Minutes of REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Education
Wausau School District DRAFT

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Wausau School District was held Monday, September 8, 2025, beginning at 5:00 PM in the Nicholson Board Room, 415 Seymour Street, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403.

Present: James Bouche; Sarah Brock; Pat McKee; Jennifer Paoli; Cory Sillars; and Lance Trollop.

Absent: Jon Creisher; and Nick Crochiere.

I. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

II. ROLL CALL
Ms. Peck read the roll call.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Jim Bouché, President
President Bouche led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT
President Bouche read the mission statement.

V. PUBLIC AND STUDENT COMMENT
Deb Albee and John Kreager made brief comments.

VI. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA **(Action Requested)**

A. Appointments (Additional Staff, Replacement Staff, Contract Increases)
B. Separations (Resignations, Contract Decreases, Terminations)
C. Leaves of Absence
D. Retirements
E. Minutes: Special Session of August 11, 2025; Regular Session of August 11, 2025; and the Special Session of August 25, 2025.
F. Payment of Bills/Budget Status and Investment Report
G. Donations to the District

School supplies from Coulee Cards and Gaming, $400 from New Hope Community Church, $50 from North Central Wisconsin Indivisible to the District; and toothbrushes from Delta Dental to Horace Mann.

Lance Trollop moved to amend the minutes of August 25, 2025, meeting to show that following the Closed session, the body reconvened in Open session and then adjourned, seconded by Sarah Brock. The motion carried 6-0.

Sarah Brock moved to approve the consent agenda as amended with great gratitude for donations to the District, seconded by Cory Sillars. The motion carried 6-0.

VII. OLD/RECURRING BUSINESS

A. Education/Operations Committee Meeting

1. Legal Expenses Summary for 2024-2025
   At the August Education/Operations Committee Meeting, Josh Viegut, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, presented a summary report presenting all legal counsel expenses incurred during 2024-2025.

2. Set Annual Meeting Date and Location **(Action Requested)**
   Lance Trollop moved to approve Monday, September 22, 2025, as the date for the 2025-2026 Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at 6:00 pm in the Nicholson Board Room at the Longfellow Administration Center, beginning with the Budget Hearing, followed by the Annual Meeting, seconded by Jennifer Paoli. The motion carried 6-0.

3. Share Equalized Value Estimates
   Prior to October 1, only equalized valuations from municipalities are available. In order to project property value changes by school district, an assumption must be made that all property values in any given municipality change in a uniform manner. With this assumption, the District's property value is projected to increase 8.98% for 2025-26 mill rate calculation purposes. Certified property value will not be available until October 1; the given projected property value will be used for the initial budget and during the annual meeting.

4. Recommendation for 2025-2026 Budget **(Action Requested)**
   Sarah Brock moved to approve of the preliminary 2025-2026 General Fund budget of $117,366,124 for expenses and $117,366,124 for revenue, for presentation at the Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing, seconded by Cory Sillars. The motion carried 6-0.

5. Recommendation for 2025-2026 Tax Levy **(Action Requested)**
   Lance Trollop moved to approve the projected tax levy of $44,385,2<u>17</u> for presentation at the Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing, seconded by Pat McKee. The motion carried 6-0. *** Please note that the levy was inadvertently transposed. The correct amount is $44,385,2**<u>71.</u>** This will be announced at the Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing on September 22, 2025.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Elementary Update

Director of Elementary Education, Julie Schell, gave a short summary update on the Elementary Progress Reporting structures and revisions for the 25-26 school year, as well as the status of Act 20 implementation.

B. Nexus Update & Remaining Referendum Funds Discussion **(Action Requested)**
Sarah Brock moved to implement priority up at Mashall and Franklin using $10,514,500 in remaining 2022 referendum funds: construction planned for summer 2026, seconded by Jennifer Paoli. The motion carried 6-0.

C. Education/Operations Committee Meeting

1. Approve List of Legal Firms **(Action Requested)**
Cory Sillars moved to approve the attached list of law firms the Board and the District shall access for legal services deemed necessary by the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee, seconded by Lance Trollop. The motion carried 6-0.

2. Girls Golf Co-Op Renewal **(Action Requested)**
Jennifer Paoli moved to approve the Girls Golf Co-Op between Wausau East and Wausau West, seconded by Lance Trollop. The motion carried 6-0.

IX. OPEN FORUM

A. Board Member Professional Growth & Development Report
There was none.

B. Legislative Liaison
There was none.

C. Superintendent Commentary
Superintendent Bushman thanked Jane Rusch for her 16 years of service to the students and families of the District. He shard that the District has been having struggles with First Student and apologized to the families that are being affected. He also shared that the District has been working diligently with First Student upper leadership to find a solution. Hawthorn Hills has been officially sold. Grant is scheduled to be sold in the next week and the Hewitt-Texas closing has been pushed back to October 1. He also shared that despite a rocky start to the school year with transportation, the staff has had positive comments on how the first few days went. He also shared that Governor Evers visited Wausau East that morning and took part in a variety of classes, including pottery and animal science.

D. Presiding Officer Commentary
The Board Liaison report for the month of September is as follows: Lance Trollop attended the Wausau West Open House; Jim Bouche attended both a Wausau West and a Wausau East Football games.

X. REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO STATE STATUTES
Cory Sillars moved to enter into Closed session, seconded by Jennifer Paoli. The motion carried via a roll call vote 6-0 at 5:51 pm.

Sarah Brock – Yes
Pat McKee – Yes

Jennifer Paoli – Yes
Cory Sillars – Yes
Lance Trollop – Yes
Jim Bouche - Yes

A. Preliminary Discussion Regarding Potential Litigation Over Contract19.85 (g)

B. Reconvene in Open Session, to take further action if necessary and appropriate
Pat McKee moved to reconvene in Open session, seconded by Cory Sillars. The motion carried 6-0 at 6:28 pm.

XI. ADJOURN
Pat McKee moved to adjourn, seconded by Cory Sillars. The motion carried at 6:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cory Sillars,
Board Clerk

CS:cp