

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2026
High School Library – 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 July 9, 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, Heidi Horton, Shawn Handland and Emily Klunk; Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson. Student representatives: Tula Mitchell and Graham Sjoquist.

Approval of Agenda

N. Walters 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 Collaborative team, the Management team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

CESA #4 Board of Control did not have a meeting in July, so no report was given.

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

Information on Seclusion and Restraint data for the 25-26 school year was reported by Director of Pupil Services, Heidi Horton.

Connection with the Community

Graham Sjoquist, Student Representative, reported on:

- Football

The football team is having 7on7s at UWL to get ready for camp coming soon.

- NHS Blood Drive

The National Honor Society has started planning its summer blood drive. It is on August 5th, and they have a goal of 34 units.

- CAT Program

The CAT program is almost finished, with the last day being July 30th. Students are working hard at getting stronger for their sports and are ready for their seasons to start.

Tula Mitchell, Student Representative, reported on:

- Summer is moving quickly and is just about halfway done, but students are staying connected with each other through various activities

- Panther Portfolios

Although school is out, the incoming seniors are working hard on their Panther Portfolios this summer. Some projects have already even been completed!

- Basketball

Even though basketball starts in the winter, both the boys' and girls' teams have been practicing and going to summer league games.

Correspondence

A thank-you card from Barb Reynolds was read.

Public Comments

None.

Consent Agenda

Before action on the Consent Agenda, the Board was informed that one co-curricular recommendation had been added for approval: Varsity Boys Soccer Head Coach.

J.Hatz moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 22, 2026;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. co-curricular recommendations: dance team head coach, adaptive sports league head and assistant coach, volunteer HS football coaches, assistant 8th grade football coach, varsity boys soccer head coach;
- d. to hire Hilary Stanek as MS/HS Athletic Director;
- e. the resignation of Lauren Lovely, 7th Grade Special Education Teacher;
- f. to accept donations from Cynthia and William Innes in the amount of \$20.00 to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund, Barre Co-Ed Lions Club in the amount of \$750.00 to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund, and Our Savior's Lutheran Church in the amount of \$439.05 to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund.

Motion carried, unanimously (7-0).

Discussion/Action Items:

Director of School Nutrition Emily Klunk provided a Nutrition Services report for the 25-26 school year. T. Harman moved, N. Walters seconded to approve the recommendation of no change to student breakfast prices, increasing student lunch prices by \$0.15, no change to morning milk price, and an increase of \$0.25 to adult lunch prices for the 26-27 school year. Motion carried, unanimously (7-0).

B. Minard moved, C. Wilson seconded the adoption of the Academic Standards for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

C. Wilson moved, N. Walters seconded to approve the following handbooks for the 2026-2027 school year: Employee Handbook, Elementary Student & Parent Handbook, Middle School Student & Athletic Handbook, High School Student Handbook and Technology Handbook. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

B. Garbers moved, J.Hatz seconded to approve hiring a Hybrid AV/Technology Support Specialist. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

T. Harman moved, B. Garbers seconded to adopt the following: **RESOLUTION** - Whereas the following school districts have a student with a disability, 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 Holmen and the School District of West Salem agree to establish and maintain, on a cooperative basis, a student with a disability special education program(s) pursuant to Section 66.0301 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

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

Po0144.5 - 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

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

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended at 8:36 p.m., as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

Board Development

a. There was a discussion on future district operations and needs regarding the County Farm proposal.

b. There was a discussion on future district operations and needs regarding District Communication.

Adjournment

C. Griffin moved, B. Garbers seconded to adjourn at 9:58 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hatz, Clerk