

School District of West Salem  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
April 25, 2022  
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 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 April 21, 2022.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag*

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

*Roll Call*

Present: Erik Peterson, Chris Peterson, Bob Minard, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Ryan Rieber, Ben Wopat, Heidi Horton, Mike Malott, Tami Bagstad, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Madison MacRogers and Brennan Kennedy. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: N/A.

*Introductions*

New Board Member Bob Minard was introduced to the Board and Administration.

*Approval of Agenda*

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

**Reorganization of the 2022-2023 School Board**

Mr. Grosskopf moved to nominate Mrs. Griffin for the office of President. Mr. Gavaghan moved and Mr. E. Peterson seconded to close the nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gavaghan moved to nominate Mr. Grosskopf for the office of Vice President. Mr. C. Peterson moved and Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Tom Grosskopf for the office of Vice President. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. E. Peterson moved to nominate Mrs. Fitzgerald for the office of Clerk. Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mr. C. Peterson seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Robin Fitzgerald for the office of Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Fitzgerald moved to nominate Mr. Gavaghan for the office of Treasurer. Mr. C. Peterson moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Sean Gavaghan for the office of Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of the new student board representatives Madison MacRogers and Brennan Kennedy.

Mr. E. Peterson moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded a resolution to authorize the Board officers to borrow money for the 2021-2022 and the 2022-2023 school years per Wisconsin State Statutes 67.12(3). Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Fitzgerald moved, Mr. C. Peterson seconded to select the Union State Bank of West Salem as the bank depository. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Fitzgerald moved, Mr. C. Peterson seconded to authorize the use of facsimile and digitized signatures. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Fitzgerald moved, Mr. C. Peterson seconded to authorize the Board officers to invest surplus funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mr. E. Peterson seconded to continue with the current schedule to select the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. for regular school board meetings and one meeting in December. Also set the December date as December 12 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. E. Peterson moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to appoint Patrick Bahr as the Deputy Clerk and Shawn Handland as Deputy Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Board members should provide their input to the Board President regarding committee assignments in the next week.

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mr. E. Peterson seconded to select Catherine Griffin as the CESA #4 Representative. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Written and Oral Reports**

Workforce Engagement and Development Committee – Mr. Gavaghan reported on the staffing recommendations for the 2022-2023 school year.

Business Operations – Mr. Grosskopf reported on the agenda items: budget adjustments for 2021-2022 and revenue limit worksheet.

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

Human Resource updates: the resignations of Lindsey Harnden-school nutrition, Emma Johnson-paraprofessional, Erin Johnson-paraprofessional, Kristi Schmitz-paraprofessional; retirements of Susan Horstman-school nutrition, Ronald Schmidt-custodian.

Mr. Rieber provided a district update.

## **Connection with the Community**

*Brennan Kennedy, Student Representative, reported on:*

1. The track teams have had two outdoor meets so far in their season. The girls' won their first outdoor meet at Luther and took 3rd at Arcadia. The boys' started the outdoor year with a win in Luther and took 2nd at Arcadia.
2. Baseball season has begun, and they have had to deal with terrible weather and games being cancelled. They have started the season 2-5 but will pick it up when conference play begins.
3. Softball has also had to deal with terrible weather and cancelled games. They have had a rocky start to the season with a record of 2-5.
4. Tennis started the year 2-3 as a team but had a good start in their first conference game with a win over Black River Falls.
5. Girls' soccer has had a good start to their season with a record of 4-2 and their first-time beating Onalaska in 5 years.
6. The golf team has participated in 2 matches and are hoping for better weather.
7. Youth Frontiers organized a great way to send off students to Easter break by creating a penny war between grades where the money was donated to Random Acts of Kindness and students would have a day full of fun consisting of teachers getting turned into human sundaes, having their hair dyed, being taped to a wall, and more.

*Madison MacRogers, Student Representative, reported on:*

1. ACT Aspire testing took place on Thursday for sophomores and Friday for freshmen.
2. Wisconsin Forward testing took place on April 13.
3. NHS induction ceremony is May 1st. New officers are Priya Oshan-president, Kaitlyn Knutson-vice president, Madison Odenbach-secretary, and Brennan Holst-treasurer.
4. Eight students made their way to ICDC, or International Career Development Conference, in Atlanta, Georgia, where they are going to compete against the best DECA competitors in the nation.
5. Prom is Saturday, May 7, with "Met Gala" as the theme.
6. *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* is this year's summer musical - the cast has been selected and rehearsals have started.
7. This past weekend at UW-L's art gallery, Congressman Ron Kind awarded senior Kaylee Blatz with an honorable mention for her digital photograph, and junior Hailey Puent with first place for her multimedia drawing. Hailey's work will now hang in the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington D.C. for one year, and she is the first student in West Salem history to earn first place in this sort of competition.

*Correspondence* – None

*Public Comments* – None.

## **Consent Agenda**

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

- a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 11, 2022;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. the resignation of Speech and Language Pathologist Allison Boelter and high school Physical Education Teacher Kjerstin Dellenbach;

- d. to accept the donation from the La Crosse Area Autism Foundation, Inc. for the Pupil Services Department;
- e. to hire Derrick Sands as a 1.0 FTE high school math teacher, Jennifer Snook as a 1.0 FTE 8th grade math teacher, and Lexi Hinker as a 1.0 FTE Speech and Language Pathologist.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion/Action Items:**

Mr. E. Peterson moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to approve the revised 2022-2023 school calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mr. E. Peterson seconded to accept the recommendation of the Workforce Engagement and Development Committee to approve the staffing requests for the 2022-2023 school year: the special education paraprofessional staffing requests for 2022-2023 by adding 2 full-time paraprofessionals at the elementary school, 8 hours of paraprofessional time for the middle school and 2 full-time paraprofessionals at the high school; and the two-year ESSER staffing requests from the administration include elementary school - .5 FTE math paraprofessional, middle school – 1.0 FTE reading interventionist and 2.0 FTE at-risk paraprofessionals, high school – 1.0 FTE math teacher, and district – 1.0 FTE School Psychologist. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to approve the budget adjustments for the 21-22 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gavaghan moved and Mr. Minard seconded to adopt the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION authorizing the School District of West Salem’s submission of a grant request to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program.

WHEREAS, by adopting this Resolution, the Board of Education declares their support for the School District of West Salem’s submission of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application, administered by WisDOT, to fund a traffic study around the School District of West Salem campus.

WHEREAS, the School District of West Salem will maintain records documenting all expenditures made during the grant period and abide by the necessary reporting responsibilities as determined by the WisDOT; and

WHEREAS, the School District of West Salem will work cooperatively with employees, agents, and representatives of the WisDOT during the grant period; and

WHEREAS, the School District of West Salem intends to comply with all requirements of and will submit all documents and participation requirements to the WisDOT; and

WHEREAS, the West Salem Board of Education finds that the submission of this grant will be in the best interest of and benefit to the School District, students, families, and the community of West Salem, its properties, its residents, and taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WEST SALEM BOARD OF EDUCATION that the School Board supports the proposal to conduct a traffic study around the School District of West Salem campus with the help and support of the Safe Routes to School and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

*Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended, as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.*

**The list of to do items / information requests was reviewed.**

Target Based Grading with Garth Larson and Becky Pepler from First Education were present and provided information and answered questions of the Board. No action was taken.

Mrs. Fitzgerald left the meeting at 9:29 p.m.

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 issuing preliminary notice(s) of non-renewal to professional staff and salaries for individual district staff member(s).

Mr. C. Peterson moved, Mr. Minard seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 9:36 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. E. Peterson, Aye; Mr. C. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Minard, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Closed Session**

### **Adjournment**

Mr. C. Peterson moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to adjourn at 10:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk