

**WATERFORD UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
Monday, March 17, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by President Schoenfeld at 6:35 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, March 13, 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 January 25, 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. Accounts Payable Report
- B. Minutes - Regular Monthly Meeting of February 17, 2025
- C. Overnight Field Trip Request – FFA State Convention, June 2025
- D. Staffing Updates
  - (1) Retirement - Jill Hanson, Business Education Teacher
- E. Early College Credit/Start College Now – Summer/Fall 2025

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**

WUHS staff member Karen Morgan addressed the Board regarding the context behind the forthcoming proposal to run French classes with low enrollments next year. Mrs. Morgan noted that in the past when faced with low enrollments, course sections of French 3 and 4 have run during the same class period. French 4 however is now articulated as a PIE course with U.W. Whitewater, which allows WUHS students taking this course to earn college credit. When the university was asked whether it would be permissible to again run French 3 and 4 simultaneously during the same class period, the World Languages chair at U.W. Whitewater could not support this. The current proposal coming before the Board is to have separate sections of French 3 and 4 in order that students have the opportunity to continue their path of earning college credits in a world language. In addition, French 1 also has below the minimum number of students enrolled. Board discussion followed regarding increasing the opportunity for middle school students to enroll in French, and the value of offering French as a second world language. Mrs. Morgan noted that French is spoken in more than 29 countries and is commonly used in many global businesses. She thanked the Board for their continued support of the French program.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

Student Council Report

Sergeant at Arms Owen Hoffman updated the Board on recent student club activities, and noted that Student Council is preparing for officer elections for the next school year.

Facility Operations and Maintenance Update.

WUHS Maintenance staff member Gabe Horvath introduced himself to the Board and noted that his most recent work experience was as the head of maintenance for another school district the past 19 years. Mr. Horvath stated that he is excited to be at WUHS in his current role and spoke highly of the ticketing system in use for daily work orders. Mr. Horvath summarized the type of work orders he sees and completes on a routine basis.

Jenny Seefeld, Custodial Operations Supervisor, shared that she brings 20 years of experience working for other school districts to her position at WUHS overseeing daily operations inside the building. Mrs.

Seefeld reported that she and Mr. Horvath work well in tandem to complete daily work flow and concurred that the work order ticketing system helps promote good communication in keeping the facility safe, clean, and functional. Both Mrs. Seefeld and Mr. Horvath also stated they appreciate working with Building and Grounds Director Josh Wensing, who oversees all WGS and WUHS facilities.

#### Referendum Project Kickoff Meeting.

Superintendent Francois noted that on Tuesday, March 18, the Buildings and Grounds Committee will participate in a joint kickoff meeting with key project partners to begin work on the recently approved referendum projects. This meeting is open to the public and will serve as an initial planning session to align expectations, establish timelines, and outline next steps in the design and construction process. As the referendum building project gets underway, the design team will meet regularly to ensure a well-coordinated and transparent process in completing facility improvement measures as promised and within budget.

#### Course Registration and Staffing Overview.

Superintendent Francois recognized Principal Dan Foster for his work in developing course sections for the forthcoming school year. Each year, Mr. Foster works in collaboration with Student Services to analyze students' course selections to determine the appropriate number of sections needed to meet student interest while maintaining optimal class sizes and resource allocation. Mr. Foster shared his projections report outlining the proposed number of course sections across all departments and explained the rationale for requesting that a number of course sections with low enrollments be approved. It was noted that fewer students are enrolling in study hall as one of their course selections, which is evidenced by the increased enrollments in several elective areas.

Discussion followed regarding the number of self-contained special education classes and adaptive sections in relation to an increase in the number of co-teaching sections providing supports to students. The Board held discussion regarding communication measures being taken to insure that WUHS families understand that students enrolled in courses approved with low enrollments will not be allowed to drop those classes after April 4, 2025. Board member Purtell noted that he has spoken with numerous staff members regarding semester exams, which went well. Principal Foster noted that this is the second year without exam exemptions. WUHS staff member Joe Datka, who was in attendance, stated that assessments are headed in the right direction, noting that student retakes for exams are earned and not automatically granted.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

The following items were presented for board action.

A. 2025-26 School Calendar.

Principal Foster presented an overview of a newly revised 2025-26 calendar, which includes an earlier start date of August 18, 2025 and tentative graduation date of May 16, 2026. The proposed early start/end dates would allow for an extended summer break in 2026 for building remodeling and renovations. Board discussion followed; concern was expressed regarding families who plan their annual vacation time in late August. If the proposed calendar is approved, Superintendent Francois noted that the District will need to request a waiver from the DPI for the earlier start date (prior to September 1).

There was a motion by Schwartz, seconded by Beck to approve a revised 2025-26 school calendar with a pre-September 1 start date. All ayes; motion carried.

B. Neola Policy Updates - Vol. 34-1.

There was a motion by Purtell, seconded by Datka to approve the Neola (Vol. 34-1) policy updates as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

C. Neola Policy Update - EDGAR Policies (Oct. 2024)

There was a motion by Purtell, seconded by Schwartz to approve the Neola EDGAR policy updates as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

D. Student Fees 2025-26.

There was a motion by Beck, seconded by Schwartz to approve the 2025-26 student feeds as presented.  
All ayes; motion carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Francois reported that Taher employee Diane Szalai has delayed her resignation and will continue to serve in her role as the Food Service Director until the end of the school year. A new cold storage vending machine has been purchased through food service funds, and will provide students and staff with access to salads or sandwiches after regular school hours. The vending machine is expected to generate additional revenue for the food service program in approximately 18 months.

The District has contracted with Rooker Energy Solutions for the installation of two EV charging pedestals in the upper parking lot. The two charging stations will be installed at no cost to the district and will accommodate up to four vehicles. Persons using the charging stations will pay via an online app; a percentage of the net profits will be donated to the District. Board members on the Building and Grounds Committee as well as the Finance Committee approved moving forward with this project.

Highlights from the past month include the boys' basketball team successfully making it to the WIAA sectionals in their bid for state. The sportsmanship displayed by the athletes, families, and fans in attendance was exemplary. The spring musical "Big Fish" concluded this past weekend. The show was excellent and showcased the talents of students as well as the fine arts staff. WUHS students once again won the annual SLC Academic Bowl for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

Superintendent Francois wished everyone a safe and relaxing spring break.

**ADJOURN FROM OPEN MEETING**

There was a motion by Schwartz, seconded by Purtell, to adjourn the open meeting and reconvene in Executive Session under State Statute 19.85 (1) (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. All ayes; motion carried. This done at 8:03 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held Monday, April 21, 2025. The meeting will be held in the LGI beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Douglas P. Schwartz, Board Clerk