

School District of West Salem  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
October 12, 2020  
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

As noted on the Public Meeting Notice: The health and safety of district employees, Board of Education and the community is our number one priority. Therefore, the district is taking precautionary measures consistent with the CDC and the La Crosse County Health Department recommendations. \*Board members may participate via remote access. The room will be open to limited spectators. Live streaming of this meeting was available on our District's YouTube page. Face coverings were required to be worn when attending the meeting and social distancing measures should be followed.

**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, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe's Country Market, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on October 8, 2020.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag*

Ken Schlimgen led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Deanna Wiatt recited the District Mission Statement.

*Roll Call*

Present: Erik Peterson, Jane Halverson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Ryan Rieber, Eric Jensen, Mike Malott (remote access), Tami Bagstad (remote access), Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Madisyn Haun and Maxwell Goetz. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Ben Wopat.

*Approval of Agenda*

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Connection with the Community**

*Madisyn Haun, Student Representative, reported on:*

1. Sports are beginning to enter their playoffs and post season games.
2. Tennis has three players going to state.

*Maxwell Goetz, Student Representative, reported on:*

1. Students are back in school in the blended learning format.
2. Lifetouch has come to take the “Salem” group’s school photos on October 8 and the “West” group’s school photos is on October 19.
3. There is a tentative homecoming date set for October 23.

*Correspondence* – None.

*Public comments* – None.

*Written and Oral Reports*

CESA #4 Board of Control – Mrs. Halverson reported on the events of the CESA #4 Board of Control October meeting.

Workforce Engagement and Development Committee – Mrs. Halverson reported on the agenda item: employee handbook updates.

Business Operations Committee – Mr. Grosskopf reported on the agenda items: proposed 20-21 budget, mill rate and tax levy; resolution for short-term borrowing; and refinance of referendum debt from 3.4% to 2.5%.

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Superintendent’s Cabinet Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

**Consent Agenda**

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Peterson seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2020;
- b) the invoices to be paid
- c) accept the resignation of Angie Hemker as the district’s Odyssey of the Mind Leader.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion/Action Items:**

Proposed 20-21 budget, mill rate and tax levy. No action was taken.

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to adopt the following resolution: Be It Resolved that the School District of West Salem will borrow on a short-term basis the sum of \$5,500,000 for the operation of the schools of the district: \$2,750,000 on October 15, 2020 with an additional \$2,750,000 on November 13, 2020, with a payment of \$1,842,000 to be made on December 18 and January 22nd, and the final payment of \$1,839,000 plus interest on February 26,2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to approve the refinancing of referendum debt from 3.4% to 2.5%. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to accept the Workforce Engagement & Development Committee’s recommendation for employee handbook updates. Motion carried. (6-0) Mr. Peterson Abstained.

Wisconsin Education Convention participation. No action was taken.

**The list of to do items / information requests was reviewed. No action was taken.**

Mrs. Griffin welcomed the motion for closed session: The Board will 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 superintendent’s evaluation.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:45 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**Closed Session**

**Adjournment**

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to adjourn at 9:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jane Halverson, Clerk