

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2026
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 6:00 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 6:01 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 August 6, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Caitlin Wilson led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and Bob Minard recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

N. Walters moved, B. Garbers 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 and the Superintendent were reviewed.

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

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

An AI Implementation Committee update was reported by Director of Instruction, Alyssa Harlan.

Connection with the Community

Tula Mitchell, Student Representative, reported on:

- **Football**

The football team started practice this past Tuesday. This past week, they had two practices a day. Their first game is on August 21.

- **NHS Blood Drive**

The NHS hosted their annual summer blood drive this last Wednesday. They had a total of 53 units donated, which saves about 159 lives.

- **Show Choir**

The show choir has started working on their choreography for this upcoming season. They also volunteered at Ashley for the Arts this past weekend.

- **Legion Baseball**

The legion baseball team competed at the state tournament two weekends ago. The team ended up taking 3rd place. They all had a great experience and made memories that will last forever.

- Other Sports

Girls and Boys cross country, volleyball, and boys' soccer all have their first day of practice next Monday the 17th.

- Girls Tennis

Girls' tennis had their first practice today. This week they have two practices a day, and next week they already have three matches on Monday (La Crosse Ace), Tuesday (Lodi), Friday, and Saturday (La Crosse Invitational @WS).

Correspondence

Thank-you cards from Tina Shaw, Lydia Jothan, and Olivia Maki were read.

Public Comments

None.

Consent Agenda

B. Garbers moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 13, 2026;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. co-curricular recommendations: Assistant dance team coach, assistant soccer coach, volunteer soccer coach, assistant 8th grade volleyball coach, assistant 8th grade football coach and volunteer 8th grade football coach;
- d. to hire Emily Lewandowski-4K Teacher and Jessica Kasten-Cross-Categorical Special Education Teacher;
- e. the resignation of Tanner Gibbons, High School Science Teacher and Coach;
- f. to accept donations from Cynthia and William Innes for \$20.00 to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund, Beer By Bike Brigade for \$1626.30 to the Jane Doe Fund, Andy and Annie Labus for \$56.00 to the Angela Labus Scholarship, West Salem Elementary PTO for \$5428.12 to the 4K non-capital equipment, Signarama donated the West Salem Baseball champions sign valued at \$619.44 and Knights of Columbus for \$1500.00 to the West Salem Elementary School for a new washer and dryer.

Motion carried, unanimously (7-0).

Discussion/Action Items:

B. Minard moved, T. Harman seconded, to approve the 2025-2026 Annual Crime Statistics Report to be submitted to DPI. Motion carried, unanimously (7-0).

T. Harman moved, N. Walters 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 a student with a disability." "Be it, and it is hereby resolved that the school boards of School District of Holmen and 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).

Superintendent Rieber announced that the West Salem School District will host the WASB 2026 Fall Regional meeting. No action was taken.

Superintendent Rieber gave an update on our Strategic Planning Process with Excel Leadership, LLC. No action was taken.

T. Harman moved, J. Hatz seconded, to approve the MOU between Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin and the West Salem High School. 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 7:04 p.m., as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

Closed Session

The Board will convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats §19.85(1) (d), except as provided in s. 304.06 (1) (eg) and by rule promulgated under s. 304.06 (1) (em), considering specific applications of probation, extended supervision, or parole, or considering strategy for crime detection or prevention, for the purpose of reviewing, discussing, and, if appropriate, adopting the district safety plan.

C. Griffin moved, C. Wilson seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:10 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: B. Minard, Aye; T. Harman, Aye; C. Griffin, Aye; N. Walters, Aye; C. Wilson, Aye; B. Garbers, Aye; and J. Hatz, Aye. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Also in attendance at closed session: Ryan Rieber, Alyssa Harlan, Officer Riley Schmidt and Jennifer Larson.

Reconvene in Open Session

C. Griffin moved, N. Walters seconded to reconvene into Open Session at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Open Session

Board Development

Roger Fruit discussed Collective Commitments with the Board.

Adjournment

C. Griffin moved, B. Minard seconded to adjourn at 9:22 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hatz, Clerk