

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 14, 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 September 10, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

N. Walters moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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 September agenda.

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

Human Resources Update – Crystal Becker presented on our hiring process, what we are doing to retain our employees, and retention rates.

Transportation Update – Rick Kline presented a transportation update for the start of the 26/27 school year. He provided updates on vehicles, double runs, student accountability, cameras, and general information.

Connection with the Community

Graham Sjoquist, Student Representative, reported on:

- NHS
 - The NHS had their second chapter event of the fall semester this last weekend being Flags of Honor. The members helped set up the hundreds of American flags

throughout Village Park and helped guide visitors through the park to find their loved ones.

- Cross Country
 - Cross country has been doing well at the start of the season, with meets in Verona and Menomonie placing highly in each. The next meet is on Saturday at Wausau; this is a team favorite meet.
- Volleyball
 - The girls' volleyball team had a four-set win against G-E-T last Friday. They have one game this week on Thursday at home versus Onalaska Luther.
- Football
 - The football team is rolling this season with another dominant win against Aquinas, 35-6. They play Black River Falls this Friday for the homecoming game.

Tula Mitchell, Student Representative, reported on:

- Soccer
 - The boys' soccer team had many dominant wins last week, and this week they have 2 games on Tuesday and Thursday against Logan and Central.
- Tennis
 - Girls' tennis is continuing to play well this season. Their overall varsity record is now 15-8 after the quad we hosted this past Saturday. They play Black River Falls tomorrow and are honoring their seniors before the match as well.
- Homecoming
 - Today was the start of Homecoming week. We started the week off with the Kickoff and Powderpuff game last night. The seniors pulled off a win at the powderpuff game with a score of 21-7. At the game, they also announced the homecoming court. The theme this year is Into the Stars, and today's dress-up day at the high school was sleeping under the stars (pajamas). Everyone is starting to get excited for the upcoming events of the week like the pep assembly on Friday, the football game, and, of course, the dance this Saturday.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

None.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 24, 2026;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. co-curricular recommendations: updates to contract percentages for head boys soccer coach (3%) and assistant boys soccer coach (7%);
- d. hiring, if any - None;
- e. resignation (s)/retirement(s), if any – None;
- f. donations, if any - None.

Motion carried, unanimously (6-0).

Discussion/Action Items:

B. Minard moved, C. Wilson seconded, to revise Policy 7510, Use of District Facilities Excluding Center for the Arts, Section I, #3, regarding hunting privileges in the West Salem School Forest to be restricted to individuals who are current residents of the West Salem School District, parents of a child enrolled in the district, or current district employees. This also includes the addition of bow hunting with the same restrictions. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). *The Superintendent was directed to update the policy and permit form, with drafts to be presented for a first reading at the next meeting.*

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

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended at 8:28 p.m., as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

Closed Session

The Board will convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. §19.85(1)(e), regarding the possible sale of School District property, including consideration of a potential offer and the district's negotiating strategy, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

C. Griffin moved, B. Garbers seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:29 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: B. Minard, Aye; C. Wilson, Aye; T. Harman, Absent; C. Griffin, Aye; N. Walters, Aye; B. Garbers, Aye; and J. Hatz, Aye. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). Also in attendance at closed session: Ryan Rieber, Shawn Handland, and Jennifer Larson.

Board Development

The scheduled Board Development Session was not held due to time constraints.

Adjournment

C. Griffin moved, B. Minard seconded to adjourn at 9:01 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hatz, Clerk