

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2017
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Syl Clements. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee News, 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 March 9, 2017.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Jane Halverson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Jane Halverson recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Syl Clements, Jane Halverson, Ken Schlingens, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield, and Greg Brickl. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Ben Wopat, Eric Jensen, Josh Mallicoat, Ryan Rieber, Michael St. Pierre, Davita Molling, and Lisa Gerke. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Mike Malott, Paige Dunnum and Simon Buchanan.

Approval of Agenda

Jane Halverson moved, Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Mrs. Griffin read Paige Dunnum's report:

1. In February, the 4th and 5th grade Council of Kids organized "Coins for a Cause" at the Elementary school. They raised money for the "Bunkbed Project" which builds beds for underprivileged kids in Guatemala. In one week, they raised \$1,299, which is enough to build 6 sets of bunkbeds. They are hoping to Skype with the organizers of the project when the bunkbeds get delivered to the families in Guatemala.
2. The West Salem High School National Honor Society is holding a spring blood drive on Tuesday, March 14, from 8:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., and they are in need of donors to meet their goal.
3. West Salem DECA competed at the state competition in Lake Geneva last week and was very successful, with 14 students moving on to the International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, California this April.
4. West Salem High School forensics competed this past Saturday at the District competition hosted by UW-La Crosse. Ten of these students will move on to the state competition in April.
5. Last Friday, the West Salem High School Visual Arts Classic team competed in the La Crosse VAC Regional Competition. West Salem earned 19 individual first place ratings, as well as a first place in the Group Critical Thinking Category, the Art History Quiz

Bowl category, and first place overall. This group is moving on to the State Competition on April 7th at UW-Madison.

Correspondence

A thank you note from the family of Sandy Folgers was read.

A thank you note from the family of Joan Solie was read.

A thank you note from the family of Kevin Hilby was read.

Public comments

Alex Koonce spoke in reference to having a owner's representative for the district's building projects.

Written and Oral Reports

CESA #4 Board of Control – Mrs. Halverson reported on the Board's monthly meeting.

Bearing Wall Committee – Mr. Clements reported that the recipient for the Bearing Wall Award is Janice Stuntebeck, and there will be two recipients for the LaVerne Nuttelman Distinguished Service Award: Elaine Clements and Bernie Repky.

Finance Committee – Mr. Schlimgen reported that the committee met and reviewed 2017-18 budget additions and reductions.

District Performance Initiatives by Ryan Rieber and Lisa Gerke, Ben Wopat, Josh Mallicoat and Mike Malott, Eric Jensen, Michael St. Pierre, and Troy Gunderson.

Selection of Art Work – High School Art Teacher Quenten Brown invited board, administrators and district staff to select work from the K-12 Honors Art Exhibit in the Heider Gallery to be displayed in the Heider Meeting Room for a year. Elementary Art Teachers Angie Hemker was also present.

Pat Lapekas from Lapekas & Associates reviewed the services she is providing to the district to assist in organizational performance.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2017, and the invoices to be paid. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield seconded to accept donations from the Neshonoc Lakers Girls' Basketball Club for varsity jerseys; from the La Crosse Community Foundation for baseball; from Carol Hanson, Fay Gora, Kathleen Thompson and Wendi Hundt for the high school drama club. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Schomberg, Brian Guthrie and Tyler Schomberg from Vantage Architects to review the final design, bid procedure, general contractor, and the exterior design and options. No action was taken.

The possibility of an Owner's Representative for the campus and facility projects was discussed. Mr. Brickl moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to hire an owner's representative with project management the skillset for the duration of the project. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Brickl, Aye; Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield, Abstained; Mr. Clements, Nay; Mrs. Halverson, Nay; Mrs. Griffin, Nay; Mr. Grosskopf, Nay; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion failed. (2-Aye, 4-Nay 1-Abstained)

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to approve the following Resolution on a School Start Date Restriction. Motion carried unanimously.

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin by current state statute has indicated that public school districts in the State of Wisconsin cannot start school before September 1 pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 118.045 Commencement of school term; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date would allow for additional days of instruction for students prior to state and local assessments and preparation for the ACT and Advanced Placement; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow the School District of West Salem to align its school calendar with post-secondary institutions to better meet the needs of its students; and

WHEREAS local control over the state start date will allow the School District of West Salem staff to participate in professional development college coursework for license renewal as K-12 schedules become more aligned with post-secondary schedules; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow for the School District of West Salem to adjust its calendar to allow for non-instructional days that better meet the needs of our community, and to prevent ending the school year late into June; and

WHEREAS local control over the start date will allow the School District of West Salem to better align its calendar with the co-curricular schedule for students that begins in early August; and

WHEREAS charter and voucher school districts have the flexibility to start prior to September 1 and still receive public funding from the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS the West Salem community has long-standing traditions of hosting the annual celebration of June Dairy Days on the first weekend in June and of awarding high school diplomas on the last Sunday in May. The September 1 start date often causes the end of the school year to extend past these two local events; and

WHEREAS the State Superintendent is recommending in his 2017-2019 Biennial Budget to allow the Milwaukee Public School District to be provided an exception to this provision in the state law TO ALLOW THE DISTRICT TO MAXIMIZE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES; therefore, this opportunity should be granted for all school districts in the State of Wisconsin.

BE IT RESOLVED that the School District of West Salem is officially asking legislators to repeal Wisconsin Statutes Section 118.045 Commencement of school term, to re-establish local control in determining the school calendar.

BE IT RESOLVED that the School District of West Salem will be better able to educate its school children and meet the needs of the district's families because of this flexibility.

BE IT RESOLVED that on March 13, 2017, the School District of West Salem passed this Resolution in order to re-establish local control for the school calendar.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Brickl seconded to approve the 2016-2017 budget adjustments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield seconded to rescind the resignation of Stephanie Williams. Motion carried. (5-Ayes, 2-Nays: Schlimgen and Grosskopf)

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield seconded to accept the resignation of Elementary Teacher Stephanie Zais.

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield seconded to adjourn at 9:22 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Halverson, Clerk