

School District of West Salem  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
March 10, 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 March 6, 2025.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag*

Jessa Hickey led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Brennon Anderson 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; Student representatives: Jessa Hickey and Brennon Anderson. Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson. Excused: Shawn Handland

*Approval of Agenda*

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Gollnik 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 update by Tom Grosskopf: Technology Roll Over Agreement, 25/26 Budget Overview, County Farmland discussion.

CESA #4 Board of Control – C. Griffin reported that the last meeting was cancelled due to snowstorm.

Construction Project Update from Superintendent: Reported on updates from ISG.

Student Art Show in the Heider Center was reported by Quenten Brown. School Board and Administration will pick the artwork, and it will hang in the Heider Meeting Room for 1 year.

Comprehensive Pupil Services for Mental Health & Employability, Presented by Heidi Horton & Tatiana Wolf

## **Connection with the Community**

*Jessa Hickey, Student Representative, reported on:*

1. The girls' basketball team played in the sectional final game on Saturday in Baraboo. They had a good run but fell short of Madison Edgewood in a tough game. The girls had a great season, with a record of 21-5.
2. The boys' basketball team took down Fox Valley Lutheran on Friday night before playing a close game against Central on Saturday night. They came out with a score of 66-58 in double overtime. They will take on Onalaska on Thursday night in Logan for the sectional semi-final game.
3. The girls' gymnastics team competed at the state tournament in the Wisconsin Rapids over the weekend. It was their first year competing in division 1, and they placed 8th overall as a team. Kennedy Garbers and Hayden Rhode competed in the individual tournament on Saturday and both had great performances!
4. Junior, Katherine Townsell, was named a 2025 shining star by the Upper Mississippi Manufacturing Alliance at their annual awards dinner. She was recognized for her commitment to our community and the time she has invested into service, STEM, and trades!
5. The National Honor Society hosted a blood drive last Monday in the high school library. They collected 68 units of blood, meaning over 200 lives were saved! An impressive number of high school students and community members showed up to donate.

*Brennon Anderson, Student Representative, reported on:*

1. Junior, Teagen Moore, competed at the individual wrestling state tournament the first weekend in March. He placed 4th place overall in the 106-weight class of division 1.
2. Track practice starts today, and they expect around 130 athletes to compete. Their first meet will be March 21st and 22nd
3. Last Thursday there was a CCLR day at the high school. Underclassmen did ACT prep while seniors worked on panther portfolios and learned about insurance from Jason Lassen of American Family Insurance. There was an all-school assembly in the afternoon that included senior recognition for winter activities and a staff vs student basketball game with an ice cream eating contest at halftime. The game resulted in a senior win with a last second half-court shot by Will Steffereud, which is still a sore subject for the staff team.
4. Today was the turn in day for senior panther portfolios and local scholarships. Final portfolio presentations will take place on May 7th
5. And finally, tomorrow the juniors will take the ACT.

## *Correspondence*

A thank you note from the Fitzgerald family was read.

A thank you note from the family of Linda Nelson was read.

Proclamations were read: March 1-31, 2025 is Music, Art, Dance and Theatre in our schools month. March 2-8, 2025 was National School Social Work Week. March 3-7, 2025 was National School Breakfast Week. March 3, 2025 was Social Emotional Learning Day.

*Public Comments* – None.

## **Consent Agenda**

- S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:
- a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 24, 2025;
  - b. invoices to be paid;
  - c. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendation for Lexi Hinkler as Head 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Softball, Lauren Lovely as Head 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Softball, Nicole Friell as Middle School Track Coach, Bill Jensen as Volunteer Middle School Track Coach, Joe Hess as Middle School Track Coach and Mike Sanford as Middle School Track Coach.
  - d. to accept resignation/retirement
  - e. to accept donations from Jerry Moinar of 7 boxes of photography books; Donation from Steve and Dolly Small in memory of Emerson.

Motion Carried unanimously.

**Discussion/Action Items:**

C. Griffin moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to accept Administrator Ryan Rieber's recommendation that the Board move to Nominate and elect Jennifer Larson as the new Deputy Clerk for the School District of West Salem. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, B. Gollnick seconded to approve the Four-year renewal lease agreement with Apple for the district. Motion carried unanimously.

T. Grosskopf moved, C. Wilson seconded to submit an offer to purchase 30 acres for \$500,000 of the County Farmland. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Adjournment**

C. Wilson moved, B. Minard seconded to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Erik Peterson, Clerk