

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2020
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

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, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on May 7, 2020.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Ken Schlimgen led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Ryan Rieber 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: Troy Gunderson, Ben Wopat (remote access), Eric Jensen (remote access), Mike Malott (remote access), Ryan Rieber, Deanna Wiatt (remote access), and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: N/A. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: N/A.

Approval of Agenda

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

Connection with the Community

Correspondence

A note from the Coulee Region Child Abuse Prevention Task Force was read.

Public comments – None.

Announce new superintendent

Mrs. Griffin announced that Ryan Rieber will serve as the new superintendent of schools beginning July 1, 2020.

Written and Oral Reports

CESA #4 Board of Control – Jane Halverson reported that the new CESA #4 Administrator beginning July 1, 2020, will be Kehl Arneson. The annual meeting will be in August.

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

Sue Peterson from School Perceptions reported on the School Performance survey that was distributed in spring.

Public Relations Specialist/Grant Writer Samantha Schmitz presented the communication and marketing road map.

Mr. Gunderson presented enrollment data gathered by the Applied Population Laboratory at the beginning of the 2020 calendar year.

Director of Technology Craig Halvorson was present to discuss public broadcasting of board meetings.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to approve the consent agenda items:

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2020, the Special Board Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2020, the Special Board Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2020;
- b) the invoices to be paid;
- c) accept the donation from Catherine Griffin for the Jane Doe Fund.
- d) hire Ryan Olson-Athletic Director, Talia Daquisto-1.0 FTE high school social studies teacher, Madeline Kiehn-1.0 FTE high school special education teacher, Allison Boelter-1.0 FTE Speech and Language Pathologist, Jenna Fitzgerald-1.0 FTE middle school math teacher, Ashley Serres-0.67 FTE middle school physical education teacher.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resignation/retirement[s] – None.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mrs. Griffin announced the following Hearing: **Public hearing as required by State Statute 118.38 (1) (b): The School District of West Salem is seeking waivers from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for certain requirements as described in Wisconsin State Statutes 121.02 (1)(f) and elements of PI 8.01, Wisconsin Statutes 115.415 and 121.02(1)(q). Specifically, the District seeks:**

Waiver of the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 121.02(1)(f) and the administrative rules promulgated by the department regarding required instructional hours for students for the 2019-2020 school year only due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

and

Waiver of the requirements to complete an Educator Effectiveness Cycle for educators in their Summary Year in 2019-20, including waivers of the requirements to meet PI 8.01 and Wis. Stat. §§ 115.415 and 121.02(1)(q) for the 2019-20 school year only due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

There was no public input.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Peterson seconded to adopt the following resolution:

SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION FOR THE WAIVER OF CERTAIN SCHOOL BOARD OR SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO WIS. STAT. §§ 118.38(1) AND (1m)

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §118.38(1) and Wis. Admin. § PI 8.01(4) authorize school boards to request the Department of Public Instruction to waive any school board or school district requirement in Wis. Stat. chs. 115 to 121 or in the administrative rules promulgated by the Department under the authority of those chapters; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §118.38(1)(b) requires that, before requesting a waiver, a school board shall hold a public hearing in the school district on the request for a waiver of any requirement in Wis. Stat. chs. 115 to 121; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 118.38(1m) requires that “the school board shall specify in its request for a waiver its reason for requesting the waiver,” which includes the mandated state-wide closure of schools in response to the COVID-19 health emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. On May 11, 2020, the Board of Education held a public hearing, in satisfaction of Wis. Stat. §118.38(1)(b), concerning requests for waivers of the requirements identified herein; and
2. In compliance with Wis. Stat. §§ 118.38(1) and (1m), and for the reasons set forth herein, the Board of Education hereby directs the District Administrator or his/her designee to apply, on behalf of the Board, to the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction (OSPI) for the waiver of the following:
 - a. *Waiver of the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 121.02(1)(f) and the administrative rules promulgated by the department regarding required instructional hours for students for the 2019-2020 school year only due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.*
 - b. *Waiver of the requirements to complete an Educator Effectiveness Cycle for educators in their Summary Year in 2019-20, including waivers of the requirements to meet PI 8.01 and Wis. Stat. §§ 115.415 and 121.02(1)(q) for the 2019-20 school year only due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the Board of Education’s approval of this action and of the authority granted herein at a duly-noticed meeting of the Board held on May 11, 2020.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to approve the CESA Contracts for the 2020-2021 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

School Nutrition Management agreement with the school District of Bangor for the 2020-2021 school year. No action was taken.

Mrs. Griffin announced the board committees, membership and representation assignments. No action was taken.

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to accept the athletic director’s recommendation and to compensate the 2019-2020 spring coaches only 50% of their contract because of COVID-19. Motion carried. 6-Aye, 1-Nay (Schlimgen)

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to follow the handbook regarding compensation for unused personal days. Motion withdrawn

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 co-curricular activities and letters of intent for the 20-21 school year; and if necessary the employment of a new superintendent.

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 9:48 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.

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to adjourn at 10:18 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Halverson, Clerk