



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 10, 2023 Regular Meeting

Pursuant to the regulations, the regular Board meeting was held on the above date in the Waupaca High School Community Room and live streamed via YouTube. The meeting was also broadcast on TV Channel 991.

The purpose of the Board Meeting Minutes is to capture the essence of discussions through the actions voted on. These minutes should not be interpreted to represent a transcription of the meeting. To watch a recording of this meeting, please click [here](#).

President's Comments and Pledge of Allegiance:

Dale Feldt welcomed everyone and introduced new Board Student Representative Alec Olson. He then asked Michael Werbowsky to lead the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Dale Feldt at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present in the WHS Community Room: Dale Feldt, Steve Klismet, Molly McDonald, Betty Manion, Ron Brooks, and Bob Adams; Lori Chesnut was present via phone.

Also Present:

Present in the WHS Community Room: Ron Saari, Sandy Lucas, Mark Flaten, Carl Hayek, Steve Thomaschefskey, Laurie Schmidt, Michael Werbowsky, Jenifer Erb, Austin Moore, John Erspamer, Jody Pankratz, Carrie Naparalla, Rob Scherrer, Kyle Scherwinski, Carol Beyer-Makuski, District Consultant Civil Engineer Robert Breest, and members of the community.

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Ron Brooks and seconded by Steve Klismet to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Public Comment:

None.

Review of Board Meeting Norms:

The Board reviewed their collective commitments.

Board Reports:

Student Representative Report:

Alec Olson shared who the staff of the month were, as well as the class winners of each of the homecoming activities. He also advised that the pre-ACT results will be reviewed soon, and the WHS musical performances will be held next month. Representatives from Turkmenistan will be at WHS and Board member Ron Brooks advised that they will also be visiting his farm and invited Alec to attend as well.

Upcoming Meetings and Other Activities:

The Board was reminded of the following upcoming meetings and other activities:

October 24, 2023 – Special Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m.

October 26, 2023 – Joint SB-GC Charter School Contract Committee Meeting – 1:00 p.m.

October 31, 2023 – Budget Hearing – 5:30 p.m.

November 14, 2023 – Joint SB-GC Charter School Contract Committee Meeting – 3:45 p.m.

November 14, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m.

Completion of Board Member Availability Calendar:

The Board members were asked to complete their availability calendars through November.

Appoint Deputy Clerk for Elections:

District Administrator Ron Saari advised that traditionally the Board has appointed Carol Beyer-Makuski as the Deputy Clerk for elections. However, Ms. Beyer-Makuski advised the Board that she did not want to accept the appointment this year. So the Board appointed Sandy Lucas to fill this role.

School Visits or Other Board Reports:

Board member Betty Manion shared that she attended the CEC's corn roast, toured the school, and visited Ms. Olson's reading class. Board member Molly McDonald shared that she assisted the dance team working with 141 younger students at the WLC. Several Board members advised that they attended the homecoming activities and thanked Director of Co-Curricular Activities and Athletics Rob Scherrer for the invitation.

Board President Dale Feldt reminded the Board where to find the school visit schedule on the District's website, adding that they need to advise the school principal ahead of time when they will be visiting.

CEC Liaison Report:

CEC Liaison Betty Manion shared that she attended the CEC Governance Council meeting last Friday which included discussions relating to the water issue, construction update, i-Ready results, and fundraising. The Gala is scheduled for January 27, 2024, at Par 4. She added that Governance Council President Sandy Robinson begins each meeting with a 15 minute video from the WASB on different topics and suggested that perhaps the Board should consider purchasing these videos as well.

Joint School Board-Governance Council Charter School Contract Committee:

Committee Chairperson Dale Feldt advised that the Committee has been steadily moving along through the contract and when completed, it will be a really good document. His goal for completion of the contract continues to be December.

Instructional Committee:

Committee Chairperson Molly McDonald advised that the Committee met on September 18th to review the process for building tiny houses. Students will be involved in all phases of the construction process, and all key components will be set out and documented. Going forward, their goal is to build two tiny houses per year.

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Betty Manion and seconded by Lori Chesnut to approve the items of the consent agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes:

September 12, 2023 Joint SB-GC Charter School Contract Committee Meeting
September 12, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
September 18, 2023 Instructional Committee Meeting
September 21, 2023 Special Board Meeting
September 28, 2023 Joint SB-GC Charter School Contract Committee Meeting
September 28, 2023 Expulsion Hearing
October 2, 2023 Special Board Meeting
October 3, 2023 Expulsion Hearing

Financial Reports:

Accounts Payable Approval: \$2,759,052.49, and Building Fund Payable: \$1,441,658.11
Cash Receipts: \$1,816,737.94
Treasurer's Report – Total Cash per Reconciliation: \$12,150,700.50

Retirements:

Cynthia Waldschmidt – WLC 3rd Grade Teacher
Barb Riggle – WLC 2nd Grade Teacher
Tina Olson – WLC 1st Grade Teacher
Lisa Simonson – WHS Social Studies Teacher

Resignations:

Jeff Reed – Ed. Asst.-Spec. Ed. Bus Monitor
Denise Zachman – WMS Ed. Asst.-Spec. Ed.
Krystal Rosenthal – WHS Ed. Asst.-Spec. Ed.
Samantha Lamers – Food Service Administrative Assistant

Hires – 2023-2024 School Year:

Alxsys Martin – WLC Food Service Class 2
Kristina Koch – Food Service Administrative Assistant

Extra Curricular Coaches and Advisors – 2023-2024 School Year

WHS Volunteer Coaching Positions:

Jeffery Wright – Boys Hockey

WHS Volunteer Advisor Positions:

Carter Hoelzel – Ice Fishing

Tyler Vander Velden – Robotics

Dean Nelson - Bowling

WMS Volunteer Coaching Positions:

Randy Marks - Soccer

WMS Volunteer Advisor Positions:

Antoinette Denicola – Robotics

Paige Olson – Dance

Salary Step Changes:

Courtney Gross – 4B6 to 4B12

Evelyn Kabke – 10M to 10M6

Final Approval of Class III Field Trips for WHS and WMS

The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote. The Board expressed their gratitude to the four teachers who are retiring at the end of this school year.

Communications:

Mr. Saari recognized the many important observances happening throughout the month of October.

Donations:

Mr. Saari advised of donations made to CEC as well as to the WHS Art Club. A motion was made by Steve Klismet and seconded by Bob Adams to accept, with gratitude, the donation from Norb Witkowski to CEC as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote. A motion was made by Steve Klismet and seconded by Lori Chesnut to accept, with gratitude, the donations to the WHS Art Club as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

District Administrator's Report:

Mr. Saari shared a new project that WHS Residential and Home Maintenance classes are taking on, through our Tech Ed Department partnering with the Waupaca City Parks & Rec. The City will reuse this structure at the soccer practice field.

Mr. Saari advised that the third Friday count indicated an increase in students this year. We have 22 more physical students/27 more FTE students enrolled this year than this time last year. However, the most important count is the three year rolling average which is used for revenue limit calculation purposes and that is down by four students from 1,998 to 1,994. This is significant because our revenue limit decreased by \$155,000, and we also lost over \$330,000 of declining enrollment exemption. He shared additional information indicating the decline in enrollment the District has been experiencing.

Mr. Saari noted that there has been an increase in enrollment in the RVA, so if we did not have this option these students might have open enrolled out to attend a virtual school. We have also seen an increase in English learners with varying degrees of knowledge of the English language. Director of Student Services Laurie Schmidt advised that our principals, teachers, and staff communicate with these English learners using AI.

Mr. Saari also shared that he sent a letter in support of a 45 multi-unit, multi-income housing complex being proposed near the Waupaca Foundry which is anticipated to bring in an additional 30-60 school age students.

Mr. Saari advised that the Waupaca FFA was selected as a 3 star gold chapter in the National FFA National Chapter Awards.

He shared that Mr. Don Danielson provided WHS with his father's diploma and old maps of the high school campus from when his extended family owned the property.

Mr. Saari also provided an update of the Grant Writer's awards so far this year.

Monitoring:

2023-2024 Preliminary Budget:

Director of Business Services Carl Hayek presented the District's preliminary 2023-2024 budget. He advised that school taxes are going down to a 30-year low. We will be receiving \$414,000 in more state aid, property valuations went up 17.1%, which drives the mill rate down to \$4.79 per \$1,000 of property value. Our student FTE enrollment count of 1,980 funds the revenue limit. Open enrolled out students are counted because they live here and are an expense, and open enrolled in students are a revenue. The budget is balanced.

Budget increases included teacher, support staff, and administration wage increases as well as a health insurance increase along with a revenue limit reduction. But there were several budget reductions made to reach a balanced budget. So there is no room in the budget for anything else. If we find teachers to fill the current vacancies, there are usually other vacancies at the same time or a

reduction could be made elsewhere, but Mr. Hayek advised that he will keep the Board up to date should that occur.

The revenue cap is \$155,000 less this year even with the increase in student enrollment because it is based on the three year rolling average. We did receive an increase in the state budget but the three year rolling average is controlling the revenue cap. We are plateauing.

Because the District gets paid only four times per year, Mr. Hayek emphasized the importance of keeping a solid fund balance to avoid the need to short term borrow. He also shared what the budget is projected to look like in the next few years.

Mr. Hayek advised that the budget will be published in the *Waupaca County Post* and the Budget Hearing is scheduled for October 31, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Administration:

Construction Update:

Mr. Bob Brest, the District's representative overseeing the construction work, advised that the projects are still within budget. They continue to experience some supply chain issues, particularly with the doors, but he is hoping they will be installed by the end of next week. A majority of the work at CEC, WMS, and WHS should be completed by the end of the month.

The WLC went through some engineering hurdles but will be out of the ground in another two weeks; footings will be in by the end of this week and walls up. It will be water tight by the end of the year. By the end of February, the new construction at the WLC will be to the point that furniture can be moved in but we will not be working in the new facility because the sidewalk will not be completed. He is hoping the WLC will be fully operational in April of next year.

Moving the November Board Meeting Date:

Mr. Saari requested moving the November 14th regular Board meeting date (as well as the Joint School Board-Governance Council CEC Contract Committee meeting) to November 6 or November 7 because he will be out of town on vacation. Because a quorum of the Board will be available, a motion was made by Ron Brooks and seconded by Molly McDonald to change the November regular Board meeting (and Joint School Board-Governance Council Committee meeting) from November 14 to Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 5:30 pm. in the Waupaca High School Community Room. The motion carried on a 6-1-0 voice vote with Steve Klismet voting no.

3rd Friday in September Enrollment Report:

Mr. Saari shared the 3rd Friday in September enrollment report which is required by the DPI. This is similar data that he previously shared in his report just in a different format.

Early Graduation Requests:

Mr. Saari advised that seven students are requesting early graduation. In order to graduate early, students must complete seven semesters of high school as well as all courses required for high school graduation. These students and their parents have discussed their request with their school counselor and WHS Principal Michael Werbowsky.

A motion was made by Betty Manion and seconded by Bob Adams to approve the early graduation requests of the seven Waupaca High School students as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Set Graduation Date:

Mr. Saari reminded the Board that at last month's Board meeting, in an effort to continue "Senior Week" and to provide an opportunity for more of our staff to attend the graduation ceremony, the Administration recommended that the graduation date be set for Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at

7:00 p.m. However, the Board requested that WHS Principal Michael Werbowsky send out separate surveys to senior students and their parents asking for their graduation ceremony date preference between Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. or Sunday, June 2, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., with the last day for seniors being May 29 regardless of the graduation date. The results were not unexpected. A slight majority of parents voted for the June 2nd date and a majority of the seniors voted for the May 29th date. So the Administration continued to stand with their previous recommendation of May 29, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. as the date for the graduation ceremony.

Several Board members advised that although a higher percentage of students actually voted than parents, because they have received complaints in the past from parents and because they believe the parents do the scheduling and have more clout, they will follow the parents' wishes. While other Board members stated they will err on the side of the students to ensure that they know they have a voice and that their input matters.

A motion was made by Ron Brooks and seconded by Lori Chesnut to accept the Administration's recommendation and set the 2024 graduation date as Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. The motion carried on a 4-3-0 roll call vote, with Ron Brooks, Lori Chesnut, Bob Adams, and Dale Feldt voting yes and Betty Manion, Molly McDonald, and Steve Klismet voting no.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ron Brooks and seconded by Molly McDonald to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

_____ Date _____
Dale Feldt, President
Board of Education

_____ Date _____
Molly McDonald, Clerk
Board of Education