

School District of West Salem  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
April 13, 2015  
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

**Convene**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Thomas Helgeson. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee News, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe's Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on April 9, 2015.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag*

Jane Halverson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Fred Perri recited the District Mission Statement.

*Roll Call*

Present: Syl Clements, Jane Halverson, Thomas Helgeson, Scott Scafe, Ken Schlimgen, Fred Perri, and Catherine Griffin. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Dean Buchanan, Eric Jensen, Mark Carlson, Mike Malott, John Smalley, Michael St. Pierre, and Lisa Gerke; Student representatives: Mariah Arneson and Cameron Robaczewski. Finance Director: Davita Molling, Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr.

*Approval of Agenda*

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**Connection with the Community**

Board member and student representative recognition – Mr. Helgeson acknowledged Cameron Robaczewski, Mariah Arneson and Fred Perri with a certificate of commendation from the Wisconsin Association of School Boards for their service to the children in Wisconsin Public Schools.

Art teachers Quenten Brown, Rachel Hein, Courtney Vesperman, and Angie Hemker were present to introduce each student to the board member, administrator or district staff who selected their piece of art work to be displayed in the Heider Meeting Room for one year.

*Mariah Arneson reported on:*

1. Solo Ensemble was held on March 28. West Salem performed in 93 events and earned top ratings in 41 events. On May 2, 20 students will be competing at state which is at UW-La Crosse.
2. Relay for Life was Friday, April 10. There were 14 teams that participated in the fight against cancer this year. The high school had 2 teams: NHS — Mariah Arneson led, 14 members and raised \$1,443.28; Interact Club — Kayla Adams led, 11 members and raised \$390. The event brought out a lot of community members to honor, remember, and to raise money for those who have experienced a battle with cancer. The event raised a total of \$58,548.

3. National History Day projects were completed by 8th graders. Madison Dutton was invited to participate in the State NHD Competition on Saturday, April 25, at UW-Madison. Her project was a documentary on Shirley Temple. Helena Wehrs received a monetary environmental award (\$100.00) for her historical paper on Aldo Leopold.
4. Middle school students have been practicing using the new iPad keyboards for the Badger Exam.
5. On April 20, the middle school jazz band and show choir will perform in the Heider Center.
6. Some middle school artists have their work on display at Pizza Villa, and on April 14, Pizza Villa will be donating a percentage of their sales to the Middle School Art Department.

*Cameron Robaczewski reported on:*

1. On March 24, the Coulee Conference held its annual scholar athlete banquet. The scholar athletes from West Salem were Kyle Lang and Hannah Thorn, both introduced by cross country and track coach LeRoy Krall.
2. On Wednesday, April 22, the seniors involved with the music department are headed for Chanhassen, Minnesota. The band and choir students will spend the day at the dinner theater. The students will be watching Mary Poppins.
3. Lastly, also on April 22nd, the La Crosse Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual Student Honor Banquet. The banquet, at UW-L, invites the top 5% of each graduating class of schools in the La Crosse area. This year, West Salem has 6 students in the top 5%. Kyle Lang, myself, Mariah, Roman Schlimgen, Erica Craig, and Maria Otto.

*Correspondence*

A Money Smart Week – April 18-25, 2015, proclamation from Tony Evers, Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction was read.

A letter was read from Jordan Gilge and Kirsten LaMere acknowledging the Booster Clubs donation of 2 mobile AED batteries.

*Public comments*

Chase Miller spoke on multiple topics: calendar items, traffic and safety at the elementary school, building referendum, swim lessons and gymnastics.

*Written and Oral Reports*

Transportation Committee – Mrs. Griffin reported that the committee met and reviewed the 5-year vehicle plan, and vehicle sale and purchase recommendations.

CESA #4 Board of Control – Mrs. Halverson reported that the committee met on April 1 and approved policies for a first reading, approved 2 personnel contracts, and finished the search for a new CESA Administrator who will start on July 1.

Finance Committee – Mr. Schlimgen reported that the committee met and discussed the 15-16 budget.

District Performance Initiatives by Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Jensen, Mr. Smalley and Mrs. Gerke, Mr. Carlson and Mr. Malott, Mr. St. Pierre, and Mr. Gunderson were reviewed.

### **Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Clements seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2015; the Special Board Meeting Minutes of March 30, 2015; the invoices to be paid, and an Open Enrollment request for the 2014-15 school year to go to another district. Motion carried.

### **Discussion/Action Items:**

Mrs. Griffin moved, Mr. Perri seconded to accept the following donations: from the West Salem Booster Club for the athletic department, from Pizza Villa for the 4K program, from Jenna Geurts for the high school automotive class, and from Jimmy Christiansen for the Fitness Center. Motion carried.

Mr. Perri moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to keep the gymnastics program status quo and to be kept on school premises. The following people were allowed to speak: Andy Lyga, David Hemker, Chase Miller, August Rogstad, and Liz Whelen. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Scafe, Aye; Mr. Clements, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Nay; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Perri, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. (5-Aye, 1-Nay) Motion carried.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed the proposed teacher salary model. No action was taken.

Mr. Gunderson gave an update on the state and local budget and possible impact on the district. No action was taken.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed staffing solutions for the 2015-16 school year. Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Perri seconded to approve the proposed staffing for the 15-16 school year with the exception of eliminating elective courses connected to the former high school agriculture science position (b.ii.) and eliminating an additional 1.0 FTE regular education teacher at the elementary school (d.ii.). Motion carried.

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to approve the sale of 2 cars, 1 van and 1 bus. Motion carried.

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr Perri seconded to approve the purchase of a 2016 Blue Bird school bus from Wisconsin Bus Sales for \$80,770. Motion carried.

The April 7, 2015 referendum results were reviewed, and discussion was held on the referendum outcome and plan for next steps.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to accept the administrations co-curricular recommendation to contract with Scott Pirnstill, Elizabeth Bradford, and Dave Hemker-volunteer high school girls soccer coach; Brittney Hodgson-volunteer high school softball coach; Kamry Long-volunteer middle school softball. Motion carried.

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to accept the following resignations: Physical Education Teacher Brad Skaer, Outdoor Education Coordinator Barb Thompson, Varsity Wrestling Coach Randy Dammon, High School Chemistry Teacher Antoinette Key, Varsity Gymnastics Coach Amy DuPont, and Dance Team Coach Nicole Friell. Motion carried.

Mr. Helgeson 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 of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility” regarding issuing preliminary notice(s) of nonrenewal, in accordance with Wis. § Stat 118.22. And (e) deliberating or negotiating or bargaining reasons require a closed session; for the purpose of discussing the employee compensation with the West Salem Education Association and West Salem School Employee Association for the 2015-2016 school year.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 9:40 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Scafe, Aye; Mr. Clements, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Perri, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried.

*Closed Session*

**Adjournment**

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to adjourn at 10:01 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Scafe, Aye; Mr. Clements, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Perri, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jane Halverson, Clerk