

School District of West Salem  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
December 14, 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 December 10, 2020.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag*

Ryan Rieber led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Ben Wopat 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, Ben Wopat, Eric Jensen, Mike Malott, Tami Bagstad, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Madisyn Haun and Maxwell Goetz. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. School Nurses Beth Clements and Kate Brohmer. School Medical Director Dr. Rose Wolbrink.  
Excused: N/A.

*Approval of Agenda*

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

**Consent Agenda**

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

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2020;
- b) the invoices to be paid;
- c) accept donations from Paul & Ann Van Dyck and Duane Schaper for the Angela Labus Memorial Scholarship Fund; and
- d) the resignation of Darren Fruit as the freshmen baseball coach.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Discussion/Action Items:**

Mr. Peterson moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to welcome our students back on January 4th face-to-face 4k-5th grade, five days/week and utilize our hybrid model in grades 6-12. This is how we kept our doors open successfully in October. This mode allows us to follow all of the mitigation strategies of face masking, social distancing, and hand hygiene as recommended. This is being recommended with the understanding that as we continue to gain information, talk to local and state health officials, and monitor the health of our school and community that the overall goal is to have all students 4k-12 face-to-face, full time, as soon as we can. Using district data and the administration making the decision regarding the mode of learning going forward. A roll call vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Nay; and Mr. Schlimgen, Nay. Motion carried. Mr. Malott provided direction for co-curricular activities from this point forward. Mr. Grosskopf moved to follow the recommendation for co-curricular activities by Mr. Malott. Motion withdrawn.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Peterson seconded to approve the high school new course offering for 2021-2022 school year, AP Environmental Science.

### **Connection with the Community**

*Maxwell Goetz, Student Representative, reported on:*

1. The high school resumed their meetings.
2. The varsity esports team has been competing in the past few weeks. They are currently 3-2 having to forfeit one match to COVID. They are a division three team and plan to be the number two seed come playoffs in January. They play Fennimore next week and plan to move up to 4-2. JV Esports was cancelled this winter however they will be joining another league this spring to compete.

*Madisyn Haun, Student Representative, reported on:*

1. Seniors have begun to submit their senior quotes.
2. Seniors are also moving forward in the SEP and their final copy of the paper is due next week Tuesday.
3. Juniors have been taking the pre-act over the past few Fridays.

### *Correspondence*

A thank you note from the family of Loris Griffin was read.

### *Written and Oral Reports*

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

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Business Operations Team, the Superintendent's Cabinet Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Human Resource updates: the resignation freshmen baseball coach-Darren Fruit; the hiring of paraprofessionals Sam Adams and Angela Gross.

*Public Comments*

The following spoke on the return to school/co-curricular activities: Ella Jordan, Maddie Quick, Ted Stein, Angela Gross, Nathan Gribble, Chris Hutchenson, Lance Wulf, Jennifer Eads, and Lori Szymanski.

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

**Adjournment**

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jane Halverson, Clerk