

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2014
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Thomas Helgeson. 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 December 11, 2015.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Syl Clements led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Dean Buchanan recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Syl Clements, Jane Halverson, Thomas Helgeson, Scott Scafe, Ken Schlimgen, Fred Perri, and Catherine Griffin. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Dean Buchanan, Eric Jensen, Mark Carlson, Mike Malott, John Smalley, Michael St. Pierre, and Lisa Gerke; Student representatives: Mariah Arneson and Cameron Robaczewski. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Davita Molling.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Connection with the Community

Cameron Robaczewski reported on:

1. On Saturday, December 6th, our high school sent two quiz bowl teams to compete at a statewide competition in Madison. One team placed fourth, missing out on a trip to nationals by only 5 points. The other team handily won the consolation bracket.
2. The high school gymnastics co-op had their first competition last weekend. They competed on Saturday in Baraboo and the varsity team placed first in a tough field of seven teams.
3. This last Saturday, the high school interact club, created by Kayla Adams' for her SEP in order to volunteer in and around our community, went to La Crosse to help out. 30 people made 2,000 fruit baskets to sell. Also this week, the club is holding an ugly sweater contest throughout school. All the money earned will be given to the Salvation Army.
4. The high school music department has had a busy couple of weeks with holiday concerts, collecting food donations for the local food pantry and performing at rotary lights. Also, the jazz band has sent a group of brass players and saxophones to play at nursing homes around town throughout the week.

5. In a survey of high school students last year, it was found that more students wanted time to get together as a school and make memories. This year, on each of the three early release days, the high school has had different events go on for the last hour of the day.

Mariah Arneson reported on:

1. The high school Dance Team participated in their first competition on Saturday, December 13 at Wausau, WI. Twelve dancers competed and the team took 2nd place.
2. High school student, Baily Williams, scored his 1,000th point throughout his high school career in basketball. Baily was a varsity team member every year and is the fourth boys' basketball player to achieve this mark in West Salem history.
3. The high school December Art Student of the Month is Carter Mulder. Carter's work includes photography of Wisconsin and Costa Rica trip with the Spanish students. He is working with a photographer for his SEP and an a reception will be held in the Heider Center on December 18.
4. High school DECA members attended a DECA Leadership Conference. Teams from the Midwest region attended, approximately 2,500 kids. Jinal Patel and Erin Faella competed and were awarded for placing in the top 5%. The team enjoyed an entrepreneur seminar with a co-founder and CEO of a large organic popcorn company.
5. Members from the high school NHS went to Lakeview Health Center to assist in decorating the facility for the holidays. The NHS also organized for gifts to be given to students in the district that are financially unstable. The students raised money, shopped, wrapped, and delivered gifts for the students.
6. Six students from the high school Skills USA team competed in Holmen on December 9. All six of them placed: 1st — Jared Novak, 2nd — Chase Aleckson, Logan Aleckson, and Olivia Aleckson, 3rd — Hunter Young, and Spencer Wilhelm.
7. Most of the male teachers at the middle school are agreeing to shave their heads and some females are agreeing to dye their hair if the students are able to collect 40 boxes of food for the food pantry.
8. The middle school student council has planned seven dress-up days for the holiday season.
9. At the middle school next Tuesday, the students and staff will hold their talent show, class spelling bees and class geo bees.

Correspondence

A proclamation from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction State Superintendent Tony Evers, announcing Adult School Crossing Guard Recognition Week as January 12-16, 2015 was read.

Mr. Helgeson announced the school board member positions that are up for election and the dates when to submit candidate forms.

Public comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Policy Committee – Mrs. Halverson reported that the committee met and will have more policies for first reading in January. There are also policies for first reading later in tonight’s agenda.

CESA #4 Board of Control – Mrs. Halverson reported that the board met and held their holiday drawing, approved a policy, approved a pricing increase for the 2015-16 school year, discussed cooperative health insurance and the WIRSA Conference.

District Performance Initiative updates by administrators Dean Buchanan, Eric Jensen, John Smalley and Lisa Gerke, Mark Carlson and Mike Malott, Michael St. Pierre, and Troy Gunderson were reviewed.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Scafe moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2014; the Special Board Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2014; and the invoices to be paid. Motion carried.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to accept the following donations:

1. from the Wisconsin Beef Council for the high school Family & Consumer Science class;
2. from the West Salem Area Community Foundation for the high school scholarship fund;
3. from John & Sylvia Cullmann for the Angela Labus Memorial Scholarship Fund;
4. from the Tools for Schools Program, Brenengen Auto, SSE Music, the La Crosse Area Autism Foundation for middle school Tina Thompson’s class;
5. from Beth and JJ Jacobson, Cheryl and Brian Gentry, Julie and Phil Gilbert, and Rahn and Judy Pischke for the Nutrition Services Program “Jane Doe Fund;”
6. from Leithold Music for the Middle School Music Department.

Motion carried.

High school teachers Chris Milne, Jason Holter, Quenten Brown, James Klos, Kathy Hilby, and Brian Baker were present answered questions regarding new high school course offerings. Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve the 2015-16 high school course offerings and new course proposals as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to approve the 2015-16 school calendar as presented. Motion carried.

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to authorize Mrs. Griffin to vote her conscience on the delegate assembly proposals. Board members should forward their comments to her. Motion carried.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed the campus and facilities discussion from the November 24, 2014 board meeting and provided a summary.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed possible dates for a future referendum and possible costs. Mr. Gunderson presented the district's current long-term debt and possible solutions for payment on the debt. Mr. Perri moved, Mr. Clements seconded to proceed with an April 2015 referendum with one question to include: maintenance to the current middle school, a new 5-8 middle school, repair on the swimming pool, bus garage project, tennis courts, and track. Mr. Schlimgen moved to amend the motion to only include maintenance items for an April 2015 referendum. The amendment failed due to lack of a second. A vote on the original motion to proceed with an April 2015 referendum with one question to include: maintenance to the current middle school, a new 5-8 middle school, repair on the swimming pool, bus garage project, tennis courts, and track. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Scafe, Aye; Mr. Helgeson, Aye; Mr. Clements, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Perri, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Nay. Motion carried. (6-Aye, 1-Nay)

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to accept the administrations co-curricular recommendations: volunteer high school girls' basketball, Mitch Berfeind; volunteer high school boys' basketball, Bill Jensen and Ryan Storm; Odyssey of the Mind coach, Jenny Perz, Carrie Johnson and Angie Hemker. Motion carried.

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to go into closed session to discuss and consider pursuant to Wis. Stats §19.85(1) (f) "Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations" regarding medical and personal histories of student(s) at 9:08 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Scafe, Aye; Mr. Helgeson, Aye; Mr. Clements, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Perri, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Mr. Scafe moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to return to open at 9:40 p.m. Motion carried.

Open Session

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Perri seconded to approve the requested paraprofessional hours at the elementary and the middle school. Motion carried.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve for a first reading of policies: #452 Wellness, #731 Buildings and Grounds Security, #731.2 Key Control, #732 Buildings and Grounds Maintenance, #734 Staff Personal Items Utilized in School, #735 Integrated Pest Management, #736 Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) Management Plan, #751 Student Transportation Services, #751.1 Bus Routing and Scheduling, #751.5 Use of Video Monitoring Systems on School Buses, #753 School Vehicles. Motion carried.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to eliminate the following board policies: #735-Rule West Salem School District Grounds Maintenance Program, #751-Rule Student Transportation Guidelines, #751.1-Rule Bus Routing and Scheduling Guidelines, #751.3 –Rule Guidelines for Special Transportation. Motion carried.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Clements seconded to accept the resignation of High School Science Teacher Jessica Vick based upon the terms of the agreement signed when hired effective January 22, 2015. After much discussion, Mr. Schlimgen called for the question. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Scafe, Nay; Mr. Helgeson, Nay; Mr. Clements, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Nay; Mrs. Griffin, Nay; Mr. Perri, Nay; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion failed. (2-Aye, 5-Nay) Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Perri seconded to accept the resignation of High School Science Teacher Jessica Vick and waive the liquidated damages. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Scafe, Aye; Mr. Helgeson, Aye; Mr. Clements, Nay; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Perri, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Nay. Motion carried (5-Aye, 2-Nay)

Mr. Helgeson 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 and contracts for specific administrative personnel.

Mr. Perri moved, Mr. Clements seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 10:03 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Scafe, Aye; Mr. Helgeson, Aye; Mr. Clements, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Perri, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried.

Closed Session

Adjournment

Mr. Perri moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to adjourn at 10:15 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Halverson, Clerk