School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
October 27, 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 7:01 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 23, 2025.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Zeke Hyer led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Trish Harman recited the District Mission Statement.

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

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 Management Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Connection with the Community
Lydia Jothen, Student Representative, reported on:
Last week, students in the band were stressed as it was audition week. Marching season is officially over, and the bands are divided into Wind Symphony and Concert band. They are now practicing for their concert in December. Also performs that night and has been singing Christmas music since the first week of school. They are also preparing their songs for Disney as the band and choir program leave Nov. 23rd.

FFA is going to the National Convention. They are leaving tomorrow for Indianapolis and will be gone through Friday. There they will meet students from other states and get to learn how different places operate. There are also several booths and collages looking for students interested in Veterinary Science, diesel engines, and other agricultural studies. In addition to the convention, they will tour UW Madison, go to a rodeo, Dave and busters, an exotic cat sanctuary and their Chapter meal at Olive Garden.

HOSA is a student organization for those interested in healthcare careers. They meet Monday mornings and are currently working on an affirmation poster project. They hang these sounds at the school, especially in areas like the bathroom mirrors. Additionally, they are working to keep the women's bathroom stocked with feminine hygiene products.

The West Salem FIRST Technical Challenge Robotics team will be participating in a scrimmage event at WTC's Wanek Center this Saturday, November 1st. There will also be a Wisconsin FIRST Lego League Robotics Regional Event at the West Salem Middle School on Saturday, November 8th where two middle school teams from West Salem will be competing.

Zeke Hyer, Student Representative, reported on:
The junior class had the opportunity to be interviewed by community members in their English 11 classes. I think it's awesome that our English classes are setting students up for success in the real world by developing their interview skills.

All our fall sports are coming to a close with the playoffs with:

The volleyball team ending their season last week with a devastating playoff loss to St. Croix Central.

Senior Carson Gronomus, Sophomore Evan Berra, and Freshman Nora Johnson have all advanced to the state cross country meet this Saturday the 1st. Both Evan and Nora have broken school records in the 5k this season.

The football team won 48-20 in the first round of playoffs this past Friday against Berlin. They will then play Little Chute this Friday. There are buses available for students and parents to support the team.

Boys' soccer ended their season last week in a tough 1-2 loss against Mount Horeb.

With our sports seasons in the heat of playoffs, and students being involved in various other activities, the student body is at incredibly hard work with everything they have going on. With this hard work I believe the majority of students are feeling overwhelmed from sports, classes, or both. Although I believe stress is a necessity for growth, I do think it's important for Lydia and I make the board aware of how students feel.

Correspondence

•A Department of Public Instruction Proclamation HOSA-Future Health Professionals (HOSA-FHP) Week, November 3-7, 2025, was read.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda
E. Peterson moved, B. Garbers seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:
a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 13, 2025;
b. the invoices to be paid;
c. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendations for elementary school advisors, middle school advisors, assistant gymnastics-Brittney Jones, head 7th grade basketball-Mark

Wagner, assistant 7th grade basketball -Nick Wagner and assistant middle school wrestling coach-Trevor Arentz;

d. to accept the donations from Cynthia & William Innes to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund, Allison Gegzna, David Bohnsack & Ashley Foreman to the Jane Doe Nutrition fund; Jo & Steve Mader brought in donation from the La Crosse Area Autism Foundation for the West Salem School District; Kwik Trip Management Team donated to the Homecoming Parade for Marching and Jazz Band; West Salem PTO donated to the special education classroom; Bostwick Estates donated to the West Salem District Football and Choir.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:
B. Garbers moved, T. Harman seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee recommendation to approve bid pack 4 including Alternate 1, 2 and 3, Brick in lieu of Metal panel and renovation of the FACS classroom. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, B. Garbers seconded to set the budget for the 2025-2026 school year as presented at the Annual Meeting – proposed Fund 10 revenues $29,690,573 and proposed Fund 10 expenses at $29,396,641. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, J. Hatz seconded to set the 2025-2026 school year Tax Levy at $12,841,941 with a mill rate of 0.00773671. Motion carried unanimously.

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 7:29 p.m.**

Closed Session
C. 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 employment and compensation of a district employee. The board will discuss the salary of a district position.

C. Griffin moved, T. Harman seconded that the board convene in closed session at 7:32 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Adjournment
C. Griffin moved, B. Garbers seconded to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Erik Peterson, Acting Clerk