

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2024
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 6:00 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 6:00 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 August 19, 2024. At the August 12, 2024, Regular Board Meeting, the August 26, 2024, date and time was changed.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Tom Grosskopf 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, and Caitlin Wilson. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Heidi Horton, Ben Wopat, Alyssa Harlan, Crystal Becker, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Jessa Hickey and Brennon Anderson. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Justin Jehn, Alex Hubing, Brennon Anderson, and Sean Gavaghan.

Approval of Agenda

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

Written and Oral Reports

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

Human Resource updates: the hiring of Erin Diggs and Melissa Hanson-paraprofessionals, Brett Kelly-custodian, Karrie Ludke and Natalie McKeown-cooks, Bridget Peterson-pupil services administrative assistant/sub trainer, and Mchaela Webb-administrative assistant; and the resignation of Nancy Schlichenmeyer.

West Salem Middle School Instrumental Music Teacher Ryan Waldhart provided information on the upcoming State Solo and Ensemble Competition being held as a site for the upcoming competition in 2025.

Director of Human Resources Crystal Becker provided a vacancy and hiring summary for the 2024-2025 school year.

Connection with the Community

Jessa Hickey, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The 2024-25 school year is starting up at the high school this coming Monday, August 26th.
2. Link Crew, a group of upperclassmen, will be helping with freshmen orientation, which will include a tour around the high school, a trip to the Outdoor Education Center, and bonding games with their new homerooms.
3. Grades 10-12 will also be on campus on Monday, but for shorter periods throughout the day.
4. The girls' volleyball team is officially kicking off their season with tryouts this week, with final team decisions being made tonight. The girls will play at a tournament in Eau Claire on Saturday.
5. The boys' and girls' cross-country team also started up their season this week. They will be attending a camp in Rhinelander this Sunday.
6. The first football game of the season is this Friday. The boys will take on Onalaska at 7:00.

Correspondence

A thank you note from the Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials Foundation was read.

Public Comments – None.

Back-To-School message

Superintendent Ryan Rieber provided a Back-To-School message of the past and upcoming events surrounding the start of school.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2024;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. the hiring of Phillip Parr as a 1.0 FTE high school Technical Education Teacher;
- d. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendation for middle school football assistant coach-Reid Rasmussen and Tanner Davis, volunteer middle school football coach-Justin Jehn, volunteer tennis coach-Brian Baker, and Asher Helgerson-assist tennis coach.
- e. to accept the donations from Kwik Trip, Linda's Bakery and Hansen's IGA for the National Honor Society's blood drive.

Motion carried unanimously. There were no resignations for the Board to take action on.

Discussion/Action Items:

T. Grosskopf moved, B. Minard seconded to adopt the following Resolution:

"Whereas the following school districts have students with disabilities, and whereas it appears that the educational interests of all children in these school districts will be served best by the districts joining together to offer special services, as authorized by the Department of Public Instruction, to meet the needs of the students with a disability."

"Be it, and it is hereby resolved that the school boards of the School District of West Salem and the Bangor School District agree to establish and maintain, on a cooperative basis, a students with disabilities special education program(s) pursuant to Section 66.0301 of the Wisconsin Statutes."

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, B. Minard seconded to adopt the following:

Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit by \$3,500,000 for Recurring Purposes.

Motion carried unanimously.

T. Grosskopf moved, B. Gollnik seconded to adopt the following:

Initial Resolution Authorizing General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$28,000,000.

Motion carried unanimously.

T. Grosskopf moved, C. Wilson seconded to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A REFERENDUM
ELECTION ON THE QUESTIONS OF THE APPROVAL OF A
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUDGET TO EXCEED REVENUE LIMIT BY \$3,500,000 FOR
RECURRING PURPOSES AND AN INITIAL RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION
BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$28,000,000

WHEREAS, the School Board of the School District of West Salem, La Crosse County, Wisconsin (the "District"), has heretofore duly adopted resolutions entitled: "Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit by \$3,500,000 for Recurring Purposes" (the "Revenue Limit Resolution") and "Initial Resolution Authorizing General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$28,000,000" (the "Initial Resolution"); and

WHEREAS, the School Board deems it to be desirable and in the best interest of the District to direct the District Clerk to submit the Revenue Limit Resolution and the Initial Resolution to the electors for approval or rejection at the regularly scheduled election to be held on November 5, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the District as follows:

Section 1. Referendum Election Date. The District Clerk is hereby directed to call a referendum election to be held in the District at the regularly scheduled election to be held on November 5, 2024 for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the District the propositions of whether the Revenue Limit Resolution and the Initial Resolution shall be approved.

Section 2. Notice to Electors. The District Clerk is directed to give notice by:

- (a) causing a Notice to Electors in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A to be published in the La Crosse Tribune within ten days after the date hereof.
- (b) causing a Notice of Election in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit B to be published in the La Crosse Tribune in the issue published on the fourth Tuesday before the referendum election.
- (c) causing a Notice of Referendum (which includes the facsimile of the sample ballot) in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit C to be published in the La Crosse Tribune in the issue published immediately preceding the referendum election. This Notice shall also be posted in each polling place on election day.

If any of the municipalities within the District use an electronic voting system employing a ballot label and ballot card, the Notice of Referendum set forth in Exhibit C shall also include a true, actual-size copy of the ballot label and ballot card in the form in which they will appear on election day.

Section 3. Polling Places and Hours. The District electors must vote at the referendum election at the times and polling places at which they cast their ballots in regularly scheduled elections.

Section 4. Referendum Election Officials. The election officials appointed in each of the municipalities within the District shall conduct the election.

Section 5. Official Referendum Ballot Form. The ballot to be used at the referendum election shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of Sections 5.64(2) and 7.08(1)(a), Wisconsin Statutes. The ballot shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit D.

The District Clerk shall cause to be printed sufficient ballots for use at said referendum election, both as actual ballots in those polling places which do not use voting machines and as absentee ballots where voting machines are used and as specimen ballots (the latter to be of a different and easily identifiable color from the actual ballot). The form of the ballot shall be filed with the official responsible for providing the ballots for the election, and the District Clerk shall file a copy of the ballot with the clerk of each county having territory within the District, as soon as possible after the date hereof but in no event later than 70 days prior to the election, as provided in Section 8.37, Wisconsin Statutes. If the District prepares the ballots, they should be delivered to the municipal clerks running the election at least 52 days prior to the election, to allow the municipal clerks to comply with their obligation to provide absentee ballots under Section 7.15, Wisconsin Statutes.

The municipal clerks of the municipalities within the District shall receive applications for absentee ballots and initial the same when issued to qualified absentee voters.

Section 6. Canvass. The returns of the referendum election shall be canvassed by the Board of Canvassers of each municipality within the District. Each Board of Canvassers shall certify the returns of the referendum election to the District Clerk. The District Clerk and two other reputable citizens appointed by the District Clerk prior to the date of the referendum election shall act as the District's Board of Canvassers for this referendum election. This Board of Canvassers shall meet in open session no later than 9:00 a.m. on the Tuesday after the election to determine the result of the referendum election. The canvass shall be open to the public and the District Clerk is directed to give due notice of said meeting.

Section 7. DPI Notice. Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 121.91(3) and 120.115(1), Wisconsin Statutes, the District Clerk shall notify the Department of Public Instruction of the date of the referendum election and shall provide the Department with copies of the Revenue Limit Resolution and the Initial Resolution within 10 days after the adoption of the Revenue Limit Resolution and the Initial Resolution and shall further notify the Department of the results of the referendum within 10 days following the election using the method prescribed by the Department.

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

•Communication and community engagement around possible referendum

Superintendent led the discussion around the communication and community engagement around the November referendum.

Adjournment

C. Griffin moved, B. Minard seconded to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Peterson, Clerk