

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 22, 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 7:02 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 September 18, 2025.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

Roll Call

Present: Catherin Griffin, Erik Peterson, Trish Harman, Bob Minard, Caitlin Wilson and Ben Garbers. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Alex Hubing, Justin Jehn, Ben Wopat, Heidi Horton, Crystal Becker and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Lydia Jothen, Zeke Hyer. Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson. Excused: Alyssa Harlan.

C. Griffin read a statement from Bob Gollnik regarding no longer serving on the board due to a recent move out of the district.

Approval of Agenda

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

Written and Oral Reports

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

Business Operations Report – E. Peterson reported that the committee was presented a review of the revenue limit worksheet and the short-term borrowing amount request at the meeting prior to the regular board meeting on September 22, 2025.

Transportation Update Stat Update – Rick Kline presented a transportation update for 24/25 and for the start of the 25/26 school year. He provided updates on staffing, new busses, software and technology.

Connection with the Community

Zeke Hyer, Student Representative, reported on:

This past Friday our football team won against Arcadia 13-0 after just 8 minutes of playing time due to weather cancellations. The Panthers will play this week at Luther for their homecoming with our homecoming being the following week.

The soccer team has had a solid start to the season with 2-3 conference records, the team has a game tomorrow against Aquinas.

Volleyball had a tournament in Austin MN this last weekend, where they took first with a 4-0 record. This past Wednesday they had a unique practice. Instead of practicing in the gym, they headed over to Fox hollow for some sand volleyball and then had some team bonding time over dinner.

Student Council has been staying busy with homecoming week just one week away, members are very excited for powderpuff as practices started just today, and members are busy in their respective grades organizing lip syncs and floats.

Foreign exchange students Fiona and Frederick from Germany, Youssef from Egypt, and Martina from Spain! I have gotten the opportunity to get to know Youssef and Frederick and they are both amazing people. Not only do these students learn a ton for us, but also the student body learns a ton from these students!

Lydia Jothen, Student Representative, reported on:

The band has spent the last week learning a field show for halftime, but unfortunately, since the game was cancelled, we did not get to perform. Instead, we spent a few hours in the band room waiting out the storm, playing games like ninja, euchre, and learning how to toss a color guard. This Sunday Despite there being rain in the forecast, it held off, and the band was able to march this last weekend in the Applefest Parade!

A few Fridays ago we had Cody Greenwood, a motivational speaker, and Rebecca Brunner, a singer who was on American Idol come to the high school. There was a concert set up with lights and loud music. Then Cody told us a story about his relationship with his father who sadly committed suicide. He used a roller coaster analogy to make us think about who the harness is. Who are the people who will keep us safe and protected when we feel thrown upside down. We discussed it in our homerooms after, and overall the students seemed to be engaged.

The outdoor Education class, which is a senior PE class, took their canoe trip on the black river last Wednesday. I was also on the trip, and everyone had tons of fun! In the morning we got poured on, and our canoes filled with water, but by the afternoon it was sunny and warm. We cooked out on the beach, played spike ball, went cliff jumping, and one girl even found a friendly stray cat and canoed the rest of the way back to take it home and keep it as a pet!

Correspondence – None.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 8, 2025
- b. Invoices to be paid
- c. Co-curricular recommendations: head gymnastics coach-Carrie O’Hearn, head girls’ basketball coach-Mike Malott, head boys wrestling coach-Josh Brewer, head boys’ hockey coach-Richard Brown, head girls’ hockey coach-Jamie Olson, head 8th grade boys’ basketball coach-Anthony Schultz, assistant 8th grade boys’ basketball coach-Nick Schultz

d. Donations
Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Shawn Handland presented the preliminary numbers for the Revenue Limit Worksheet. No action was taken.

B. Garbers moved, E. Peterson seconded to approve the following borrowing resolution: **"Be it resolved that the School District of West Salem will borrow from Union State Bank on a short-term revenue anticipation basis, from time to time, in one or more advances, the sum not to exceed \$5,000,000 at any one time, for the operation of the schools of the district. Be It Further Resolved that the West Salem School District by its President and District Clerk shall execute a Promissory Note of the School District to be dated September 22, 2025 in the amount of \$5,000,000 with an interest rate of 5.50% and payable in full on June 30, 2026."** Motion carried unanimously.

Ryan Rieber gave a Strategic Plan Reauthorization and update. 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. Live Stream Ends at 7:51 p.m.

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 employment and compensation of a district employee.

B. Garbers moved, B. Minard seconded that the board convene in closed session at 7:54 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: C. Griffin, Aye; E. Peterson, Aye; C. Wilson, Aye; T. Harman, Aye; B. Garbers, Aye; and B. Minard, Aye. Motion Carried (6-0)

Closed Session

Adjournment

C. Griffin moved, B. Garbers seconded to adjourn at 8:57 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Caitlin Wilson, Clerk