1School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
October 12, 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 7:01 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 October 7, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Bob Minard led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and Graham Sjoquist 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, Justin Jehn, Alex Hubing, Amanda Beld, Heidi Horton, Shawn Handland; Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson. Student representatives: Tula Mitchell and Graham Sjoquist. Excused: Alyssa Harlan.

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 October agenda.

Construction Project Update – Superintendent Rieber reported on the construction progress of the high school project.

Open Enrollment/Third Friday Report - Superintendent Rieber provided information on our current enrollment.

Connection with the Community
Graham Sjoquist, Student Representative, reported on:
- Cross Country
    - Both the girls' and boys' cross-country teams are geared up for the postseason races. They had an exciting last meet of the year on Saturday at Wisconsin Rapids. The girls' team won the division 2/3 race, and the boys placed second. Junior Evan Berra broke his own school record with a time of 15:45. They have their conference meet this Thursday at GET.
- Volleyball
    - The girls' volleyball team is now 7-0 in conference play after their games last week against Westby and G-E-T. They also had a tournament this past weekend in Wisconsin Dells. There, they played 5 games and won all 5, leaving the tournament as champions and with a 5-0 record.

- Soccer
    - The boys' soccer team has one game left in their regular season before the playoffs against Onalaska tomorrow. They then begin the playoffs on the 22nd against Evansville.
- Show Choir
    - The show choir had its first performance last week with “Heritage Night” at Central. Their theme this year is “Tis the Season”.

Tula Mitchell, Student Representative, reported on:
- Football
    - The varsity football team played no games this past week because Viroqua forfeited the game on Friday, the 9th. Even though there was no game, the band and dance team still performed for parents and community members. The band performed some pep band tunes and the halftime show they had planned with the middle school band. The dance team performed a routine choreographed by their seniors and performed with the kids’ dance camp after.
- Tennis
    - The girls’ tennis team finished their season off well. They competed at sub-sectionals this past Monday, the 5th, and everyone competed very well. The 1 doubles team of Kennedy Everson and Lydia Rislow won their first match in their bracket. This sent them to the sectional matches on Thursday, the 8th. There, they played Edgewood in their first match and sadly lost. Congratulations to the girls’ tennis team on their amazing season.
- CCLR Day
    - This past week on Wednesday, the high school had a CCLR day where all the grades worked on getting ready for their future, whether that be college or a career. The seniors also had to take the civics test, which is a state requirement to graduate.

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 of September 28, 2026;
b. the invoices to be paid;
c. co-curricular recommendations: volunteer gymnastics coach, volunteer girls’ hockey coaches, head varsity girls’ basketball coach; and 26-27 HS non-athletics positions;
d. the resignation of Mike Malott, Girls Basketball Coach, and Ben Wopat, Middle School Principal;
e. to accept donations from Cynthia Innes, who donated an alto saxophone (valued at $400.00) and a trumpet (valued at $250.00), and Kwik Trip (Thank You Dave Wagner) donated $450.00 in gift cards towards buns, hot dogs, ketchup, and mustard for the 4K hot dog party;
Motion carried, unanimously (7-0).

The following proclamations were read from the Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction:
October 12-16, 2026 is National School Lunch Week, and October 15-25, 2026 is Wisconsin Science Week.

Thank-you cards from Crystal Becker and Ava Schuster were read. A thank-you letter was read from Our Savior's Lutheran Church from this summer's "Feed Our Children".

Public Comments – None.

Discussion/Action Items:
Shawn Handland presented a 2026-2027 Budget Update. No action was taken.

Board Grant volunteers to review the Board Grant applications are T. Harman, N. Walters, and B. Minard.

C. Griffin moved, B. Minard seconded, to approve the Second Reading of the revised policy 7510 Use of District Facilities Excluding Center for the Arts. Motion carried, unanimously (7-0).

B. Minard moved, T. Harman seconded, to approve the West Salem Resident OEC school hunting application. Motion carried, unanimously (7-0).

C. Wilson moved, B. Garbers seconded, to approve the Early College Credit (4-Year Universities)/Start College now (Technical Colleges) requests. Motion carried, unanimously (7-0).

The list of to-do items/Board member information requests was reviewed. There was a request to add a Board Grant update from the 2025-2026 school year to the to-do list.

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended at 8:04 p.m., as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

Board Development
Cheryl Gullicksrud from the Wisconsin Association of School Boards presented on Effective School Governance: Roles and Responsibilities.

Adjournment
J. Hatz moved, B. Minard seconded, to adjourn at 9:13 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

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Jennifer Hatz, Clerk