

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2025
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 7:02 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 9, 2025.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Caitlin Wilson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Ben Wopat recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Catherin Griffin, Erik Peterson, Trish Harman, Caitlin Wilson and Ben Garbers. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Alex Hubing, Justin Jehn, Ben Wopat, and Heidi Horton; Student representatives: Lydia Jothan, Zeke Hyer. Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson. Excused: Alyssa Harlan, Shawn Handland, Bob Minard.

Approval of Agenda

E. Peterson moved, B. Garbers seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Written and Oral Reports

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Superintendent's Collaborative Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

CESA#4 Board of Control Report – C. Griffin reported that the committee did not have an October meeting. They will meet in November.

Construction Project Update by Kraus Anderson Construction – Superintendent Rieber gave an update on the high school project including the groundbreaking ceremony that was held on October 8, 2025. He also gave an elementary school project update that concrete would be poured soon.

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

Superintendent Rieber provided a report on summer school 2025 including enrollment numbers and various summer school programs at the elementary, middle and high school.

Connection with the Community

Lydia Jothan, Student Representative, reported on:

To start, NHS partnered with DECA and Interact Club are prepping for the annual haunted trail at the school forest. They collect cans as donations and the high school students always have tons of fun scaring the younger kids. Keeping in the Halloween spirit, they are also planning and will start advertising Trick or Can later this week. Near Halloween, all the canned goods are collected and donated to the West Salem Food Pantry.

As I'm sure you all know, Homecoming was just a few weeks ago! The high school had tons of fun dressing up during the week. This year's theme was through the ages. Monday's dress up day was Hunter vs Gatherer, and one kid wore a full gilly suit to school. Next was Independence Day, which was a USA dress up, and students went all out by even wearing blow up eagle suits. Wednesday was 80s neon vs grunge. A few of the teachers were excited they just had to dress like they did when they were our age! Thursday was zoom day where everyone was encouraged to wear a nice top and PJ bottoms. Some kids really took Covid day seriously by wearing full PPE. Finally Friday was a blast with everyone dressed in orange and black and we had no classes. We had tons of talent acts this year at our pep rally including Sumo Wrestling, Singing, and a drum off. Additionally we got to celebrate the 2 newly inducted Alumni Hall of fame members, Edna Whyte and Mary Smith.

Zeke Hyer, Student Representative, reported on:

After a day filled with celebrating West Salem it was time for the parade where it was very hot outside. Then the game was amazing where the cats won by a lot as I forgot the score. And the dance was amazing as our homecoming king Youseff and queen Addie Jehn were recognized!

The football team has a current record of 6-2 with this coming week being senior night against Black River Falls this Friday.

After tennis sectionals Senior Kendal Sullivan got 3rd place and will thus be moving on to State this coming weekend.

The volleyball team is wrapping up their regular season with just a couple weeks left with games against Black River Falls this week as well. This season has also been full of personal accolades with senior Addie Jehn reaching 500 assists, and then senior Josie Brudos is approaching 500 kills and 500 digs.

And last but certainly not least last week was Wisconsin School Board week so on behalf of the student body Lydia and I wanted to thank the West Salem School Board for all you do.

Correspondence – A thank you note was read from Terrie Johnson and Gjerde Family.

The following proclamations were read:

Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction proclamations for the following:

October 1-31, 2025, is Keeping Kids Safe Online Month, the month of October is Gifted Education Month, October 16-26, 2025, is Wisconsin Science Week, and October 13-17, 2025, is National School Lunch Week.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

E. Peterson moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 22, 2025, and the Special Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2025
- b. Invoices to be paid
- c. Co-curricular Recommendations: high school advisors, head MS wrestling-Tyler Shrake, head girls' soccer-Autumn Malicot, head girls wrestling-Warren Frank, assistant wrestling coaches-Joe Hess, Reid Rasmussen, Evan Wolfe, assistant girls' hockey-Stacy Mitchell, Chad Long, assistant girls' basketball-Mariah Wick, Tanner Gibbons, assistant boys' basketball-Brennan Kennedy, and assistant boys' hockey-Jacob Iverson
- d. To accept donations from Cynthia and William Innes for Random Acts of Kindness fund, William B. Euler to the West Salem School District for Scholarship fund, Bonnie Koudelka to the West Salem High School Band and West Salem Kwik Trip for gas cards.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

C. Wilson moved, T. Harman seconded to adopt the 2026-2027 school year calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

Alex Hubing presented the 4K Full Time Full Day proposal. No action was taken.

E. Peterson moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve the Early College Credit/Start College now requests. Motion carried.

Board Grant volunteers to review the Board Grant applications are C. Wilson, T. Harman and C. Griffin.

B. Minard joined the board meeting via google meet at 8:37 p.m.

The board reviewed the candidate submissions for the school board vacancy and appointed Jennifer Hatz to fill the vacancy.

B. Minard left the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

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

*Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended, as noted on the Public Meeting Notice. **Live Stream Ends at 8:49 p.m.***

Board Development

Justin Jehn led a Board Development Session on the Trades Lab Curriculum and Materials.

Adjournment

B. Garbers moved, C. Griffin seconded to adjourn at 9:26 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Caitlin Wilson, Clerk