

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
June 22, 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 7:01 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 June 18, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Caitlin Wilson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, and Trish Harman recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Nick Walters, Bob Minard, Trish Harman, Catherine Griffin, Caitlin Wilson, Jennifer Hatz and Ben Garbers. Also in attendance – Administration: Justin Jehn, Ben Wopat, Alex Hubing, Alyssa Harlan, and Shawn Handland; Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson. Student representatives: Tula Mitchell and Graham Sjoquist.

Absent: Heidi Horton.

Approval of Agenda

C. Wilson moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Written and Oral Reports

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Superintendent's Management team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

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

Policy Committee – C. Wilson reported that the committee reviewed special updates to policies for Act 89, revisions to Policy 54603.3 Graduation Date/Ceremony, Policy 9150 School visitors, and moved forward with recommending them for a First Reading to the full Board.

Connection with the Community

Graham Sjoquist, Student Representative, reported on:

- Students have been keeping busy with many activities this summer. The summer CAT program is an activity that many students participate in over the summer and has times from 6am to 11 am.
- Summer Running club started this past Monday. It is meant for runners who participate and who are interested in cross country to build a starting base for the season in the fall. They meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday every week.
- Track has also started summer speed days for those athletes interested in doing some speed work or field event work over the summer.

- Both girl's and boys' basketball have started their summer programs as well.

Tula Mitchell, Student Representative, reported on:

- Many boys from the baseball team have continued to play baseball over the summer with the Post 51 Legion. They have a few practices but play many games against other legions in the area.
- The girls' tennis team has also started their captain's practices on select days during the week from 9:30 to 11 am. They also have an open court at the same time on Tuesdays with coaches present to help players if needed.
- Grease
The summer musical cast has finished off their performances this summer, with the last show being last Thursday. They had four shows over the course of two weeks, and Lydia Rislow and Aiden Brooks even got the opportunity to talk about the show on the local news channel, WXOW.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

None.

Consent Agenda

Prior to action on the Consent Agenda, the Board was informed that one co-curricular recommendation had been revised from Assistant 8th Grade Football Coach to Volunteer Football Coach.

B. Garbers moved, J. Hatz seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 8, 2026;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. co-curricular Recommendations: assistant volleyball coaches, head 8th grade volleyball coach, head MS cross country coach, assistant MS cross country coach, assistant football coaches, volunteer football coaches, assistant 7th grade football coach, head 7th grade football coach, head 8th grade football coach, HS assistant cross country coaches, assistant girls tennis coaches, volunteer girls tennis coach;
- d. the resignation of Maria Holicky, 6th Grade Special Education Teacher;
- e. to accept a donation from Orange Thumb of \$2000.00 to the Jane Doe Fund.

Motion carried, unanimously (7-0).

Discussion/Action Items:

Brian Kammers, Excel Leadership, LLC, presented information regarding strategic planning.

C. Wilson moved, B. Garbers seconded to proceed with the engagement contract with Excel Leadership, LLC. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

B. Minard moved, T. Harman seconded to proceed with a proposal letter for the County Farm land. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

J. Hatz moved, B. Minard seconded to change the August 10, 2026, Board meeting start time to 6:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

C. Griffin moved, N. Walters seconded to approve the final Budget transfers for 2025-2026. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

B. Garbers moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve to hire an additional 1.0 FTE 4K Teacher and .65 FTE 4K Paraprofessional for the 2026-2027. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

C. Wilson moved, J. Hatz seconded to approve the first reading of Policy Special Updates-Act 89 (see below). Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Po01445.5 - Revised BOARD MEMBER BEHAVIOR, COMMUNICATIONS, AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Po1213 – Revised STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE

Po3213 – Revised STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE

Po4213 – Revised STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE

Po7530.02 – Revised STAFF AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS USE OF PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Po7540.03 – Revised STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY

Po7544 – Revised USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Po8120 – Revised VOLUNTEERS

Po8462 – Revised REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

J. Hatz moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve the revisions to Policy 5460.03 Graduation Date/Ceremony and approve the first reading. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

B. Garbers moved, B. Minard seconded to remove the words “on an unofficial basis” from the sentence in the 7th paragraph and approve the first reading. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

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.

Board Development

Roger Fruit began Collective Commitment work with the board members.

Adjournment

B. Garbers moved, B. Minard seconded to adjourn at 9:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hatz, Clerk