

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
April 14, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

President Leigh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on April 14, 2025, at 1300 S. 109th Street, West Allis.

2. Sikich 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, Noah Leigh, and Jeff Sikich.

4. Declaration of Public Notice

5. Modifications to Agenda

None

6. Jefferson Student Showcase

Jefferson Elementary School Principal Burto gave a brief overview of the District's Theory of Action and how it aligns with the project being presented. Lauren Schuh, school counselor, shared that Second Step, the social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum is used daily via digital platform and supplemental material and activities. Fourth graders Ayla Kracker and Addison Loing and third grader Wyatt Atchison discussed how the SEL curriculum has positively impacted them. President Leigh and Dr. Robinson thanked parents, students, and staff for attending.

7. Superintendent's Report

7.1 Legislative Update:

New bill draft circulating would allow retired employees to return to work without forgoing their WRS annuity:

Wisconsin's Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) is considering a bill that would allow employers to rehire annuitants without the employee forgoing their annuity. The bill would allow annuitants to not suspend their annuity for up to 60 months and require employers to pay into the Department of Employee Trust Funds an amount equal to what they would have contributed had they not suspended their annuity. The bill also repeals obsolete provisions related to WRS annuitants returning to WRS-covered employment during the public health emergency. The bill aims to balance the need for a 75-day break in service and maintain the integrity of the WRS while allowing flexibility in hiring.

Joint Finance Committee co-chairs discuss state budget process and possible delays:

The Joint Finance Committee met on April 4th at the Wisconsin Fairgrounds. Several legislators have said it is premature to speculate on whether factors will push the completion of the 2023-25 budget past the end of the fiscal year, June 30. The committee will wait until the Legislative Fiscal Bureau delivers updated revenue numbers, typically in mid-May, before making any big decisions. Republicans want to see a ruling from the state Supreme Court concerning Governor Evers previous line-item voting power.

7.2 District Recognitions:

WAWM Recreation & Community Services:

On behalf of Director Jordan Pollard, Scott Girmscheid introduced several cast members from the upcoming production of Les Misérables, which will run April 24-27 at West Allis Central High School. Mr. Girmscheid noted there are three upcoming productions for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year and that the 2025-26 season is already being created based on the theme "Something for Everyone".

1,000 Career Points:

Congratulations to West Allis Central Junior Yusef Gray Jr. on scoring 1,000 career points!

Spring Athletic Captains:

Katie Rucka, Athletic Director, recognized West Allis Central's Spring Athletic Captains. Baseball: Joe Webb, senior (Coach Jagler). Girls Soccer: Melina Ruiz, senior; Sydney Samz, senior (Coach Owens). Boys Golf: Simon Pratt, senior; Alex Colson, junior; Caden Schaefer-Rose, junior (Coach Dunham). Track Leadership Committee (TLC): Ivy Lampkin, junior; Jordyn Terry-Griffin, senior; Chloe Beal, sophomore; Shailey Liddell, senior; Laniyah Varela, junior; Amadi Cameron, senior; Will Eggert, senior; Gabe Lepak, junior; Diego Loeza, junior; Trevor Fay, senior; Seth Martinez, junior (Coaches Jesse, Johnson, Leonard, Selje, and Schultz).

Principal Lesar recognized Nathan Hale's Spring Athletic Captains on behalf of Greg Lucas, Athletic Director. Baseball: Andrew Hoppe, senior; Blake Etzel, senior; Quinn Ustruck, senior (Coach Rausch). Boys Track: Max St. Clair, senior; Christian St. Clair, senior; Thomas Medley, senior; John Gruichich, senior (Coach DeWitt). Girls Soccer: Bella Royse, junior (Coach Zachow). Boys Golf: Alex McMillin, junior; Jonah Stanelle, senior (Coach Bouchard). Girls Track: RyLeigh Truchon, senior; Sarah Norton, senior; Riley Lee, junior; Anna Koney, junior; Abigail Walter, senior; Jania Snell, senior (Coach Frederick).

Principal Lesar also recognized the WAC/Hale CoOp Spring Athletic Captain for Tennis: Lincoln Stuller, junior (Coach Gaveras). Coach Mlachnik recognized Grace Dooley, senior; Hannah Cotey, senior; Bella Emons, senior for softball.

District Solo & Ensemble Music Festival:

On Saturday, March 1, 2025, students from area schools participated in a Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA) sanctioned District Solo & Ensemble Music Festival hosted at West Allis Central High School. During the festival students performed vocal and instrumental solos, duets, trios, and small ensembles before an adjudicator. There were 12 performance sites, nearly 500 events performed during the day by over 500 musicians. For the full article, [click here](#).

District Solo & Ensemble Music Festival Medal Totals:

West Allis Central High School earned 137 gold, 36 silver, 2 bronze for a total of 175 medals; West Allis Nathan Hale High School earned 226 gold, 50 silver & 1 bronze for a total of 277 medals; Frank Lloyd Wright Intermediate School earned 191 gold, 85 silver, & 0 bronze totaling 276 medals; West Milwaukee Intermediate School earned 4 gold, 19 silver, & 0 bronze for a total of 23 medals. Note: Dottke's medal count is included with Hale and Central as those students are dual-enrolled. The District Total Medal Count was 558 gold, 190 silver, and 3 bronze equaling 751 medals. Qualifying for the State Festival at Carroll University on May 3, 2025: West Allis Central High School: 13 events: 10 solos and 3 ensembles and West Allis Nathan Hale High School: 43 events: 35 solos and 8 ensembles.

West Milwaukee Intermediate School:

Congratulations to Sophia and her basketball team, the Marquette Golden Eagles, on winning the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Championship! They are the first all-female team in history to win the National Championship at their level! They came in as 6th seed and took the title, finishing the season at 26-2. We are so proud of you!

Nathan Hale High School:

FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) just completed their annual State Leadership Conference at the Kalahari resort in the Wisconsin Dells. Congratulations to the students on winning their respective awards! Gold: Olivia Vance (12th) - Baking and Gabriel Wagoner (12th) - Baking. Silver: Kimaya Brown (11th) - Children's Literature, Asa Matsuyama (10th) - Cake Decorating, and Niyah Shillin (10th) - Baking.

Nathan Hale High School:

Congratulations to the Hale Unified Basketball Team on their second-place finish at the State Tournament on Wednesday, April 9. They beat both Neenah and Hamilton but then fell to Washington HS in the final. Great job Huskies! We are proud of you.

Recreation & Community Services:

On Thursday, April 10, the RAD program hosted their annual Hoop & Lap A Thon to help fund an initiative that they support. Through the event they were able to raise \$4,000 that they are using to purchase an adult changing table for the Recreation Center.

7.3 Other Updates & Information Items:

Community Visits and Meetings:

Dr. Robinson gave an update on his recent meetings and community visits since March 17, 2025, which included the following meetings: Strategic Planning/Steering Committee, City/Schools, District-wide PTA, West Allis Rotary Club, Joint Finance Committee at the Wisconsin Fairgrounds, Board Member one-on-ones, School Perceptions concerning the Strategic Plan Survey Date, and "The Voice" Student Advisory Group with John Stalewski, Village President of West Milwaukee, as guest speaker. Dr. Robinson also noted the following community and school visits: Instructional Rounds at Nathan Hale and Horace Mann, Leadership Sail Training, Training with Solution Tree concerning PLCs/RTI Planning for Summer Leadership Institute, Grand Opening & Open House at the AFC, RAD Goes All IN(clusive) Lap-a-Thon & Hoop-a-Thon, and Nathan Hale's Prom.

"The Voice"- Student Advisory Committee:

Dr. Robinson shared a portion of the "The Voice" – Student Advisory Committee's video about why representatives joined the Committee, and what it means to them. To view the full video, [click here](#). Dr. Robinson then introduced Student Advisory Committee "The Voice" representative Brody Kaminski. Mr. Kaminski, a senior at Nathan Hale, is dual enrolled

for American Sign Language at MATC, president of Rotary Interact, secretary for National Honors Society, member and captain of the Cross Country team, member of the Track and Field team, member of Renaissance Culture/Climate team, Lead Student Aide for Athletic Trainer, 9th Grade mentor, member of Senior Council, and is the Milwaukee County Youth Commissioner for District 6. Mr. Kaminski noted that Nathan Hale's baseball, softball, and track teams have had some good wins and asked people to attend the Mondo Invitational on April 19. Nathan Hale had its pep assembly prom last Friday, prom at the Italian Community Center on Saturday, and Spirit Week this past week, including hosting a blood drive on April 17 sponsored by HOSA. Lastly, Mr. Kaminski discussed the Quarter 4 Attendance Incentive, which is an effort to combat some issues of chronic tardiness. Students can earn awards based on weekly, monthly, and end of the school year attendance with chances to win increasingly larger rewards.

Jeff Sikich:

Dr. Robinson expressed his gratitude for Mr. Sikich's 13+ years serving as a West Allis-West Milwaukee School Board Member.

8. Public Comment(s):

- Caden Schaefer-Rose, district resident.

9. Board Reports:

9.1 Review of Board Calendar

President Leigh reviewed the Board calendar.

9.2 Board Committee Reports:

9.2.1 College & Career Readiness – Keyser

Committee Chair Keyser reported that the Committee met on April 14, 2025, and was joined by Coordinator of Secondary Instruction Chris Laurishke. Chair Keyser noted that the district is at the end of the cycle for its 6-12 grade math curriculum and throughout the 2024-25 school year has been reviewing resources and having teachers piloting several programs. A recommendation was reached, and a Board Workshop will take place on May 12 to present the programs, with an anticipated Board action item by May 19, 2025.

9.2.2 Communication & Community Relations – Deal

Committee Chair Deal reported that the Committee met on April 14, 2025. The Committee discussed PTA Council board members expressing a desire to engage in more advocacy on the local and legislative level regarding school funding at the WAWM PTA Council meeting on April 2. The Council requested that the District create a one-page flyer highlighting various aspects of school funding. The District will create a flyer for the PTA Council to provide to their families and legislators.

9.2.3 Employee Engagement & Culture – Keller

Committee Chair Keller reported that the Committee met on March 18, 2025. The Committee reviewed the vacancy report (0.59%), the contract timeline for the 2025-26 school year, and EA and EA (SPED) levels and how they differentiate between the different positions. The Committee also discussed the upcoming "Snacks with the SUP" event scheduled for April 23, 2025, where all interns and senior student teachers are invited to meet with Dr. Robinson, as well as the upcoming Spring "Pulse Checks" with school staff.

9.3 Board Member Reports of Community Events:

- Mr. Burns attended the introductory compensation meeting that took place on March 12, 2025, and looks forward to hearing the group's recommendations.
- President Leigh attended the recent indoor track meets to cheer on his son and Nathan Hale, but also Central, who was also competing. President Leigh also encouraged the community to attend the Mondo Invite on April 19, 2025.

9.4 Other Updates & Information Items – Leigh

On behalf of the Board, President Leigh honored Mr. Sikich's 13+ years serving as a West Allis-West Milwaukee School Board Member and read the following tribute:

A TRIBUTE

Whereas, the conclusion of public service of **Jeff Sikich** Board of Education Member, School District of West Allis-West Milwaukee, et al., on **Monday, April 14, 2025**, will historically be recorded as being a total of **13 years** of significant educational contributions to this School District; and

Whereas, he has, with exceptional spirit, self-dedication, and a community-minded philosophy, contributed significantly to the development and enrichment of the educational and recreational programs of this School District to the end that those who participated have grown in knowledge, skills, and the enjoyment of living; and

Whereas, during his tenure of service to the School District and community, he did provide strong leadership, guidance, and management skills to improve the instructional and recreational programs while filling the following positions as a School Board Member:

President.....	3 Years
Vice President.....	1 Year
Clerk	2 Years
Parliamentarian.....	7 Years

Committee Chair:

Communication & Community Relations.....	4 Years
Recreation & Community Service.....	3 Years

Committee Vice-Chair:

Recreation & Community Service.....	2 Years
Communication & Community Relations.....	1 Year
Employee Engagement & Culture.....	1 Year

Committee Member:

Employee Engagement & Culture.....	3 Years
Communication & Community Relations.....	2 Years

Jeff Sikich graduated from Nathan Hale High School, taught elementary school physical education from 1988 to 2011, previously served as president of the teacher's union, continued to be a guest reader to elementary students; and

Whereas, his example of public commitment, unfailing energy, and intellectual curiosity has provided inspiration and admiration to all whose lives have been touched by association with him, and in particular to his many Board of Education colleagues and members of the educational profession;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that we, the members of the Board of Education of the School District of West Allis-West Milwaukee, et al., honor this man for his notable contributions to the fields of public education and public recreation by his self-dedication to the principle of public service, his professional integrity, his personal interest in the education and recreational needs of the School District, and that this expression of our warm appreciation and affection be formally recorded and presented to **Jeff Sikich**; and

Be It Further Resolved, that a copy of this testimonial be formally recorded in the official minutes of the Board of Education of the School District of West Allis-West Milwaukee, et al.

Current Board Members

Joe Becker
Brendan Burns
Jane Carr
Amy Deal

Brian Keller
Kristen Keyser
Rebecca Lee
Noah Leigh

Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Tarrynce Robinson

Mr. Sikich expressed how education has been his whole life, and not only has it been fun, but it has also been a pleasure serving on the West Allis-West Milwaukee School Board.

10. Consent Agenda:

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

10.1 Approval of Board Minutes

The minutes of the March 17, 2025, Regular Board meeting.

10.2 Employment Summary:

Appointments:

Full Name	Title	Location	Hire Status	Contract Type	Effective Date
Luna, Dayana	EA (SPED)	Wilson	New	EA	4/02/2025
Nash, Nafessa	EA (SPED)	Wilson	New	EA	4/02/2025
Rogers, Desmond	Custodian II	Central	New	Maintenance	3/17/2025

Resignations/Retirements:

Full Name	Title	Location	Type	Effective Date
Boyd, Sherry	Teacher (4K)	Hoover	Retirement	End of the 24-25 SY
Corcoran, Benjamin	Teacher	FLW	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Fox, Anthony	Custodian	Mitchell	Termination	3/27/2025
Haywood, Chenard	Technology Spec	District	Resignation	3/21/2025
Lu, Kaixiang	Teacher (Math)	Central	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Modic, Mary	EA (SPED)	Irving	Retirement	End of the 24-25 SY
Ramirez, Cassandra	Office Operations Spec	Rec Dept	Resignation	4/04/2025
Salm, Zipporah	EA (SPED)	Central	Resignation	4/16/2025
Wilbern, DeSha	Teacher (FCS)	Central	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Wirsching, Jacob	Program Manager	Rec Dept	Resignation	4/10/2025

10.3 Supplementary Contracts

Supplementary contracts as listed on the April 14, 2025, report.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Workshop(s):

11.1 Proposed 2025-2026 Budget & Preliminary Tax Levy #1 – Norris

Aaron Norris, Assistant Superintendent, presented the Proposed 2025-2026 Budget & Preliminary Tax Levy #1. View the presentation [here](#).

12. Adjourn Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Ms. Keyser, second by Mr. Burns to adjourn the regular board meeting and resume as a committee of the whole at 7:34 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Reconvene as a Committee of the Whole:

13.1 Roll Call

Roll was called with the following members present: Joe Becker, Brendan Burns, Jane Carr, Amy Deal, Brian Keller, Kristen Keyser, Rebecca Lee, Noah Leigh, and Jeff Sikich.

13.2 2025-26 Base Wage Increase for All Employee Groups - Norris

It was recommended by the Administration for the Board to approve both the previously planned 6% base wage increase, as outlined in the operating referendum, as well as an additional 3.0% base wage increase (CPI) for all returning employees. These increases will apply to the following employee groups: administrators, at-will staff, educational assistants, facilities staff, hourly lay personnel, professional educators, secretaries, and substitutes. Additionally, the Board of Education, as a non-employee group, will also receive the approved increases.

Motion by Ms. Carr, second by Ms. Keyser to approve the 2025-2026 Base Wage Increase for All Employee Groups.

Motion carried unanimously.

14. End of Recording/5 Minute Break

Motion at 7:42 p.m. by Mr. Keller, second by Mr. Burns to convene into executive session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute §19.85(1)(f) for the purpose of considering a student disciplinary expulsion order, which if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial effect upon the reputation of the student involved. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Carr, Board Clerk