Wisconsin Administrative code 39.06 to discuss, consider and take action, if appropriate, regarding the revocation of the Open Enrollment status of a student and to review and discuss confidential pupil records under 118.125;

and (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility regarding nonrenewal/renewal, nonextension/extension, and employment of administrators.

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:51 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 9:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Session

Open Session

E. Peterson moved, C. Griffin seconded to approve the extension of all administrator contracts, including the superintendent. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to adjourn at 9:11 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Peterson, Clerk