

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
May 24, 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 7:00 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, 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 May 20, 2021.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Connection with the Community

Krish Patel, Student Representative, reported on:

1. SEP presentations were May 12
2. Students who took AP classes had AP Testing the second week of May
3. LINK Crew is taking applications for members to help with freshman orientation
4. Boys' tennis won at Mauston on May 13
5. The baseball team won at home against Viroqua on May 21
6. Juniors turned in SEP proposals by May 14 to be eligible for a summer project
7. Choir concert was on May 16
8. Dance team tryouts were May 20-22
9. Band concert was on May 23

Correspondence

A thank you note from Kelly Schneider was read.

Public Comments

The following citizens commented on masking at school: Mike Mesmer, Kevin Hintz, Brad Lebakken, Rachel Brothen, Deb Rucinski, Kortney Getter, Sheri Grass, and Kristina Sage.

Written and Oral Reports

CESA #4 Board of Control – Mrs. Griffin reported on the events of their May meeting.

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

Human Resource updates: the resignations of bus driver Curt Berg, custodian Rick Carvalho, paraprofessional Brienna Langrehr, and the retirement of cook Julie Meier.

Mr. Rieber make a statement regarding end of the school updates.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Schlingen moved, Mr. E. Peterson seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2021;
- b) the invoices to be paid;
- c) the resignations of special education teacher Justin Running, head boys' basketball coach Steve Kastenschmidt, Speech and Language Pathologist Carly Anderson, School Psychologist Gina Hundt, four-year-old kindergarten teacher Colette Schockman, and special education teacher Ben Tashner;
- d) request to borrow sports equipment during the summer for football and baseball; and
- e) accept the donation from the La Crosse Community Foundation from Robert & Eleanor Franke Charitable Fund and the Dr. Frank Furlano Family Fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

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), 121.006(2)(a), 120.12(15), and 121.02(1)(j). Specifically, the District seeks:**

Waiver of the requirements of Hours of Instruction, to meet Wis. Stat. §§ 121.02(1)(f) and 121.006(2)(a) and the administrative rules promulgated by the department regarding requiring school districts to annually schedule at least 437 hours of direct pupil instruction in kindergarten, at least 1,050 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 1 to 6, and at least 1,137 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 7 to 12. Specifies what may and may not be included in scheduled hours. Instructional hours for students for the 2020-2021 school year only due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

Waiver of the requirements for the Length of the school day requiring school boards to establish rules for scheduling hours in a normal school day, to meet Wis. Stat. § 120.12(15) for the 2020-21 school year only due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Waiver of the requirements for school districts to ensure that instruction in elementary and high schools in health and physical education, art, and music is provided by qualified teacher, to meet Wis. Stat. §121.02(1)(j) for the 2020-21 school year only due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There was no public input.

Mr. Schlimgen Mrs. Fitzgerald 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) 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 24, 2021, 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 Hours of Instruction, to meet Wis. Stat. §§ 121.02(1)(f) and 121.006(2)(a) and the administrative rules promulgated by the department regarding requiring school districts to annually schedule at least 437 hours of direct pupil instruction in kindergarten, at least 1,050 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 1 to 6, and at least 1,137 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 7 to 12. Specifies what may and may not be included in scheduled hours. Instructional hours for students for the 2020-2021 school year only due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*
 - b. *Waiver of the requirements for the Length of the school day requiring school boards to establish rules for scheduling hours in a normal school day, to meet Wis. Stat. § 120.12(15) for the 2020-21 school year only due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

- c. *Waiver of the requirements for school districts to ensure that instruction in elementary and high schools in health and physical education, art, and music is provided by qualified teacher, to meet Wis. Stat. §121.02(1)(j) for the 2020-21 school year only due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

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 24, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to approve the nutrition Services Management Agreement with the School District of Bangor for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to accept the administrations recommendation to approve the open enrollment requests, except for the for students noted on the list provided. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mr. E. Peterson seconded to approve a high school paraprofessional for 5.75 hour per day for the high school at-risk program for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to approve the administration's request for the 2021-2022 school year, to split a full-time cook's position and make 2 positions, a 5.75 and a 5.5 hours per day. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. C Peterson seconded to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk