

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
April 26, 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 7:10 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, 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 April 22, 2021.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Chris Peterson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Chris Peterson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Ryan Rieber, Ben Wopat, Tami Bagstad, and Deanna Wiatt; Student representatives: Krish Patel and Rachel Stein. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Robin Fitzgerald, Eric Jensen, Mike Malott and Shawn Handland.

Approval of Agenda

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

Organization of the 2021-2022 School Board

Mr. Grosskopf moved to nominate Mrs. Griffin for the office of President. Mr. Schlimgen moved and Mr. E. Peterson seconded to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Catherine Griffin for the office of President. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Mr. Grosskopf moved to nominate Mr. Gavaghan for the office of Treasurer. Mr. E. Peterson moved, Mr. Schlimgen 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 Rachel Stein and Krish Patel.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. E. Peterson seconded a resolution to authorize the Board officers to borrow money for the 2020-2021 and the 2021-2022 school years per Wisconsin State Statutes 67.12(3). Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to select the Union State Bank of West Salem as the bank depository. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to authorize the use of facsimile and digitized signatures. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. E. Peterson seconded to authorize the Board officers to invest surplus funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mr. Gavaghan 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 13. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to appoint Patrick Bahr as the Deputy Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to select Catherine Griffin as the CESA #4 Representative. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Krish Patel, Student Representative, reported on:

1. On April 14, the high school students participated in a fire drill and a run fight hide drill.
2. The seniors participated in an adulting session on April 14.
3. Ted Stein spoke to the junior class.
4. There was a choir concert on April 17.
5. The sophomores and freshmen took the Aspire Test last week.

Rachel Stein, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The NHS participated in the park clean up this past weekend.
2. Spring sports have started.
3. Prom will be May 1 in the Panther Den.
4. NHS Induction was held and officers were elected.
5. Senior Exit Project presentations will be on May 12.

Correspondence – None.

Public Comments

The following citizens commented on masking at school: Rachel Pierce, Shannon Torrance, Sheri Grass, Nicole Groth, Deborah Rucinski, Mike Mesmer, and Amber Minard.

Written and Oral Reports

Policy/Communication & Engagement Committee – Mr. Gavaghan reported on the agenda item Neola policy updates.

Business Operations – Mr. Grosskopf reported on the following agenda items; salaries, benefits, borrowing and budget adjustments.

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

Human Resource updates: the retirement of vehicle driver Bob Vick, the resignation of Gary Roesler and Laura Lusk will be the new high school kitchen manager.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. E. Peterson seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2012;
- b) the invoices to be paid.
- c) to accept the donation from Empower Nutrition for the School Board;
- d) to accept the resignations of High School Math Teacher Robyn Ferrian and Elementary School Special Education Teacher Julie Quackenbush;
- e) to hire Crystal Becker as the Director of Human Resources, Lauren Lovely and Mari Hendershot as middle school special education teachers, Brianna Meyer as a middle school English Language Arts teacher; Heidi Propson as a high school English teacher, and Jessica Hundt as the Elementary School Counselor;
- f) the first reading of Neola Policy #2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities; and
- g) the first reading of Neola Policy #8510 – Wellness.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Setting wages for the support staff, district staff, administration, and co-curricular for the 21-22 school year. No action was taken.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to approve Life Insurance for Eligible support staff. Motion carried. 5-Aye, 1-Abstain (Mr. E. Peterson did not participate in the discussion nor the vote due to a conflict of interest.)

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to issue contracts to the school psychologists and teachers for the 21-22 school year as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to issue contracts for bus drivers for the 21-22 school year as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to adopt the following resolution:
RESOLUTION – Be It Resolved that the school District of West Salem will borrow on a short-term basis the sum of \$3,000,000 for the operation of the schools of the district from May 1, 2021 until June 21, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. E. Peterson seconded to approve the budget adjustments for the 20-21 school year as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

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

The Board did not go into Closed Session for the following:

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 nonrenewal to professional staff, in accordance with Wis. § Stat 118.22.

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Schlimgen, Acting Clerk