

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
February 22, 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 February 18, 2021.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Sean Gavaghan led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Deanna Wiatt 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 (remote access), Eric Jensen (remote access), Mike Malott, Tami Bagstad (remote access), Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland (remote access); Student representatives: Madisyn Haun and Maxwell Goetz. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: N/A.

Approval of Agenda

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

Connection with the Community

Maxwell Goetz, Student Representative, reported on:

1. High school parent/teacher conferences will be held virtual on February 25.
2. Weight room is offering off-season training for athletes.
3. The high school basketball season has come to an end.
4. Students have started signing up for spring sports.
5. The e-sports team has expanded to play both Overwatch and Rocket League.

Madisyn, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Seniors took their class photo last Wednesday in the gym. Everyone received a class of 2021 mask to wear.
2. Seniors received their caps and gowns for graduation.

3. NHS has started planning their next blood drive on March 19 at the West Salem American Legion.

Correspondence – None.

Public Comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Teaching & Learning Committee – Mrs. Fitzgerald reported on the agenda item, progress of the 20-21 school year.

Policy/Communication & Engagement Committee – Mr. Gavaghan reported out on the agenda item, Neola Bylaws School Board Policies.

Staff Relations Committee – Mr. Peterson reported out on the agenda item, School Perceptions Discussion.

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

Human Resource updates: the resignations of John Laffey-custodian, Bonnie Crogan-school nutrition, Cheryl Schran-school nutrition; the hiring of Ryan Rieger-custodian, Edward Shank-school nutrition, Lindsey Harnden-school nutrition; and Wade Behrens as a limited-term music instructor.

E-sports Coach Jason Holter and the state champion team consisting of Evan Domnie, Ryne Sandvick, Lucas Jandt, Adam Chandler, Eli Zenz, and Briley Larson shared information on what e-sports competitions are like.

Consent Agenda

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

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2021;
- b) the invoices to be paid;
- c) to accept the donation from the La Crosse Area Builders Association for the District's Random Acts of Kindness fund;
- d) to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendations to hire Brian Babiash-head varsity softball coach, Stacy Mitchell-head varsity track coach, Justin Stakston-head varsity track coach, Jim Klos-head varsity golf coach, Lionel Karyea-head varsity girls' soccer coach; Jamie Olson-head varsity baseball coach, and Julie Kamla-head varsity boys' tennis coach;
- e) to accept the retirements of Barb Buswell, Director of Human Resources, and Terri Martinson, English/Language Arts Teacher.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to allow the superintendent to adjust the calendar on two (2) days. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Adjournment

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Halverson, Clerk