

School District of West Salem  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
March 24, 2025  
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 7:02 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 March 20, 2025.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag*

Jessa Hickey led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Bob Minard recited the District Mission Statement.

*Roll Call*

Present: Erik Peterson, Tom Grosskopf, Bob Minard, Catherine Griffin, Caitlin Wilson, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Heidi Horton, Crystal Becker, Justin Jehn, Ben Wopat, Alex Hubing, Alyssa Harlan, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Jessa Hickey and Brennon Anderson. Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson. Excused: Bob Gollnik and Brennon Anderson

*Approval of Agenda*

S. Gavaghan moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Written and Oral Reports**

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

Business Operations Committee update by Tom Grosskopf: Budgeting/Staffing for 2025/2026 was discussed.

**Connection with the Community**

*Jessa Hickey, Student Representative, reported on:*

1. Last Saturday the boys' basketball season came to an end in a tough game against Wausau East at Wisconsin Rapids. The boys had a great season, making it to the sectional finals.
2. This concluded the winter sports season; spring sports are now underway!
3. This past weekend the track teams competed on Friday at St. Mary's University and Saturday at UWL. They have a couple of weeks of practice before their next meet.

4. The softball team started their season last Monday and is currently preparing for their first game which will be against Central on Thursday night.
5. Baseball started practice last week with pitching and catching, and today was their first official day of practice for the season. Depending on the weather, they will scrimmage Onalaska on Saturday or have an intrasquad scrimmage.
6. Girls' soccer started practice today and will have 2 a day practices all week. Their first game is on April 3 when they will take on Baraboo at home.
7. The drama department recently had two successful performances of their show, Sister Act. They are already preparing for their summer musical, Disney's Descendants as they had auditions last Monday. This will be the last show for the senior students.
8. Last Thursday the art department hosted a banquet to show off the great artwork that students have created over the year and to celebrate students in grades K-12 who had their piece selected for the art show. There is also a show coming up at which senior art students can display their artwork.

*Correspondence* – None.

*Public Comments* – None.

### **Consent Agenda**

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

- a. minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 10, 2025, and Special Meeting of March 3, 2025;
- b. invoices to be paid;
- c. to accept the administration's Co-curricular Recommendations: Ryan Loeffler, Sydney Niemeier, Anna Szymanski for Volunteer Girls Soccer, Macey Tauscher and Josh Miller as Volunteer Track Coaches, Mariah Wick as Assistant Softball Coach, Isaac Olson and Cody Mehsikomer as Volunteer Baseball Coaches, and Mya Tepp as Assistant Boys Tennis;
- d. to accept the resignation of High School Special Education Teacher Desiree Nelson;
- e. to accept the Donations of 6 dozen cookies from Linda's Bakery, 2 cases of water from Hansen's IGA, Free scoop of ice cream tokens from Le Coulee Cheese Castle, and free pint of ice cream coupon from Culver's of La Crosse for the West Salem School District Blood Drive.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Discussion/Action Items:**

Kelly Rueckheim gave a presentation for the High School Request for an Overseas Trip to Peru. C. Wilson moved, E. Peterson seconded to approve the High School Overseas Trip to Peru in June 2026.

Motion carried unanimously.

Staffing Requests for 25/26 School Year.

S. Gavaghan moved, E. Peterson seconded to approve to hire 1.0 FTE School Psychologist and 1.0 FTE Technology Education Teacher. A roll call vote was taken; T. Grosskopf, Aye; E.

Peterson, Aye; B. Minard, Aye; C. Griffin, Aye; C. Wilson, Aye; S. Gavaghan, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Griffin moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to approve the Early College Credit/Start College Now requests for the fall of 25-26 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to cancel the May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 School Board Meeting which falls on Memorial Day.

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

**Adjournment**

C. Griffin moved, C. Wilson seconded to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Erik Peterson, Clerk