

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2021
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 7:01 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, 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 January 8, 2021.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Mike Malott led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Tom Grosskopf 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.
Excused: N/A.

Approval of Agenda

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

Connection with the Community

Madisyn Haun, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The Esports team finished their season 6-2, got a #3 seed, and have a chance at qualifying for state.
2. Wrestling team's record is 3-0.
3. Girls' basketball team record is 2-0 and they play tonight against Westby.
4. Boys' basketball team record is 2-1 and they play Westby tomorrow night.
5. Hockey team record is 1-1.

Maxwell Goetz, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Seniors who were not passing one of the two senior specific classes as of last Wednesday now have to attend school on Fridays until the end of the semester for extra work time.

2. It is now “finals week” in the high school, but this year we won’t have a typical finals schedule. Classes will run on a normal schedule and teachers who choose to administer a final can do so during their regularly scheduled class.
3. DECA recorded their role plays this past week for virtual Districts.

Correspondence

A thank you note from Martha Burdick was read.

Public Comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

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

Policy/Communication & Engagement Committee – Mr. Gavaghan reported on the agenda items: update on policy process with Neola and exception to Policy #751 Student Transportation Services.

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Superintendent’s Cabinet Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Consent Agenda

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

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2020;
- b) the invoices to be paid;
- c) to accept donations from Stephen & Deborah Kraus for the Horace Moran Memorial Fund; from the Tools for Schools Grant (River Bank-Stoddard, Dependable Solutions, Inc.-Prairie du Chien & Brenengen Auto-West Salem) for Brian Baker’s 7th grade science classroom; from Fire Fighters of West Salem, Ryan & Nicole Kammel, River Bank Holding Co.-La Crosse, and Barre Co-Ed Lions Club for the Random Acts of Kindness Fund; from the Wisconsin Trapshooting Association for the high school trap team; and from the La Crosse Builders Association Tools For Schools for Erik Mathison’s technology education classes.
- d) administration’s co-curricular recommendations-Heather Jehn, 8th grade girls’ basketball coach, Isaiah Schmidt-7th grade girls’ assistant basketball coach, Justin Running-7th grade girls’ basketball coach, Ashly Serres-8th grade girls’ assistant basketball coach, Alyssa Hilker-volunteer gymnastics coach, and Richie Brown-volunteer hockey coach.
- e) hire Isaiah Schmidt as a 6th grade science teacher, limited-term employment and Lauren Lovely as a middle school special education teacher, limited-term employment.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Schlingen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded that Board members should communicate their thoughts to WASB Delegate Assembly Representative Erik Peterson and the consensus was given that Erik Peterson be able to vote his conscience at the Delegate Assembly during the 2021 Education Convention which will be held virtually. Motion carried unanimously.

Pupil Services Director Eric Jensen shared information with the Board regarding the designation of special education Open Enrollment spaces for the 2021-2022 school year. No action was taken.

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to accept the Policy/Communication & Development Committee's recommendation for an exemption to policy #751 Student Transportation Services. All students are expected to ride the approved vehicle to and from each activity. A special request must be made to the building administrator by the parent, in writing, and providing proof of appropriate insurance, to allow this exception.

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended, as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

Board Development Session

The Board and administration reviewed chapter 2 of the book The Governance Core: School Boards, Superintendents and Schools Working Together. No action was taken.

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

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Peterson seconded to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Halverson, Clerk