

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2026
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 19, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Zeke Heyer led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Lydia Jothen recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Catherine Griffin, Erik Peterson, Caitlin Wilson, Ben Garbers, Bob Minard, Trish Harman and Jennifer Hatz. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Justin Jehn, Alex Hubing, Heidi Horton, Ben Wopat, Shawn Handland, and Alyssa Harlan; Student representatives: Lydia Jothen and Zeke Hyer. Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson.

Approval of Agenda

B. Garbers 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.

Connection with the Community

Lydia Jothen, Student Representative, reported on:

Last week Thursday, the Juniors took the ACT. Overall, many of the juniors said the hardest part was the math portion, but many said they liked the new format, and I know the rest of the grades enjoyed the day off.

The prom committee has been meeting for the last few months to determine the prom theme, and plan for the day. Additionally, prom court was finalized today. They will be announcing their theme and court in the following days.

Robotics had a competition where they competed their robot that shoots balls into a basket. They started off strong and were ranked 13th, then had a computer malfunction in the last 3 rounds. This led them to finish 24th out of 38.

Forensics competes speeches, poems and voice acting. This year a portion of the competition is being done online. Students participating just submitted their districts performances virtually and will receive results in the next few weeks.

Track had two meets, one on Friday, and one on Saturday. Both were indoor meets with Saturday was the more competitive one. The boys did quite well across their events, placing them third.

Girls Soccer started today, and they just finished with practice a few hours ago. They are excited to start a new season with a new coach.

Zeke Hyer, Student Representative, reported on:

The boys' basketball team ended its season at the Kohl Center over the weekend with a tough loss to Whitefish Bay. This concludes a memorable year, as some predicted the team would even lose the conference title, which we have held for 7 consecutive years. Despite this, the boys beat notable teams like Onalaska and Central in the playoffs, even though we lost to both substantially in the regular season. There isn't another team I would have rather supported throughout the year.

The baseball and softball teams both started their season last week in the Lion Shelter, with official practices starting today for both. The baseball team has its first game next Tuesday, and the softball team has its first game next Friday.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

None.

Consent Agenda

E. Peterson moved, J. Hatz seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 9, 2026;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. Co-curricular Recommendations: MS track coach-Callie Fantz, assistant girls soccer coach-Alysandra Corona, assistant boys tennis coach-Jesse Miller, volunteer track coach-Carter Walters, assistant MS softball coach-Whitney Folkers, volunteer softball coach-Mike Brudos;
- d. to accept the donations from Game Getters Bowhunting donated \$150.00 to the West Salem Trap Team, Morrie's donated \$250.00 to the West Salem Trap Team, Bruce and Dawn Eckelberg donated \$100.00 to the West Salem Trap Team, A-1 Advanced Pumping donated \$100.00 to the West Salem Trap Team, Pelling Electric Inc. donated \$150.00 to the West Salem Trap Team and American Online Giving Foundation donated \$4816.00 towards Scholarships.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

B. Minard moved, T. Harman seconded to approve the addition of a 5th place scholarship for \$250 for the Future Ready (CCLR) video scholarship for the 2025/2026 year. Motion carried unanimously.

T. Harman moved, E. Peterson seconded to approve the Early College Credit/Start College Now requests for the fall of 2026 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, C. Griffin seconded to approve the second reading of Special Update (see below) **Wisconsin Local Policy Update Special Update - Act 57**. Motion carried unanimously.
po1213 STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE
po3213 STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE
po4213 STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE
po8462 CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Ryan Rieber presented the 2026-2027 CESA #4 Contract for board approval.
B. Garbers moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the 2026-2027 CESA #4 Contract.
Motion carried unanimously.

B. Garbers moved, C. Wilson seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee's recommendation for staffing requests and budget adjustments regarding staffing for the 26-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, J. Hatz seconded to approve the School District of West Salem/La Crosse Area Family YMCA Agreement for Provision of School Age Care Services. Motion carried unanimously.

The list of to do items / information requests was reviewed. R. Rieber will add Act 57 Policies: 1213, 3213, 4213, 7460, 8120 and 9150 to review and discuss at next Policy meeting.

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended at 7:38p.m., as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

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) (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, regarding the employment and compensation of a district employee.

C. Griffin moved, B. Minard seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:40 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: B. Minard, Aye; T. Harman, Aye; C. Griifin, Aye; E. Peterson, Aye; C. Wilson, Aye; B. Garbers, Aye; J. Hatz, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.
Also in attendance: Ryan Rieber and Jennifer Larson.

Closed Session

Adjournment

C. Griffin moved, B. Minard seconded to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Caitlin Wilson, Clerk