

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 Tuesday, October 6, 2026, beginning at 7:30 AM in the Waunakee Community School District, 905 Bethel Circle, Waunakee, WI 53597.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Hetzel, Ensign, Sonne

Also Present: Brown, Summers, Newton, Loken, Grabarski, Weisman, Kirk Strang, and Rebecca Stigler

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ADDITIONS

A motion was made by Sonne, second by Ensign to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried 3-0.

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

V. 2025-2026 BUDGET REVIEW

Newton and Summers presented and answered questions regarding the fund balance allocations and treasurer's report for 2025-26. The fund 10 fund balance was increased by the IRS clean energy rebate.

The committee discussed and shared ideas regarding the Warrior Stadium turf field and funds allocated to replace it as well as other playing fields.

VI. 2026-2027 PLANNING

A. Timeline

B. 2026-27 Tax Levy Options

Summers presented and answered questions regarding the review of tax levy options for the 2026-27 school year. Summers presented another option prepared by PTMA.

Administration will be requesting a recommendation so that we can present a refinancing plan for approval for October 26, 2026. After some discussion, a motion was made by Sonne, seconded by Ensign to recommend that the full board move forward with the tax levy option as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

C. Student Count

Summers presented and answered questions regarding the 3rd Friday count in the September report. The committee discussed future planning for 4K and enrollment.

D. Transportation Planning

Summers presented and answered questions regarding the review of the transportation changes for the 2026-27 school year. These changes that have received positive feedback (no shuttles) and parental concerns that we have received (late buses, high school eligibility, and consistent schedule). Information regarding an early concern with diesel fuel costs now exceeding \$6.00 per gallon was shared with the committee.

E. Special Education Staffing

Loken presented and answered questions regarding the request for an additional 1:1 para educator. A motion was made by Ensign, seconded by Sonne, to recommend that the full board approve the additional 1:1 paras as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

F. Natural Gas Purchasing

Summers presented and answered questions regarding the savings from pre-purchasing natural gas in 2025-26 and to discuss options for pre-purchasing for 2026-27. A motion was made by Ensign, seconded by Sonne, to recommend that the full board move forward with the pre-purchase 80% of natural gas from the timeframe Nov. 2026- Oct 2027.

Motion carried 3-0.

G. Banking Services Request for Proposal Review

Summers presented and answered questions regarding the submissions from the request for proposal for banking services. Three proposals were received and all were strong proposals and deserve consideration. Interest rates are similar with fees being comparable between all three. A difference worth noting is the additional donation that OCB has proposed for the district's Student Financial Assistance Fund. The proposal was \$10,000 per year for 5 years. A motion was made by Ensign, seconded by Sonne, to recommend that the full board approve the proposal from One Community Bank as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

H. Request for Proposal for Transportation Services

Summers presented and answered questions regarding the details for the upcoming request for proposal for transportation services. Administration is requesting an initial review in October with approval of the specifications in November to bring back for board approval in January.

VII. CLOSED SESSION - ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION PER WISCONSIN STATUTES 19.85 (1) (c) and (g).

A motion was made by Ensign, seconded by Sonne, to move to closed session by roll call vote. Time: 8:57am.

Roll Call: Ensign – Yes, Hetzel – Yes, Sonne – Yes.

The board discussed legal personnel procedures.

VIII. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Ensign, seconded by Sonne, to return to open session. Motion carried 3-0.

IX. ACTION AS APPROPRIATE, ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Sonne, seconded by Ensign, to recommend that the full board approve the personnel procedure as presented in closed session. Motion carried 3-0.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS A meeting will be scheduled for early November.

X. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Ensign, seconded by Sonne, to adjourn the meeting at 9:21am.