

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2020
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

****NOTE:** *Due to the COVID-19 virus, board members will be participating remotely.
The Heider Meeting Room was open to limited spectators.*

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Jane Halverson. 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, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on April 9, 2020.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Catherine Griffin led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Deanna Wiatt recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Jane Halverson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Ben Wopat, Eric Jensen, Mike Malott, Ryan Rieber, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Summer Houck and Liam Sjoquist. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Syl Clements.

Approval of Agenda

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

Connection with the Community

Student Representatives Summer Houck and Liam Sjoquist reported on:

1. The seniors will be doing their SEP final presentations from home.
2. The spring sport seasons are currently on hold until further notice.
3. Students are starting their third week of online classes. Students' daily schedules vary across grade levels, but all are given off on Fridays. Zoom has been an excellent resource to allow students to connect with their teachers and receive lessons, homework, and personal help if needed.

Correspondence – None.

Public comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Business Operations Committee – Mrs. Griffin reported on the agenda items: solar grant project, lighting project, construction/renovations, and school bus bid.

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

Mr. Gunderson announced: the hiring of Kurt Knoll as Lead Custodian and the retirement of administrative assistant Antia Jagodzinski.

Student Representative and WASB (Wisconsin Association of School Boards) acknowledgements: Summer Houck and Liam Sjoquist were recognized for their year of service as Student Representatives to the School Board and will receive certificates from the WASB for their service to the children in Wisconsin Public Schools. Syl Clements was recognized for his service on the School Board and will receive a certificate and plaque from the WASB. Syl Clements will also receive a certificate and pin for obtaining WASB Level 3 Recognition. Tom Grosskopf will receive a certificate and pin for obtaining WASB Level I Recognition.

Consent Agenda

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

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2020, and the Special Board Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2020;
- b) invoices to be paid;
- c) a donation from Bridget & Erik Peterson for the High School Scholar Athlete Scholarship fund;
- d) there were no resignations or retirements to accept.

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

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to approve for a second reading of policy #171.4 Remote Participation In Board Meetings. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to approve for a first reading of policy #186 Citizen Participation at Board Meetings. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Griffin moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee recommendation and accept the bid from EPL (Energy Performance Lighting) for the LED Lamp and Driver proposal for the district's energy saving light replacement project. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee recommendation to purchase the 2021 Thomas Built 74 passenger bus from Nelson's Bus Service. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously. This bid was accepted because of the warranty and the gas mileage as the deciding factors.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to approve the new base wage of \$38,404 (CPI-1.81%) and the agreement with the West Salem Education Association (WSEA), which included an increase of \$683 per cell, an additional of 0.5% per cell and allowing teachers to advance on steps. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Pay for exempt & non-exempt staff during the emergency school closure due to COVID-19. No action was taken.

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to approve the issuance of a final notice of no-renewal to part-time teacher Ashley Swanson as a result of the elimination of the position at the middle school. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to approve the six requests for Early College Credits for the fall of 2020. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to approve the cancellation of the Washington DC trip for the 19-20 school year. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Griffin moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to cancel the summer 2020 Panama trip. The motion was withdrawn as the Board is seeking more information.

The Board had a discussion regarding the final details of the upcoming superintendent interviews. No action was taken.

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

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk