

**WATERFORD UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, February 16, 2026  
Regular Meeting - 6:30 PM**

The regular meeting was called to order by President Schoenfeld at 6:33 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, February 12, 2026, 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 December 15, 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 – January 19, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
- C. Minutes – January 19, 2026 Executive Session
- D. Minutes – January 23, 2026 Building and Grounds Committee Meeting
- E. Staffing Updates [None]
- F. CESA 6 – Wisconsin OPEB Trust Annual Report
- G. Academic Excellence Scholarship Recipients: Emma Bosch, Landon Mabert. Alternates: Hayden Milosh, Marcella Brague, Katelyn Wunder, Colin Lepisto, Kylie Gunkel, Beau Veit, Hannah Morrow, Jack Butler.
- H. Technical Excellence Scholarship Recipients: Nathan Piper, Savannah Gunderson  
Alternates: Noah Hying, Adam Bieneman, Hanna Henningfeld, Hayley Csepella, Sarah Henningfield, Aubrey Hammernik, Sophia Stengel.
- I. New Student Activity Account - WASBF

A motion was made by Schwartz and seconded by Purtell to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call vote taken; all ayes. The motion carried.

**RESIDENT COMMENTS**

There were no residents present who wished to address the board.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Student Council Report**

Kennadee Borup-Schwerman was unable to attend the meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Closing 2<sup>nd</sup> Bond – Construction Project**

Superintendent Francois reported that by maintaining a favorable Aa Moody's rating, the District's strong financial position attracted a total of seven bids for the recent competitive sale of General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2026, for a maximum principal amount of \$10.9 million, which is the remaining portion of the borrowing authority approved by voters in the February 18, 2025, referendum. There was a motion by Beck, seconded by Datka, to formally acknowledge the sale \$10,900,000 in general obligation bonds to Brownstone Investment Group with an all-inclusive cost of 3.88% interest. A roll call vote was held with all board members voting aye. The motion carried.

**Neola Policy Revisions - Vol. 35-1.**

There was a motion by Schwartz, seconded by Purtell, to approve the Neola Vol. 35-1 and School Support Organizations policy updates as presented. Board discussion followed regarding the use of AI in schools by

staff and students. Superintendent Francois noted that Associate Principal Peperkorn, along with the WUHS Innovation Team, has been researching this topic. An initial draft of a protocol and procedure handbook has been developed to establish District guidelines on the use of AI. A copy of the handbook will be shared with the Board once it becomes near final. Following the discussion, the motion was put to a vote. All ayes; motion carried.

### **Chapter PI 26 Education for Employment Plans and Program**

Associate Principal Bell shared an overview of the academic and career planning services provided to WUHS students in grades 9-12. Following a brief board discussion, there was a motion by Datka, seconded by Schwartz to approve the Education for Employment plan and programs in place. All ayes; motion carried.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Francois shared an overview of measures the District is undertaking to recognize and celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the signing of The Declaration of Independence. Principal Foster created numerous slides that will be distributed to students weekly and displayed on the video walls for the duration of the second semester to create an engaging experience for students with a mix of trivia and interactive experiences. In addition, a slideshow will be shared with families in an upcoming newsletter with guidance on key talking points with their children. Community member Karen Alexander, who spoke to the Board earlier this year in support of this celebration, was present and shared her disappointment that numerous slides dealt with the Constitution of the United States. Mrs. Alexander stated that those pieces should be reserved for Constitution Day celebrated each fall, and replaced with additional facts pertaining solely to the Declaration of Independence.

The District publicly recognized and thanked the Honey Creek Civic Club for their recent donation of \$500 to help offset student lunch accounts that are in the negative.

Superintendent Francois provided a brief construction update and noted that asbestos abatement should be completed in early March. There is sufficient funding available to address additional asbestos "hot zone" areas, and the construction timeline will not be hampered or set back due to clearing those areas. The construction crews have begun work in the utility tunnels and have begun removing much of the galvanized plumbing in Section D. Dr. Francois and Nexus are working with the Village to obtain the necessary permits to continue moving forward with the project. No noise issues have been reported, and a smell of finishing fumes reported earlier this morning was attributed to the Theatre Department set building. The project continues to be under budget, and it is anticipated the bulk of the work will be completed this summer in that area.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Schoenfeld noted that the Board would not be meeting in Executive Session and asked for a motion to adjourn. There followed a motion by Beck, seconded by Schwartz to adjourn the meeting. All ayes; motion carried. This was done at 7:06 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, March 9, 2026. The meeting will be held in the Large Group Instruction Room beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Douglas P. Schwartz, Board Clerk