

Minutes of Budget Committee Meeting

The Board of Education Waunakee Community School District

A Budget Committee Meeting of the Board of Education of Waunakee Community School District was held Wednesday, March 5, 2025, beginning at 7:30 AM in the Waunakee Community School District, 905 Bethel Circle, Waunakee, WI 53597.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Heinemann called the meeting to order at 7:30am.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Heinemann, Heinrichs, Hetzel

Also present: Summers, Newton, Brown (Virtually), Grabarski

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Hetzel, second by Heinrichs, to approve the agenda as posted.

Motion carried 3-0.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS There were no public comments for this meeting.

V. 2025-2026 PLANNING

A. Timeline

Newton presented and answered questions on the 25-26 budget timeline. We are entering into a new state budget cycle and will be following the process very closely. Administration will recommend updates to the budget process as necessary.

B. Preliminary Budget Planning Process

Newton and Summers presented and answered questions regarding a review of the preliminary budget planning process for 2025-26. The committee reviewed additional data that was requested in February regarding open enrollment data and enrollment growth data for our comparable districts. The next major milestones include a health insurance renewal decision at the April board meeting, compensation decisions at the May board meeting, student fees at the May board meeting, and the first draft of the budget in May.

A motion was made by Hetzel, second by Heinrichs, to request that the full board consider the preliminary budget process as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

VI. 2024-2025 BUDGET PLANNING

A. Planning for 2024-2025 Budget and Beyond

Summers presented and answered questions regarding the work that is being done in regard to 2024-2025 budget planning. The next steps include reposting the HR salary and benefit data and updating the non-salary/benefit data such as legal fees, special education categorical aid revenues, etc.

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PROPOSALS - NA

VIII. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Fund Balance Policy

Summers stated that the fund balance policy is being discussed by the school board during the workshop meetings.

B. Transportation Camera Upgrades & App Capabilities

Summers presented and answered questions regarding the discussion of technology updates for the 2025-26 school year related to bussing. One opportunity for 25-26 could be the use of a parent app to track the bus, without the investment individual student tracking and security cameras. The committee would like this brought back to the budget committee with cost and funds allocation for the next meeting.

C. November 2022 Referendum Financial Plan

Summers presented and answered questions regarding the final steps in the borrowing process for the construction funds from the November 2022 referendum. Administration was able to push the borrowing past April 1st in order to open one additional year on the debt schedule. Summers reviewed the most recent bond rating summary showing our bond rating remained the same from November 2024 at AA-. Summers also reviewed the financial plan that indicated a long-term property tax increase of approximately 2.1%, while incorporating some of the project savings/interest earnings into the financial plan.

IX. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - NA**

X. **ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Heinrichs, second by Hetzel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:41am.
Motion carried 3-0.