

**WATERFORD UNION HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 25, 2025
Regular Meeting - 7:30 PM**

The regular meeting was called to order by President Schoenfeld at 7:30 p.m. Board members present at the meeting were: Gary Beck, Kelly Datka, Dennis Purtell, Mike Schoenfeld, and Doug Schwartz.

Official notice of the meeting was made by way of publication in the *Waterford Post* on Thursday, September 25, 2025, was posted at the District Office (Door #7) and at Entrance #19, and was published on the District's website. Minutes from the regular board meeting of July 14, 2025 are posted on the District's website.

President Schoenfeld led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were presented to the Board for approval under the consent agenda:

- A. Review of Paid Bills
- B. Minutes – August 12, 2025 Regular Meeting
- C. Minutes 0 August 27, 2025 Bond Resolution Hearing
- D. Staffing Updates
 - 1) Resignation – Carlee Jurasich, PAC House
- E. Overnight Field Trip Requests: November 2025 - March 2026
- F. Spring 2026 Early College Credit Program and Start College Now Program

There was a motion by Schwartz, seconded by Beck to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call vote taken; all ayes. The motion carried.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

Community member Karen Alexander shared a written, personal statement urging Board members to direct Principal Foster to create a means of honoring the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, which will be observed July 4, 2026. Mrs. Alexander proposed that a program be created similar to the Constitution Day recognition project developed last year for students using the media screens located throughout the building. In her statement, Mrs. Alexander stated that the next ten months are a “unique and critical time” to help students grow their knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of how our nation’s founders achieved independence from Great Britain. A copy of the Declaration of Independence, along with the Colonists’ list of grievances against King George was provided to board members, Dr. Francois, and Principal Foster for their consideration of her request. President Schoenfeld thanked Mrs. Alexander for her remarks.

INFORMATION ITEMS

District Administrator Annual Performance Evaluation - Preparation for Annual Performance Review

Superintendent Francois expounded on two of his key goals and foremost areas of focus for the next two years. The first goal related to student growth in core skill areas, while the second goal related to the District’s financial performance and fiscal stability. Dr. Francois outlined various action steps for achieving the goals as well as evidence standards by which attainment of the goals could and will be measured.

When invited to provide feedback, Board Member Datka inquired whether the board would have the opportunity to discuss these goals in closed session and expressed concern that the district-wide goals fell short of her expectations for the superintendent’s professional growth. Discussion followed regarding the criteria and timeline for the District Administrator Performance Assessment Tool (PAT) and the subsequent Colleague Assessment Questionnaire (CAQ). President Schoenfeld remarked that Superintendent Francois had met the criteria set before him in establishing the goals for which he is responsible for accomplishing over the next two years. The Board will be asked to take action on the goals at its next meeting, as the timeline for the

District Administrator's annual performance evaluation is behind schedule. Board member Purtell was asked to share an electronic or pdf copy of the PAT with Dr. Francois in order that it may be shared with the entire board.

Caffeinated Beverages

Relative to the Board's request to continue discussion regarding the sale of caffeinated energy drinks in the vending machines located in the school cafeteria, Superintendent Francois cited rationale for why the Administration does not recommend removing these options. He noted that WUHS students have ready access to these beverages in local stores, and caffeine levels of the products sold is no greater than that of coffee or other soda brand offerings. If the District were to ban sale of caffeinated beverages, the morning coffee shop operated by students with disabilities would be negatively impacted. District Food Service Director Ashley Rupp reported that caffeinated beverages are among their strongest revenue sources, with comparable programs at Central High averaging about \$1,000 per day. Lastly, Dr. Francois reminded board members of District governance protocol. According to board policy, decisions about cafeteria beverage offerings fall within administrative management and are not a matter for board-level policy.

Board discussion followed. Board member Beck asked when students have access to the vending machines. It was noted that vending machines are available to students before and after school as well as during the lunch periods. Board member Datka noted that the WIAA is against the use of performance enhancing substances and asked whether energy drinks are offered during athletic events or sold by the Booster Club in concession stands. Dr. Francois noted that energy drinks are not sold by the Booster Club, although other caffeinated beverages are regularly offered. Board member Datka said she will concede to allowing the District to continue to offer caffeinated beverages, and expressed that the superintendent is responsible for the supervision and control of day-to-day operations under the direction of the school board.

ACTION ITEMS

No items were presented for Board action.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Francois remarked on the following.

- The Leader in Me Lighthouse Team's presentation which was postponed from tonight's meeting due to the later start time, will be rescheduled for another board meeting at a later date.
- Students and staff members from the Unite Academy will provide an update at a future board meeting on their first year in review, the direction they are trending, as well as graduation rates. The Unite staff would also like to have a discussion with the board regarding a WUHS competency-based diploma.
- At the October board meeting, the District will recognize five local community business partners being honored by the WASB for their support of students and staff.
- After recently attending the WASB's legal and legislative video update, Principal Foster forwarded information relative to closed sessions held by a board.
- Any board member interested in attending the WASB Fall Regional Meeting scheduled for Oct. 2 in Brookfield should notify the District Office to get registered.
- The District is still seeking a qualified applicant to fill a 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher vacancy. The candidate selected accepted a position in another district. Several districts are seeking qualified teacher candidates in special education, as well as in a number of other hard-to-fill disciplines.

Board member Schwartz and Beck were invited to speak regarding the referendum building project. Mr. Schwartz noted that the design team is about 95% complete with the project design and will be going to bid on schedule. The engineers and architect will be doing another on-site walk-through next week. Recently, a crawl space was discovered in the area of the former Maple View kitchen, which will need to be structurally addressed along with a cat walk in the metals room. Bids are anticipated to be released on or about October 13; local vendors will have the opportunity to bid on the building project once the bid packages are released.

The house located where the loading dock will be built has been razed, and the railings have been added to the ramp located outside Door 13. Work on the retaining wall on the north face of the Center Street gym will begin shortly.

ADJOURN FROM OPEN MEETING

There was a motion by Schwartz, seconded by Beck, to adjourn the meeting. All ayes; motion carried. This was done at 8:16 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, October 20, 2025. The meeting will be held in the Large Group Instruction Room beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas P. Schwartz, Board Clerk