

School District of West Salem  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
January 24, 2022  
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 7:03 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 January 21, 2022.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag*

Sean Gavaghan led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Erik Peterson recited the District Mission Statement.

*Roll Call*

Present: Erik Peterson, Chris Peterson (Remote Access), Ken Schlimgen (Remote Access), Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Ryan Rieber, Ben Wopat, Heidi Horton, Mike Malott, Tami Bagstad (Remote Access), Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representative: Krish Patel. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Rachel Stein

*Approval of Agenda*

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to approve the agenda as presented. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. E. Peterson, Aye; Mr. C. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**Written and Oral Reports**

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) – Mr. Schlimgen reported on the recent meeting of the TIF District.

Policy/Communication and Engagement – Mr. Schlimgen reported on the process for updating the policies to Neola.

Business Operations Committee – Mr. Grosskopf reported on the agenda items: interest information from Baird and capital 5-year plans.

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

Mr. Rieber provided a district update.

Board members Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin and Erik Peterson, and administrators Ryan Rieber and Deanna Wiatt shared highlights from the 2022 Education Convention.

### **Connection with the Community**

*Krish Patel, Student Representative, reported on:*

1. Two players from the Esports team were named to the All-State Overwatch Team: Adam Chandler and Michael Harding. They played in a competition last Saturday at Madison Technical College. There were 13 colleges in attendance; scouting and giving seminars on collegiate Esports.
2. In show choir news, Vivace won 1st place in the women division and Salem Singations won 4th runner up in a pool of 13 teams at their last competition.
3. The dance team is headed to Hudson, Wisconsin for a regional competition.

### *Correspondence*

A thank you picture card was shared with the Board from Mrs. Antony's class thanking them for the Board Grant for flexible seating.

A thank you card from Sherry Kneifl was read.

*Public Comments* – None.

Citizen Participation at Board Meetings speaker was Kortney Getter

### *Public Hearing*

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR EARLY START OF THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR PER WI STATUTE 118.045(3) – REQUEST WAIVER FOR EARLY START OF SCHOOL YEAR DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.

The hearing started at 7:30 p.m. and ended at 7:30 p.m.

### **Consent Agenda**

Mr. E. Peterson moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2022;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. to accept donations from Jon & Lynette Labus for the Angela Labus Memorial Scholarship Fund, and from an anonymous donor for the Random Acts of Kindness Fund;
- d. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendations for Lionel Karyea-head girls soccer coach, Jamie Olson-head baseball coach, Stacy Mitchell-head girls' track coach, Justin Stackston-head boys' track coach, and Brian Babiash-head softball coach;
- e. to hire Kris Marquez as a limited-term middle school special education teacher; and
- d. to accept the resignation of Jamie Olson as a high school assistant football coach.

A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. E. Peterson, Aye; Mr. C. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion/Action Items:**

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to approve the designation of regular and special education programs’ Open Enrollment spaces for the 2022-2023 school year as presented.

- 4-Year-Old Kindergarten: 0
- Kindergarten: 2
- Grade 1: 1
- Grade 2: 5
- Grade 3: 0 (with 5 sections) or 15 (with 6 sections)
- Grade 4: 11
- Seats in the following programs
- Elementary Early Childhood: 0
- Elementary Cross Categorical: 2
- Elementary Emotional Behavioral Disability: 0
- Elementary Intellectual Disability: 0
- Elementary Speech and Language: 0
- Middle School Cross Categorical: 0
- Middle School Emotional Behavioral Disability: 0
- Middle School Intellectual Disability: 0
- Middle School Speech and Language: 0
- High School Cross Categorical: 0
- High School Emotional Behavioral Disability: 1
- High School Intellectual Disability: 0
- High School Speech and Language: 0

A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. E. Peterson, Aye; Mr. C. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mr. C. Peterson seconded to approve the following resolution:  
SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION FOR THE WAIVER OF CERTAIN SCHOOL BOARD OR SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO WIS. STAT. §§ 118.38(1) AND (1M)

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §118.38(1) and Wis. Admin. § PI 8.01(4) authorizes school boards to request the Department of Public Instruction to waive any school board or school district requirement in Wis. Stat. chs. 115 to 121 or in the administrative rules promulgated by the Department under the authority of those chapters; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §118.38(1)(b) requires that, before requesting a waiver, a school board shall hold a public hearing in the school district on the request for a waiver of any requirement in Wis. Stat. chs. 115 to 121; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 118.38(1m) requires that “the school board shall specify in its request for a waiver its reason for requesting the waiver,” due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly a large spike in student cases due to the Omicron variant, our students have experienced a loss of instructional time and inconsistency in learning modes. Being able to return our students prior to September 1, 2022, would allow us to limit the summer slide our students experience from extended learning breaks due to the effects of the pandemic. This

would benefit our students by allowing for a quicker and smoother transition from summer school into the regular school year. In addition, this will allow the district to provide additional days during the year for breaks in our calendar, which will benefit the mental health of our students and staff, and allow for the deep cleaning of our district's facilities.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:**

1. On January 24, 2022, the Board of Education held a public hearing, in satisfaction of Wis. Stat. §118.38(1)(b), concerning requests for waivers of the requirements identified herein; and

2. In compliance with Wis. Stat. §§, 118.38(1) AND (1M) and for the reasons set forth herein, the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent or his/her designee to apply, on behalf of the Board, to the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction for the waiver of the following:

*Waiver of the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 118.045 Commencement of school term due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a large spike of the Omicron variant. The district is seeking reduce the amount of time students will be without in-person instruction.*

A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. E. Peterson, Aye; Mr. C. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Samantha Pederson, Public Relations Specialist/Grant Writer, and Mr. Rieber share drafts of referendum communication. No action was taken.

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

**Adjournment**

Mr. C. Peterson moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. E. Peterson, Aye; Mr. C. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk