School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
May 11, 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 7:03 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 May 7, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Ben Garbers led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, and Nick Walters recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call
Present: Catherine Griffin, Ben Garbers, Jennifer Hatz, and Nick Walters. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Justin Jehn, Alex Hubing, Heidi Horton, Crystal Becker, Ben Wopat, and Shawn Handland; Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson.
Absent: Student representatives: Tula Mitchell and Graham Sjoquist, and Board Members Bob Minard, Trish Harman, Caitlin Wilson, and Alyssa Harlan.

Approval of Agenda
B. Garbers moved, N. Walters seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Written and Oral Reports
District Strategic Initiative updates from the Superintendent's Management and Collaborative team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

CESA #4 Board of Control – C. Griffin reported on the Board of Control's agenda.

Construction Project Update – Superintendent Rieber reported on the construction progress of the Elementary and High School projects.

Workforce Engagement & Development Committee – Catherine Griffin reported that the committee met on May 4, 2026, and they came to an agreement with the West Salem Education Association for the 2026-2027 school year.

High School ACT Report – Justin Jehn presented an ACT Score explanation, structure and instructional changes.

Connection with the Community
Boys' and Girls' Club update
Maggie Solberg presented the BGC Update.

Justin Jehn, Principal, reported on:
- Track

    - The boys and girls track team traveled to Viroqua for the last meet before the conference meet tonight. Both teams are looking great for conference this coming Saturday. We had another school record broken on the track last Thursday as senior Olivia Maki broke her own school record in the 300 hurdles in a time of 45.75!
- Panther Portfolio
    - The seniors presented their Panther portfolios to the judges last Wednesday. Many of the seniors said it went well and are happy it is over. While the seniors were here presenting, the rest of the school had the day off.
- Prom
    - Prom was two weekends ago, and it was such a fun night for all. We started out the night with pictures at Riverside in La Crosse, and the night ended with the dance here at the high school. This year's King and Queen were announced, the king being Josiah Wolbrink and the queen Jayda Miller.
- Band and Choir
    - The choir had its last concert of the year last night while also recognizing the seniors in the choir for all their hard work and dedication. The band has its last performance this coming Sunday, and they will also be recognizing their seniors as well.
- Softball
    - Last Thursday, the softball team won its game against GET, which solidified its place as conference champions for the third year in a row!
- Summer Musical
    - The summer musical was announced to be Grease a couple of weeks ago. The cast of Grease has been at work learning their lines, songs, and dances. The first show will be on Thursday, June 11.
- State Solo and Ensemble
    - A large majority of the high school band and choir students spent their time at UW-L two weekends ago for the state solo and ensemble festival. These students showcased their vocal and instrumental talents with solo performances and group performances.
- AP testing
    - This past week, students began their AP testing. On Monday, May 4th was the exam for AP Biology, and the exam for AP Calculus was this morning.

Correspondence
A thank-you card from Partners In Excellence was read, and a letter from Rick Kline, Director of Transportation.

Public Comments
None.

Consent Agenda
B. Garbers moved, J. Hatz seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:
a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 27, 2026;
b. the invoices to be paid;
c. to hire Emily Meyer as a 1.0 FTE high school Intellectual Disabilities Teacher;
d. resignation(s)/retirement(s), none;
e. Co-Curricular Recommendations: Summer Musical Stage Directors – Ben Hanson and Lucas Jandt;
f. to accept a donation from American Family, in the amount of $2845.48 for Scholarships.

Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Discussion/Action Items:
C. Griffin moved, N. Walters seconded to approve the Open Enrollment requests for the 2026-2027 school year, with the exceptions of students numbered 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 34, 37, 46, 49, and 54. Motion carried unanimously(4-0).

The Board discussed scheduling the summer board retreat. Due to insufficient board member availability for discussion, by consensus, the Board directed administration to distribute a survey to board members to determine potential dates.

C. Griffin moved, B. Garbers seconded to approve option 1 to hire a .75 FTE (with benefits) Multi-Lingual teacher. Motion carried unanimously(4-0).

J. Hatz moved, C. Griffin seconded to approve options 2 and 3 from the Kraus-Anderson proposal of the Girls Varsity Locker Room at the Panther Den. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

The list of to-do items/Board member information requests was reviewed.

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended at 8:45 p.m., as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

Closed Session
C. Griffin stated the Board would consider a motion to convene in closed session pursuant to: Wis. Stats §19.85(1) (a) Deliberating concerning a case which was the subject of any judicial or quasi-judicial trial or hearing before that governmental body; and (f) Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations; and pursuant to Wisconsin Administrative Code 36.06 to discuss, consider and take action, if appropriate, regarding the revocation of the Open Enrollment status of a student and to review and discuss confidential pupil records under 118.125.

And 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 salaries for individual district and administrative staff member(s) for the 26-27 school year.

C. Griffin moved, B. Garbers seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:50 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: C. Griffin, Aye; N. Walters, Aye; B. Garbers, Aye; and J. Hatz, Aye. Absent: B. Minard, T. Harman and C. Wilson. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Also in attendance: Ryan Rieber, Jennifer Larson, Cody Braun, Justin Jehn, Crystal Becker and Shawn Handland.

Closed Session

J. Hatz moved, B. Garbers seconded to reconvene into Open Session at 9:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Open Session

Discussion/Action Items:

Agenda Item a. Setting wages for the support staff for the 26-27 school year
By consensus, the Board agreed to postpone this item to a future meeting to ensure a full voting body is present, noting that one member must abstain due to a declared conflict of interest.

N. Walters moved, C. Griffin seconded to approve setting wages on the miscellaneous wage sheet for the 26-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

N. Walters moved, J. Hatz seconded to approve setting the wage for the co-curricular salary schedule for the 26-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Adjournment
N. Walters moved, J. Hatz seconded to adjourn at 9:38 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Respectfully submitted,

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Jennifer Hatz, Clerk