

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 27, 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 7:01 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 23, 2025.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Written and Oral Reports

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

2025 Education Convention highlights by attendees – T. Grosskopf, R. Rieber, C. Griffin, A. Harlan and B. Wopat reported on the 2025 Education Convention.

Construction Project Update – R. Rieber reported on beginning stages of utilizing space and scheduled 1st Community Task Force Meeting.

OEC – Education Tree Farmer of the Year award -R. Rieber attended the Monroe County Conservation Society Awards ceremony. John Sullivan – Educational Tree Farmer of the Year Award.

Connection with the Community

Jessa Hickey, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The girls' basketball team has had a great start to their season and are currently undefeated in the Coulee conference. Last week they took down Menominee and Westby and will take on Black River Falls and Holmen this week.

2. The boys' basketball team had a big win against Fox Valley Lutheran at home this Saturday. They play at Caledonia on Thursday.
3. The show choir team is hosting their annual extravaganza this Thursday and Friday, which is their home showcase. They will travel to Eau Claire for a competition the first weekend in February.
4. Last night the high school jazz band had a concert at the high school, performing for friends and family.
5. The varsity wrestling team competed in a tournament in Wausau on Saturday, taking 4th as a team. They have a triangular in Viroqua tomorrow night against Viroqua and Arcadia, and they will wrestle 5 duals in Lodi this weekend.
6. The JV wrestling team competed in their state tournament on Saturday, which was also in Wausau. Sophomore Payton King and freshman Isaac Arentz both took 5th place individually in their weight class.
7. Last week a group of students from the Ecology Club attended Trees for Tomorrow. They attended many outdoor activities including cross country skiing and feeding birds out of their hands.

Brennon Anderson, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The boy's hockey team took down the Tomah/Sparta co-op team 6-5 at home last Thursday. They will play at Viroqua tomorrow.
2. The girl's hockey team won their 4th game of the season on Saturday against the Icebergs in Stoughton.
3. The dance team competed at their regional competition in D.C. Everest on Saturday. They qualified for state with both of their team routines along with solos from Ella Muellenberg and Makena Fecht. Seniors Ella and Jessa placed 4th overall in the state with their duet. The team will compete at the state competition on Friday night at the La Crosse Center.
4. The gymnastics team had a meet in Westby on Friday night. They got 1st place as a team and reached a new season high with their team score. This weekend they are traveling to Madison where they will compete against 20 D1 teams.
5. The high school had a college career life ready day last Wednesday when they came back to school for the start of the semester. The seniors spent the morning learning about local scholarships and different types of loans. Underclassmen prepared for the ACT, studying the different subjects and taking practice tests.

Correspondence

A thank you note from the family of Gene Batzel was read.

A thank you note from Sarah Weber was read.

A thank you note from the family of Ron Hanson was read.

A thank you note from Patrick Bahr was read.

A Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Proclamation, FFA Week is February 15-22, was read.

A Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Proclamation, National School Counseling Week is February 3-7, was read.

A Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Proclamation, Skills USA Week is February 2-8, was read.

A Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Proclamation, Career and Technical Education Month is February 1-28, was read.

A Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Proclamation, 2025 Adult Crossing Guard Recognition week is February 17-21, was read.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

S. Gavaghan moved, E. Peterson seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. The Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2025
- b. invoices to be paid;
- c. to accept the administration’s co-curricular recommendation for Heather Jehn as head 8th grade girls’ basketball coach, Lionel Karyea as head high school girls’ soccer coach, Jamie Olson as head baseball coach, Justin Stakston as head boys’ track coach, Stacy Mitchell as head girls track coach, Julie Kamla as head boys’ tennis coach and Brian Babiash as head softball coach.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

S. Gavaghan moved. B. Minard seconded to accept the Executive summary recommendation to contract with Johnson Block for Audit Services for 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Administrator R. Rieber presented 2nd Friday in January Enrollment Count. No action was taken.

E. Peterson moved. T. Grosskopf seconded to approve 67 regular education open enrollment seats and 14 seats in special education for the 2025-2026 school year based on the criteria outlined in the Board's Open Enrollment Policy #5113 Open Enrollment Program (Inter-District).

Students with Disabilities Spaces by Program

Early Childhood Education	2
Elementary Cross Categorical	4
Elementary Intellectual Disabilities	0
Middle School Cross Categorical	4
Middle School Intellectual Disabilities	0
High School Cross Categorical	0
High School Intellectual Disabilities	0
Speech and Language (SL)	4

Regular Education Spaces by Grade Level

Pre-Kindergarten	No Cap
Kindergarten	No Cap
Grade 1	No Cap
Grade 2	11
Grade 3	13
Grade 4	No Cap

Grade 5	13
Grade 6	No Cap
Grade 7	12
Grade 8	18
Grades 9-12	No Cap

Motion carried unanimously.

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Gollnik seconded to approve the second reading of policy 8500 – Food Services. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to rescind 8500.01–Meal Charge–Unpaid Meal Account and 8500.02–Jane Doe Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Adjournment

E. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Peterson, Clerk