

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 28, 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. *Due to technical difficulties, there was no audio.*

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 September 24, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Nick Walters led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and Ben Garbers recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Trish Harman, 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, Ben Wopat; Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson. Student representatives: Graham Sjoquist. Excused: Bob Minard and Tula Mitchell.

Approval of Agenda

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

Written and Oral Reports

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

Business Operations Committee – B. Garbers reported on the agenda items from the September 28, 2026, Business Operations meeting.

WASB Support – Larry Cyrus presented on the Wisconsin Association of School Boards services and benefits that they offer to school board members.

Connection with the Community

Graham Sjoquist, Student Representative, reported on:

- Cross Country
 - The cross-country team has been running well these last two weeks. They had a meet in Wausau last Saturday. The girls won the D2/3 race, and the boys took 4th in the D2/3 race. The team travelled to Marshfield on Friday and ran in the night meet there. The course was lit up with Christmas lights and other fun lighting.
- Volleyball
 - After their wins against Westby and Black River Falls last week, the girls' volleyball team is now 7-0 in conference play. This week, they have two matches. On Tuesday, they play Arcadia for their last conference home match, and they are also honoring their seniors. On Thursday, they play Viroqua at Viroqua.
- Football
 - The football team is now 6-0, winning against Black River Falls on homecoming and their most recent win being against Luther.

- Soccer
 - The soccer team is now 7-5-1, with their most recent win on Saturday against Black River Falls with a mercy rule 9-1. They have a game tomorrow against Arcadia.
- Tennis
 - The girls' tennis team had their conference tournament today. It started at 9 a.m., and it was at Black River Falls. The team was all ready to go and win the tournament, where they were seeded second before it started.
- Recap of HOCO
 - Homecoming was a little hectic this year. Because of bad weather, the parade and football game got moved to Thursday afternoon and night. The football game against Black River Falls still ended in a win, though. The high school still had our big assembly all day on Friday, but it did not end in a parade like usual. On Saturday, pictures had to be moved inside the high school commons because of rain, but the dance was still very fun.
- Band
 - Also at the homecoming football game, the band decided to honor their seniors with a rendition of "Kiss Him Goodbye". This is an annual tradition for the band, and all the seniors were very appreciative.
- Marching Band
 - This past weekend at Oktoberfest, the high school marching band marched their last parade of the season. They have marched in Kellogg Watermelon Days, La Crescent Applefest, and now La Crosse Oktoberfest parades. Next week, they will start on their concert music, and soon after that, students will complete their auditions for chair placements.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

None.

Consent Agenda

T. Harman moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the minutes of the regular board meeting and special board development meeting of September 14, 2026;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. to accept donations from Sylvester and Patricia Clements, who donated an eye machine worth \$ 6,000.00; West Salem Cares, which donated \$2500.00 for students in need to their lunch accounts; Tom Moran, who donated \$1000.00 to the Horace Moran Scholarship Fund; and Cynthia and William Innes, who donated \$20.00 to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund;
- d. WIAA Co-op agreements for boys & girls' swim/dive team

Motion carried, unanimously (6-0).

Discussion/Action Items:

Shawn Handland presented the preliminary numbers for the 2026-2027 Revenue Limit Worksheet. No action was taken.

T. Harman moved, B. Garbers seconded, to approve the following borrowing resolution: **"Be it resolved that the School District of West Salem will borrow from Union State Bank on a short-term revenue anticipation basis, from time to time, in one or more advances, the sum not to**

exceed \$5,000,000 at any one time, for the operation of the schools of the district. Be It Further Resolved, that the West Salem School District, by its President and District Clerk, shall execute a Promissory Note of the School District to be dated September 28, 2026, in the amount of \$5,000,000 with an interest rate of 5.55% and payable in full on June 30, 2027." Motion carried, unanimously (6-0).

J. Hatz moved, N. Walters seconded to approve adding the English Language Development standards to the Student Academic Standards. Motion carried, unanimously (6-0).

C. Wilson moved, T. Harman seconded, to approve the First Reading of the revised policy 7510 Use of District Facilities Excluding Center for the Arts with the addition of Option 2, to allow residents, students' immediate family, and district employees to hunt at the OEC to the policy. Motion carried, unanimously (6-0).

N. Walters moved, C. Griffin seconded, to approve the West Salem OEC school hunting permit with the additions discussed. Motion carried, unanimously (6-0).

J. Hatz moved, C. Wilson seconded, to approve capping the number of school district hunting permits at a maximum quota of 12 permits per year at the OEC. Motion carried, unanimously (6-0).

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

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended at 8:22 p.m., as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

Board Development

Allyssa Harlan, Director of Instruction, presented on Target-Based Grading and Reporting.

The Board finalized its four Collective Commitments and definitions.

Closed Session

The Board will convene in closed session to 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 employment and compensation of a district employee.

C. Griffin moved, B. Garbers seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 9:22 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: B. Minard, Absent; C. Wilson, Aye; T. Harman, Aye; 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 and Jennifer Larson.

Adjournment

C. Griffin moved, B. Garbers seconded to adjourn at 9:41 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hatz, Clerk