

School District of West Salem
Special Board Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2020
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

As noted on the Public Meeting Notice: The health and safety of district employees, Board of Education and the community is our number one priority. Therefore, the district is taking precautionary measures consistent with the CDC and the La Crosse County Health Department recommendations. *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 7:01 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 August 14, 2020. The meeting was set at the Regular Board Meeting of August 10, 2020.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Ryan Rieber led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Robin Fitzgerald 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: Ryan Rieber, Ben Wopat, Eric Jensen, Mike Malott, Tami Bagstad, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland.
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.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Rieber provided a summary of the events of the past few weeks regarding the school reopening plan. Mrs. Griffin called upon Gundersen Health System Medical Advisor Dr. Rose Wolbrink and School Nurse Beth Clements to provide input. Mrs. Fitzgerald moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded that staff return to school on September 1. The district staff deliver education virtually the first two weeks, and four weeks from today on Monday, September 14, as risk allows, we welcome back students. PreK-5 students five days a week in person, and grades 6-12 in a hybrid environment. The ultimate goal of the West Salem School District is to return to full, in person education of the entire district as soon as the community risk allows. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Abstain; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to pay staff as we have in the past to continue financial stability and lessen the burden of replacing our staff. Every attempt would be made to give employees meaningful work and to reassess at intervals. Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to amend the motion by removing “Every attempt would be made to give employees meaningful work” and adding “Employees choosing this option must take on duties as assigned.” A roll call vote was taken on the amendment: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Abstained; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Amendment carried. A roll call vote was taken on the full amended motion to pay staff as we have in the past to continue financial stability and lessen the burden of replacing our staff, and to reassess at intervals. Employees choosing this option must take on duties as assigned. Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Abstained; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to accept the administration’s high school co-curricular recommendations: assistant volleyball coach-Jamie Holst, Madeline Kiehn and Allison Schullo; assistant tennis coach-Carly Anderson and Brian Baker; volunteer assistant tennis coach-Dennis Kreuser; assistant cross country coach-Laura Deal, Cameron Robaczewski and Stacy Mitchell; and volunteer assistant cross country coach Avrie Duffy. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Peterson seconded to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Halverson, Clerk