

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2021
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

As noted on the Public Meeting Notice: *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 March 18, 2021.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Connection with the Community

Maxwell Goetz, Student Representative, reported on:

1. DECA competed at state two weeks ago. A virtual awards ceremony was held in the Heider Center. Ten students will be advancing to the International Career Development Conference (ICDC). Kate Fitzgerald was elected to serve as the President of Wisconsin DECA for the following school year.
2. The esports teams are continuing to play. The varsity Rocket League team's record is currently 9-0.

Madisyn Haun, Student Representative, had technical difficulties, so Maxwell Goetz reported on for Madisyn:

1. The National Honor Society (NHS) held their blood drive on March 19, 2021.
2. The high school dance team competed over the weekend at the regional competition.
3. Third quarter will end on Friday, March 26.

Correspondence – None.

Public Comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Business Operations – Mr. Grosskopf reported on the agenda items: budgeting/staffing for 2021-22 and a student’s Senior Exit Project.

Workforce Engagement & Development – Mrs. Halverson reported on agenda items: preliminary review of district salaries and preliminary negotiations with the West Salem Education Association.

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

Human Resource updates: the resignations of paraprofessionals Kalee Hanson and Deb Pessl-Bauer, the hiring of Carrie Niedfeldt as a part-time elementary custodian.

Consent Agenda

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

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2021;
- b) the invoices to be paid;
- c) to accept donations from Laura Halverson and from Teresa Halverson for the Robotics Team 5019, and from Terri Linselink and Francine Jones for the middle school art department;
- d) to approve co-curricular contracts for Amy Hanson-middle school play director, Elle Nimm-middle school assistant play director, Kim Volden-stage manager/technology supervisor, Jon Jones-volunteer baseball coach, Scott Koepnick-volunteer baseball coach, Ashley Miner-high school assistant track coach, and Tristan Johnsrud-volunteer trap coach;
- e) to accept the resignation of Madeline Kiehn as the JV volleyball coach, the resignation of Raena Housker as an elementary special education teacher, and the retirement of Eric Jensen as the Director of Pupil Services.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Peterson moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee’s recommendation and approve Draft #5, dated March 18, 2021, Staffing Capacity Changes for the 2021-2022 school year. Included in Draft #5 were the addition of a 1.0 FTE Virtual Learning Teacher using ESSR II Funds, the removal of a .5 FTE 4K teacher and paraprofessional from the reduction list, and the addition of a 1.0 FTE MS/HS technology education teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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 the superintendent’s evaluation.

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:40 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, 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 8:39 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Halverson, Clerk