

School District of West Salem  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 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 7:00 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 January 21, 2021.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag*

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

*Roll Call*

Present: Erik Peterson, 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: Jane Halverson

*Approval of Agenda*

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

**Connection with the Community**

*Maxwell Goetz, Student Representative, reported on:*

1. The high school wrestling team won conference on Saturday for the first time in seven years.
2. Hockey has won three conference games in the past couple weeks and beat Viroqua 7-1. The next game is tomorrow Holmen-Aquinas at home.
3. Girls' basketball has won 6-1 games, and they play Westby on Thursday at home.
4. Boys' basketball has won three games and play twice this week.

*Madisyn Haun, Student Representative, reported on:*

1. Our Esports team won state on Saturday, beating an undefeated team in the championship game.

2. Everyone went back to full in-person school today. Lunch protocols are a little different at the high school, with some tables being moved into the gym, tables now seat four students, and mostly the same as hybrid. The high school will have a normal Tuesday schedule tomorrow by released at 2:38 p.m.

*Correspondence* – None.

*Public Comments*

Student Nels Lebakken spoke on in-person learning.

*Written and Oral Reports*

Business Operations Committee – Mr. Grosskopf reported on the agenda item, department 5-year plans.

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Business Operations Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Board member Catherine Griffin, Director of Instruction Deanna Wiatt and Superintendent Ryan Rieber shared highlights from the 2021 virtual Education Convention.

**Consent Agenda**

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to approve the Consent Agenda items:

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2021, and the Special Board Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2021;
- b) the invoices to be paid;
- c) to accept donations from the Fire Fighters of the West Salem Volunteer Fire Department, Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, River Bank Holding Co., American Legion Auxiliary, Gundersen Lutheran Blanket Drive, the community of West Salem (Lions food boxes), and from anonymous individuals, families and organizations (American Legion Auxiliary, West Salem Lions Club & Old Fashioned Christmas) to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund. Also, donations from Bradly & Patricia Goetz for the Nutrition Services Jane Doe Fund, from Robbie & Kristina Sage for the Aspiring Artists Scholarship Fund, and from Jonathan & Amy Eckelberg to the high school drama and music department; and
- d) administration’s co-curricular recommendations – volunteer high school robotics coaches-Ben Garbers, Tonya Chandler, Roxanne Munns, and Andy Jandt.

**Discussion/Action Items:**

Mr. Handland shared preliminary enrollment, staffing and budget information for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Peterson seconded to set the regular education open enrollment amount up to the capacity of the number of sections at each grade level. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to set the special education open enrollment spaces as presented: elementary cross categorical – 2, elementary emotional behavioral disability – 2 and middle school emotional behavioral disability – 2. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. 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 individual administrator employment contracts.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:56 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

*Closed Session*

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

---

Robin Fitzgerald, Acting Clerk