

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEST ALLIS-WEST MILWAUKEE, ET AL.
1300 S. 109th St., West Allis, WI 53214 (Boardroom, 2nd Floor)
9333 W. Lincoln Ave., West Allis, WI 53227 (District Administration Office)

Regular Board of Education Meeting
July 28, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

President Burns called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on July 28, 2025, at 1300 S. 109th Street, West Allis.

2. Mr. Keller led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Roll was called with the following members present: Joe Becker, Brendan Burns, Jane Carr, Amy Deal, Brian Keller, Kristen Keyser, Rebecca Lee (excused), Noah Leigh (arrived 6:07 p.m.), and John Verbos (excused).

4. Declaration of Public Notice

5. Modifications to Agenda

None

6. Superintendent's Report

6.1 Legislative Update:

Budget Implications:

While the 2025–27 state budget includes incremental improvements in special education and mental health services, it provides no new general state aid for public schools. As a result, many districts are facing a period of consolidation rather than investment. Without additional funding, school districts will be forced to either raise local property taxes or make cuts to programs and staffing. This approach is likely to widen disparities between well-funded and under-resourced schools, and advocates warn it could lead to more operating referendums, larger class sizes, and reduced student services if not addressed.

With the signing of the recent Biennium Budget, Wisconsin schools will see limited new investments in general state aid, placing increased financial pressure on local districts. While the budget includes historic, but still insufficient, increases in special education funding, many districts are left facing difficult choices, such as raising property taxes or cutting programs and staff. Without broader support, the budget risks deepening inequities between well-resourced and underfunded schools across the state.

6.2 District Recognitions:

Summer Learning Camp and Summer School:

Summer Learning Camp and Summer School will officially wrap up next Thursday, July 31, and what an incredible summer it's been! From academic growth to new friendships and fun-filled experiences, our students made the most of every moment. Thank you to our dedicated staff and supportive families for making this summer a success!

6.3 Other Updates & Information Items:

Community Visits and Meetings:

Dr. Robinson gave an update on his recent meetings and community visits since July 14, 2025, which included the following: Met with the Midwest President for NABSE, developing Administrative Guidelines for the District with Neola, City/ Schools monthly meeting, meeting with developers concerning the old Longfellow Property, and attended the National Institute for Urban School Leaders.

Crime Statistics Reporting:

2023 Wisconsin Act 12 (the "Act") created Wisconsin Statutes Section 118.124, which requires Wisconsin schools that operate high school grades, defined as grades 9-12, to annually report certain criminal incidents. Specifically, covered schools are required to collect and maintain certain statistics of incidents involving various crimes specified by the Act. The initial reporting requirement must be reported to the governing school board, which is required to submit the report to DPI on or before July 31, 2025, and prior to each July 31 thereafter. Dr. Robinson reported the data.

7. Public Comment(s):

None

8. Board Reports:

8.1 Review of Board Calendar

President Burns reviewed the Board calendar.

8.2 Board Committee Reports:

8.2.1 Employee Engagement & Culture – Carr

Committee Chair Carr reported that the Committee met on July 15, 2025. The Committee reviewed substitute programs, noting the district often pays higher rates than other districts, sparking discussion on staffing agencies and non-pay barriers. With a 2024–25 resignation rate of 11.27%, the Committee chose to focus on employee engagement as its key KPI and will focus on retention, vacancies, engagement, and diversity. Engagement survey data will be reviewed before the next meeting. A concern about building subs being used too early will also be investigated.

8.2.2 Financial Stability & Efficiency – Keyser

Committee Chair Keyser reported that the Committee met on July 17, 2025. The committee reviewed the Compensation Model Committee's top five top priorities, which focused on equity and transparency. Despite some increased funding, the state budget was unfavorable, especially with open enrollment now costing \$10K per student. A \$2.6M deficit is projected for 2025–26 due to flat state and reduced federal funding. Health insurance costs are up 24%, prompting exploration of cost-cutting and self-funding options, with a workshop planned.

8.3 Board Member Reports of Community Events:

- Ms. Keyser attended West Allis Night Out and said it was amazing to see so many different services participate, as well as talk with all the students and community members that attended. Ms. Keyser encouraged people to attend the upcoming Back to School Bash on August 27.
- Ms. Carr attended Willy Wonka KIDS at Dottke and commented not only how delightful it was but also to see recurring family names in the programs.
- President Burns attended West Allis Night Out.

8.4 Other Updates & Information Items – Burns

None

9. Consent Agenda:

Motion by Ms. Carr, second by Ms. Keyser to approve the following:

9.1 Approval of Board Minutes

The minutes of the July 14, 2025, Regular Board meeting.

9.2 Employment Summary:

Appointments:

Full Name	Title	Location	Hire Status	Contract Type	Effective Date
Borkenhagen, Cindy	OT	District	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Burley, Ashley	Teacher (Music)	H. Mann	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Croke, Chloe	Teacher (Gr 4K)	Mitchell	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Deshambo, Daniel	Teacher (Soc Studies)	Central	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Fitzgerald, Shannon	Teacher (ESL/MLL)	H. Mann	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Hatch, Amy	Secondary SPED Instructional Coord	District	New	At Will	7/29/2025
Kelly, Emma	Coord of Secondary Literacy	District	New	At Will	8/04/2025
Kempen, Madalyn	Teacher (SPED – ID)	Irving	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Levine, Jennifer	SPED Dean	Irving	New	At Will	7/29/2025
Steele, Meryl	Teacher (Soc Studies)	Dottke	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Treuer, Rebecca	Teacher (Grade 4K)	Hoover	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Westendorf, Melissa	EA	H. Mann	New	EA	8/28/2025

Resignations/Retirements:

Full Name	Title	Location	Type	Effective Date
Frahm, Philip	Teacher (SS)	Dottke	Resignation	6/27/2025
Knox, Lasyris	Custodian	W. Milw	Resignation	7/14/2025
Ovcina, Fadila	Cleaner	Wilson	Change – Retirement	12/01/2025
Quezada, Daisy	Teacher (Gr 4/5)	Franklin	Resignation	6/30/2025
VanderLaan, Nicole	Teacher (Reading)	Franklin	Resignation	6/29/2025

9.3 Supplementary Contracts

Supplementary contracts as listed on the July 28, 2025, report.

9.4 Financial Summary

Approval of the Financial Report Summary for the Month of June 2025 including Receipts #7563 through #7665 in the amount of \$8,459,169.20 and Vouchers Payable #376750 through #377368, wire transfers, and payroll disbursements in the amount of \$15,182,363.19 and Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for Twelve Months Ending June 30, 2025.

9.5 Update Human Resources and Other Contact Information and/or District Address on Neola Policies: 0115, 1422, 1622, 2260, 2260.01, 2260.02, 2266, 3122, 3362, 4122, 4362, 5517 & 8913

Approval of updating human resources (HR) and other contact information and/or the address for the District on Neola Policies: 0115, 1422, 1622, 2260, 2260.01, 2260.02, 2266, 3122, 3362, 4122, 4362, 5517 & 8913.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Action Item(s):

10.1 Extended/International Travel: Spring 2027 Field Trip to England – Burrage & Schmeiser

Approval for extended travel in Spring 2027 (dates TBD) to England. The field trip is open to all West Allis-West Milwaukee School District high school students enrolled in an English class.

Motion by Ms. Keyser, second by Ms. Carr to approve Extended/International Travel: Spring 2027 Field Trip to England.

Motion carried unanimously.

10.2 Course Catalog Updates – Burrage

Approval of changes for 2025-2026 & 2026-2027 Course Catalogs as listed [here](#).

Motion by Ms. Carr, second by Ms. Keyser to approve Course Catalog Updates.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Workshop(s):

11.1. Teaching & Learning: Forward & ACT Assessment – Burrage & Sack

Director of Teaching & Learning, Alyssa Burrage and Manager of Data, Research, and Accountability, Kori Sack presented the Teaching & Learning: Forward & ACT Assessment workshop. Ms. Burrage and Ms. Sack reviewed and discussed districtwide math and ELA achievement from Forward to ACT and key trends. Next steps for literacy were identified as more targeted instruction, WIN time built into master schedule, progress monitoring, supplemental resources, MLL courses, and creating student learning objectives. Next steps for math were identified as a strong implementation of Carnegie Learning for Secondary, continued professional development, creating personal support plans, WIN time built into master schedule, supplemental resources, coaching support, progress monitoring, and creating student learning objectives. Ms. Burrage noted the Fall FastBridge screener results, and the Wisconsin State Report Cards (school data) will be presented in November 2025.

11.2. Student Services: Vape Detectors – Sage & Martin

Director of Student Services, Laura Sage and District Safety Coordinator, Marla Martin presented the Student Services: Vape Detectors workshop. Ms. Martin reviewed and discussed the comprehensive data report; peer district feedback and experience with detectors; tampering and vandalism and the durability of the HALO device; connecting to the camera system; review of other brands; warranty and lifetime expectancy for the HALO 3C-PC; and HALO Cloud subscription. The Board raised concerns about potential water damage due to

tampering and overall cost; however, it was supportive of continuing to explore options and staying informed before determining the next steps.

12. Adjournment

There was no further business and no objections to the meeting adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Carr, Board Clerk