

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
May 12, 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 7:00 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 May 8, 2025.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Trish Harman led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Erik Peterson recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Trish Harman, Catherine Griffin, Caitlin Wilson, Bob Gollnik, and Ben Garbers. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Heidi Horton, Justin Jehn, Ben Wopat, Alex Hubing, Cody Braun Alyssa Harlan, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Lydia Jothan and Zeke Hyer. Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson.

Approval of Agenda

E. Peterson moved, B. Gollnik seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Written and Oral Reports

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

CESA #4 Board of Control – C. Griffin reported on the Board of Control's agenda.

Construction Project Update – Justin Jehn and Ryan Rieber shared their recent visit to Luther High School CTE classrooms and gave updates on the design phase from ISG.

State Solo Ensemble Report – Ryan Waldhart reported on the 1st State Solo Ensemble that was held at West Salem School District.

LMC Plan Presentation – Mary Hundt, Lindsey Dederich and Alyssa Harlan presented their Library plan for the Elementary, Middle and High School. This will go to the board for approval in June.

Connection with the Community

Boys' and Girls' Club Update – Maggie Solberg updated the board on staff, K-4 Programming, 5-12 Programming, Youth & Family Services, Program Overview and School & Community Collaboration.

Lydia Jothan, Student Representative, reported on:

To start, hello, I'm Lydia Jothan. I couldn't be here 2 weeks ago because I, along with 10 other students, were in Orlando at DECA internationals. Unfortunately, nobody made finals, but we all learned a lot from talking to students from other states and countries. Besides DECA, I keep myself involved in the school through basketball, volleyball, student council, and NHS.

As for what's happening in the high school, the fine art programs are wrapping up their year with the choir concert last night and the band concert this upcoming weekend. Both concerts recognize the seniors for their dedication over the last 4 years.

Additionally, the summer musical is Descendants, and they have been hard at work preparing for their first show in early June.

Just a few weekends ago, NHS had its induction ceremony! There were 41 inductees this year, and the new officers took their positions!

Zeke Hyer, Student Representative, reported on:

The seniors had their presentations on May 7th! The rest of the school had the day off while seniors had a half day to present their panther portfolio presentations! The projects were graded on 8 different learning targets from 6 different judges.

On May 9th it was due for juniors for their panther portfolio presentations for the summer!

Prom was on May 3rd, and students had a great time! The prom committee did a great job as this year's dance looked much better than last year's!

All sports teams are continuing their season with just a couple of weeks left in the season, as playoffs are just around the corner!

One thing that students are excited about is the new referendum! Students can't wait to use their new weight room!

Teacher appreciation week- student council made cards for every staff member in the high school

Correspondence – None.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

E. Peterson moved, B. Gollnik seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2025;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. to accept the resignation of Kathleen Richardson, School Nurse.

- d. to accept a donation of \$1000.00 from West Salem Panther Booster Club for upgraded sport banners in the gym;
- e. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendation for Chris Modlin as Trap Team Volunteer.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

B. Gollnik moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve the Open Enrollment requests for the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Wilson moved. B. Garbers seconded to approve West Salem School District to participate in the Giving Pump Program with Lloyd's Speedstop, Inc. starting September 1, 2025 for 1 year.

The Board discussed our recent Board Vacancy, a timeline and selection process to fill the vacancy. Application deadline to the Superintendent will be June 12, 2025. The new board member that is selected will start June 23, 2025. No Action was taken.

Nominations were taken to fill the vacant Vice President office. B. Garbers moved to nominate Erik Peterson for the office of Vice President. C. Griffin moved, T. Harman seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Erik Peterson as the Vice President of the West Salem School Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Board members considered scheduling a board retreat on June 23, 2025. Board discussion and a date will be determined in the future. No Action was taken.

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.

Closed Session

C. Griffin welcomed the motion for closed session: The Board will discuss, consider and, if appropriate, take action pursuant to Wis. Stats §19.85(1) (a) Deliberating concerning a case which was the subject of any judicial or quasi-judicial trial or hearing before that governmental body; and (f) Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations; and pursuant to Wisconsin Administrative code 39.06 to discuss, consider and take action, if appropriate, regarding the revocation of the Open Enrollment status of a student and to review and discuss confidential pupil records under 118.125.

E. Peterson moved, B. Gollnik seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 9:06 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: C. Wilson, Aye; B. Garbers, Aye; C. Griffin, Aye; E. Peterson, Aye; B. Gollnik, Aye; and T. Harman, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

E. Peterson moved, B. Garbers seconded to reconvene into Open Session at 9:38 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Session

The board, if appropriate, will return to open session following the closed session to take action on the items discussed in the closed session.

No action was taken.

Board Development

User Group feedback with the High School Addition was shared by Justin Jehn and Ryan Rieber. They recently toured Luther High CTE area.

Adjournment

B. Garbers moved, E. Peterson seconded to adjourn at 10:38 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Caitlin Wilson, Clerk