

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
December 8, 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 December 4, 2025.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Bob Minard led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Zeke Hyer recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

C. Wilson 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 and Management Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Connection with the Community

Lydia Jothen, Student Representative, reported on:

Last week, the band and choir students, along with some community members, headed down to Florida to spend the week at Disney and Universal. The band performed in Magic Kingdom, making that the seniors' last parade. The choir performed several Christmas songs in Disney Springs where senior Breanna Smith killed some amazing solos. Overall, students said they had tons of fun and especially liked that this trip allows freedom of choice. Each day there were suggested places to go but students had the option to go, eat, or explore anywhere as long as they stayed on Disney property. The bus rides were long, but students stayed busy and enjoyed that we stopped in Tennessee instead of driving straight through. And other than one stop for a popped tire, and some traffic, the drive went well. Everyone that I've talked to had a blast and had tons of stories to share!

This past weekend, the gymnastics team had its first meet in Mankato. There, Olivia Maki set the school record on vault with a 9.5 and placed 3rd in vault. Overall, the gymnastics team took 3rd of 8 teams.

The choir concert was this weekend where they performed their Christmas songs. Right after the show choir had its first Performance. Singsations, the coed show choir performed their show Storm, and Vivace, the girls show choir performed their show coffee shop. Overall, both performances went very well.

The dance team had their Winter showcase and said it went really well. The event gave all the dancers an opportunity to perform the routines they've been working so hard on over the past few months. The team performed their Pom routine, small-group jazz routine, Senior Ella Owen's solo, and Junior Cailyn Skrede's solo. They also had elementary and middle school dancers take the floor between their performances, to showcase what they have been working on the past week! Overall, it was an amazing way for all of them to celebrate what they've accomplished so far in the season. they will be performing again this Saturday in little chute!

The NHS giving tree is running right now. There are tags with 25 and 50-dollar gift cards waiting to be filled. There are still 100 tags left, and looking for anyone to grab them!

Zeke Hyer, Student Representative, reported on:

Wrestling has had a great start to their season with dual wins over Tomah and La Crosse with the girls' team having exhibition matches with a 11-1 record. The team also had a team win in a tournament in Royal over the weekend with notable first place finishes from Teghan Moore, Lucas Fry, Justice Elam, and Cayden Anderson. The girls team also won the tournament with Sophia Anderson taking first place in her bracket.

The boys' basketball team started their season with a win against Tomah, where Senior Will Schmidt tied the school record for assists in a game with 12. The boys play tomorrow at Luther along with the girls for a doubleheader.

The girls have also started their season with two close losses. They play Luther tomorrow at 5:45 with hopes of getting in the win column.

The hockey team started their season as well. They play tomorrow against Viroqua at home.

The seniors have recently completed their research papers and submitted them. These 6-8 page papers have been in the process of being made since the start of the school year. I believe I can speak on behalf of the senior student body that everyone is glad this portion of the Panther Portfolio is done with.

Correspondence

A Department of Public Instruction Proclamation declaring Computer Science Education Week, December 8-14, 2025, was read.

A letter from Our Savior's Lutheran Church regarding a donation to Random Acts of Kindness Fund was read.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

J. Hatz moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 24, 2025;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. to accept the donations from Culvers of Onalaska to FFA; Brian and Carrie Elsen to Unsung Hero Scholarship; the La Crosse County Community Contribution Committee to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund; Ho-Chunk Nation School-Community Relations Division PreK-12 Grant program to Out of State/Overnight Student travel program; The Community Assistance Fund to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund and The Liuna: Local 140 to the Jane Doe Fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

T. Harman moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the new high school course offerings. Motion carried unanimously.

The list of to do items / information requests was reviewed. One item will be added: To look at the correlation of students who attend summer school and the relation to their success in future years in school.

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended, as noted on the Public Meeting Notice. Live Stream Ends at 7:38 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 mid-year evaluation of the superintendent.

C. Wilson moved, J. Hatz seconded that the board convene in closed session at 7:39 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Adjournment

B. Garbers moved, B. Minard seconded to adjourn at 8:51 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Caitlin Wilson, Clerk