

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
June 9, 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 7:01 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, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district website, and district office on June 5, 2025.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Zeke Heyer led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Lydia Jothen 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, Alyssa Harlan, Crystal Becker and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Lydia Jothen and Zeke Hyer. Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson.

Approval of Agenda

E. Peterson moved, B. Gollnik seconded to approve the agenda with the removal of item C. under Reports: Construction Project Update by ISG. Motion carried unanimously.

Written and Oral Reports

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Superintendent's 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 – Removed from Agenda.

Workforce Engagement & Development – Catherine Griffin reported that negotiation meetings are still on going. Next meeting is June 16, 2025 at 3:30pm.

Connection with the Community

Lydia Jothen, Student Representative, reported on:

Even though school is out, many students still have a packed schedule.

As was mentioned, the incoming freshman finished their trip to Washington DC, and now have been officially promoted to freshman. Many are getting the first taste of high school during summer activities and clubs.

The Band has begun their 2 weeks of summer band camp. They learn their new marching song and routine for the upcoming marching season, as well as teach the incoming freshman how high school band operates.

The summer musical, Descendants, has been practicing hours each day preparing for their opening show June 12th and 13th. They will perform the same show with a different cast on June 19th and 20th.

Many athletes have started the CAT program. Here students train both their speed and agility as well as their strength during 90 minute sessions. It's a great way for the teams to build chemistry and develop better athletes. However, with the large number of athletes the weight room is becoming more and more crowded and there's lots of excitement for the new one!

The final spring sports are wrapping up. Baseball unfortunately fished off their season with an early loss to 5 to 2 against Prescott.

Zeke Hyer, Student Representative, reported on:

The class of 2025 graduated on May 23rd. Guest speaker Ms. Maxwell gave her farewell speech to the biggest class West Salem High School has ever seen. The senior class had their senior breakfast with a busy day with senior sing out and their last walk-through campus. They then walked across their stage to get their diploma, then the class of 2025 ended their high school journey with the senior lock in at features fieldhouse.

This past weekend numerous West Salem track and field runners and jumpers competed at the State meet at UWL. There were 19 total competitors with 12 in relays, 1 jumper, and 6 alternates. Highlights from the meet include junior Olivia Maki setting a school record in the 300M hurdles and placing 11th as an alternate.

The Summer Nerf war started in late May! This activity is aimed to keep students involved and connected over the summer with three commissioners leading the Nerf War. The commissioners are Jack Beron, Elliot Kruse, and myself. This year there are 83 competitors with the winning team battling for a pot well over \$500.

For more sports the Softball team ended their season with 1st in the conference and went very far in the playoffs before losing in the sectional final game.

The girl's soccer team also won conference, they recently won their regional final game with their semi sectional game on Thursday at home at 7PM.

Also, over the weekend Kyle Helhi competed at the Tennis state tournament and Won as an individual! This is the second state championship he has won as he also won doubles in 2022 with his older brother.

In conclusion, although summer has started and school has ended, students keep being involved through numerous opportunities.

Correspondence – Thank You card from Lauren Zarecki was read. Thank You card from Jessa Hickey and Brennon Anderson was read.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 12, 2025
- b. Invoices to be paid
- c. Co-curricular recommendations: high school head football & assistant, middle/high volleyball, soccer, cross country, middle school football, girls tennis, ASL, high school head basketball
- d. Hire: 1.0 FTE middle school Spanish teacher, high school ELA teacher, district nurse
- e. Resignation(s)/Retirement(s)
- f. Donations

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

B. Gollnik moved, B. Garbers seconded to approve the LMC 3 Year Plan and SMART Goals.

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, B. Gollnik seconded to set the Regular Board Meeting on July 14, 2025 to start at 6:00 p.m. with the Board Retreat happening at the end of the meeting. Motion Carried unanimously.

B. Gollnik moved, B. Garbers seconded to approve Co-Curricular Coaching Additions of a Head & Assistant Girls Wrestling Coach. 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.

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) (c) “Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility” regarding the evaluation of the superintendent, and regarding salaries for individual district and administrative staff member(s) for the 25-26 school year.

T. Harman moved, B. Gollnik seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:29 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

Adjournment

C. Griffin moved, B. Garbers seconded to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Caitlin Wilson, Clerk