

School District of West Salem  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
September 27, 2021  
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, 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 website, and district office on September 23, 2021.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag*

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

*Roll Call*

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

*Approval of Agenda*

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. E. Peterson seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Written and Oral Reports**

Business Operations Committee – Mr. Grosskopf reported on the agenda items: Outdoor Education Center timber harvest contract, solar energy at the middle school, request for additional special education support, proposed 21-22 budget, mill rate and tax levy, and referendum planning.

District Strategic Initiatives updates from the District Leadership Team, and the Superintendent were reviewed. Human Resource updates: resignations of Gina Dietrich as an LMC paraprofessional and Jessica Hendrickson as a full-time custodian.

Mr. Rieber and School District Nurse Kate Brohmer provided an update on the district health protocol and procedures.

**Connection with the Community**

*Rachel Stein, Student Representative, reported on:*

1. Board game/Chess club starting this year - Mr. Johnson will be the advisor.
2. Football team won against Onalaska 32-28.

3. Cross country: girls team is ranked 8th in the state, boys team in ranked 3rd.
4. The high school marching back will be playing at Oktoberfest this weekend!

*Krish Patel, Student Representative, reported on:*

1. Class Presidents were elected.
2. Homecoming week kickoff will begin on Sunday, October 3. The parade will be on Friday, October 8, beginning at 2:15.

*Correspondence – None.*

*Public Comments*

The following citizens commented on COVID-19 related components: Steve Martin, Bob Minard, Sherie Grass, Heather Jehn, Spencer Nickelotti, Mike Mesmer, Nick Garbers, Kortney Getter, Erin Waldhart, Rachel Pierce, Jessica Sands, Shannon Torrance, and Martha Burdick. Karen Nedvidek signed up, but declined the opportunity to speak.

**Consent Agenda**

Mr. Schlingen moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2021;
- b) the invoices to be paid;
- c) to accept donations from the La Crosse Community Foundation-Jim’s Grocery Bag Golf Outing-Community Impact Fund for the Nutrition Services Department, from the family of Loris Griffin for the Elementary School, from Lindsey Rushford, Research associate with CORTEVA agriscience; from the Berg-Hemker-Olson Post 51 American Legion for the Sharks Booster Club, from Sherry Hougom/Sara Rose Hougom Foundation for the high school dance team; and from the family of Zia and La Patel for the elementary school;
- d) to accept the administration’s co-curricular recommendations

Elementary School – after school art program-Kaylin Staebell, council of kids-Kayla Wegner, yearbook-Krista Mead

Middle School – band assistant-Mardeana Glasel, jazz band-Ryan Waldhart, color guard-Deanna Bayerl, 5/6 choir-Elle Nimm, show choir-Elle Nimm, show choir assistant-Aleandra Burch, play director-Amy Hanson, stage manager/technical supervisor-Kim Volden, WEB leaders-Heather Jehn, Alyssa Jarosh and Amber Coe, yearbook-Jenny Morgan and Nicole Friell, forensics-Nicole Friell, assistant forensics-Mary Czajka, MathCounts-Tammy Bentzen and Sarah Weber, student council-Martha Burdick and Amber Coe, and after school art-Angie Hemker

High School – color guard-Kelli Martin, jazz band-Dave Kies, pep band-Dave Kies, show choir-Amy Hanson, assistant show choir-Kelli Martin, drama club-Amy Hanson and Rhonda Andres, play director first semester-Rhonda Andres, play director second semester-Rhonda Andres, assistant play director first semester-Amy Hanson, assistant play director second semester-Elle Nimm, stage manager first semester-Dan Heerts, stage manager second semester-Dan Heerts, forensics-Kim Volden, forensics assistant-Andrea Armstrong, summer theatre director-Amy Hanson, summer theatre instrumental-Dave Kies, summer theatre vocal-Rhonda Andres, summer theater stage-Dan Heerts, student council-Darren Fruit, Neshonoc yearbook-Andrea Armstrong, Link Crew-Melissa Haas and Jamie Olson, Visual Arts Classic-Quenten Brown, ecology club-Kelly Rueckheim, math club-Chris Milne, FFA-Kelly Rueckheim, Skills

USA-Carrie Wilson-Smith, DECA-Jason Holter, assistant DECA-Brittney Hodgson and Nicole Hinkel, robotics-Erik Mathison, assistant robotics-Dave Halverson, pep club-Rhonda Andres, NHS-Jennifer Stenberg, diversity club-Kim Volden, trapshooting club-Paul Liethen, youth frontiers-Ryan Nelson, homecoming supervisor (windows)-Quenten Brown, homecoming supervisor (parade)-Eric Borre, homecoming supervisor (Mr./Miss. WS)-Amy Hanson, homecoming supervisor (floats)-Laura Skemp-Deal, homecoming supervisor (dance)-Rhonda Andres, freshman class advisor-Jennifer Stenberg, sophomore class advisor-Eric Borre, junior class advisors-Kim Volden and Allison Schullo, senior class advisors-Rhonda Andres, Laura Skemp-Deal, Julie Arentz, and Jessica Tripp, volunteer HOSA-Toni Key, volunteer interact-Julie Arentz, volunteer fishing-Darren Fruit and Brian Baker, and volunteer Spanish club-Shelly Helland and Becky Tower.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Discussion/Action Items:**

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee's recommendation to approve the Outdoor Education Center timber harvest contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mr. E. Peterson seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee's recommendation to approve the request for one full-time and two five-hour paraprofessionals for the middle school Intellectual Disabilities program, and two four-hour paraprofessionals for speech therapy for the remainder of the school year. Motion carried. 6-Aye, 1-Nay (Mr. Schlimgen),

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mr. E. Peterson seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee's recommendation to proceed with the solar energy project at the middle school. Motion carried unanimously..

*Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended, as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.*

Mr. C. Peterson left the meeting.

### **Board Development**

Referendum planning – no action was taken.

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

Mrs. 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 superintendent's evaluation.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. E. Peterson seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 9:06 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. E. Peterson,

Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

**Closed Session**

**Adjournment**

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. E. Peterson seconded to adjourn at 9:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk