

School District of West Salem  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2024  
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

Due to technical difficulties, this meeting wasn't live streamed.

**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 September 5, 2024.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag*

Jessa Hickey led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Brennon Anderson recited the District Mission Statement.

*Roll Call*

Present: Erik Peterson, Tom Grosskopf, Bob Minard, Bob Gollnik, Catherine Griffin, Caitlin Wilson, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Heidi Horton, Justin Jehn, Ben Wopat, Alyssa Harlan, and Shawn Handland (7:03); Student representatives: Jessa Hickey and Brennon Anderson. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Alex Hubing

*Approval of Agenda*

S. Gavaghan moved, E. Peterson seconded to approve the agenda as presented. 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.

**Connection with the Community**

*Jessa Hickey, Student Representative, reported on:*

1. The football team has started their season off strong, winning their first 3 games. Last week they beat Viroqua 35-7, and this week they will take on Westby at home.
2. Yesterday the high school marching band started their parade season at the Kellogg parade in Wabasha, Minnesota. Their next parade is September 22nd at Applefest.
3. The volleyball had their first conference game last Thursday, taking down GET in 3 sets. Tomorrow night they will be playing in a triangular against Luther and Black River Falls, and this weekend they are hosting a home tournament.
4. There were auditions today after school for the newest play "When Bad Things Happen to Good Actors." The performances will start in late October, and the production will also be taken to competitions.

*Brennon Anderson, Student Representative, reported on:*

1. The dance team had their first performance of the season at the home football game on August 30th. Their performance this Friday will feature a number of West Salem staff members from across the district.
2. Cross country competed over the weekend at Verona. They have a meet this Thursday at GET and Saturday in Decorah, Iowa.
3. Girls' tennis played against Mauston on September 5th, and they won 7-0. Their next meet is tomorrow in Viroqua.
4. The boys' soccer team is 1 and 1 and their next game is tomorrow at Sparta
5. High school students voted for their class presidents last week. The junior class president is Mekebo Anderson, and the senior class president is Tom Stenberg.

*Correspondence – None.*

*Public Comments – None.*

*Start of School Report from Superintendent Ryan Rieber.*

#### *Public Hearing*

Public hearing to consider a request for early start of the 2025-2026 school year per WI State Statute 118.045 (3) – request a waiver for early start of school year due the need to complete the roof and other district improvement projects.

- C. Griffin called the hearing to order at 7:12 p.m. There wasn't a person who wished to speak.  
C. Griffin ended the hearing at 7:15 p.m.

#### **Consent Agenda**

- E. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:
- a. the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2024;
  - b. the invoices to be paid;
  - c. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendation for David Braun-8th grade football coach, Bryce Gruen-7th Grade football coach, Tony Schultz-middle school football volunteer, and Brennan Kennedy-high school football volunteer;
  - d. to accept the donation from Jim's Grocery Bag-Schroeder Fund for the Nutrition Services Department, from WASBO for the Nutrition Services Department, from Altra Federal Credit Union for the high school, and from Dylenn Bayer for the Marley Tauscher Memorial Fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to adopt the following resolution:  
Consider a request for early start of the 2025-2026 school year per WI State Statute 118.045 (3) – request a waiver for early start of school year due to the need to complete the roof and other district improvement projects. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Rieber and Director of Buildings & Grounds Scott Johnson provided a summer campus improvements update. No action was taken.

T. Grosskopf moved, E. Peterson seconded to adopt the following 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 9,2024 in the amount of \$5,000,000 with an interest rate of 6.50% and payable in full on June 30, 2025.

Motion withdrawn.

T. Grosskopf moved, E. Peterson seconded to adopt the following 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, 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 9,2024 in the amount of \$5,000,000 with an interest rate of 6.50% and payable in full on June 30, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

Director of Finance and Business Operations Shawn Handland reviewed a draft of the revenue limit worksheet. No action was taken.

Superintendent Rieber reviewed communication/talking points for the November referendum. No action was taken.

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

### **Adjournment**

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Erik Peterson, Clerk