

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
June 9, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order

President Burns called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on June 9, 2025, at 1300 S. 109th Street, West Allis.

2. Ms. Deal 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 (excused at 7:12 p.m.), Rebecca Lee, Noah Leigh, and John Verbos.

4. Declaration of Public Notice

5. Modifications to Agenda

None

6. Superintendent's Report

6.1 Legislative Update:

New bill circulating would keep current enrollment caps for the state's parental choice programs in place:

A proposed bill to amend the state's parental choice program enrollment caps, which currently limit eligible students to 10% of a school district's total membership. The bill would remove the sunset clause, allowing the enrollment caps to remain in perpetuity.

6.2 WAWM Theatre Program:

Congratulations to Our Graduating Seniors and for Their Dedication to the WAWM Theatre Program:

Name	School	# of Productions	Name	School	# of Productions
Madelyn Day	Central	14	Noah (Iris) Musack	Central	15
Bridget Done	Central	10	Lindsey Naczek	Central	9
Samyiah Harper	Hale	13	Nieko Rivera	Central	7
Kaya Hernandez-Schoof	Hale	15	Ava Roberts	Hale	7
Cameron Jenkins	Central	15	Ayden Sandoval	Hale	16
Aiden Kennedy	Hale	17	Isiah Stewart	Hale	9
Jazyn Lang-Brown	Hale	22	Luke Swirth	Hale	6
Noah (Iris) Musack	Central	15	Eleanor (Ele) Szalacinski	Central	14

May Educators of the Month:

Congratulations to our May Educators of the Month: Angela Howard and Helena Taylor. Ms. Howard is a school social worker at Wilson Elementary and Helena Taylor is a second grade teacher at Hoover Elementary. We are thankful for their work supporting students and colleagues!

Best in Communities for Music Education:

Congratulations to our District's music program! Our music program has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. This year 935 school districts were recognized across the country with the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District being one of 38 in the State of Wisconsin to receive this honor. This is the eleventh time that our music program has received national recognition from the NAMM Foundation. [Click here for the full article.](#)

State Solo & Ensemble Musical Festival:

On Saturday, May 3, 2025, WAWM Students from Central and Nathan Hale represented our district at the Wisconsin School Music Association state festival hosted at Carroll University. During the festival students performed vocal and instrumental solos, duets, trios, quartets, and large ensembles, before an adjudicator. [Click here for the full article.](#)

Employee Recognition:

On May 27th, we celebrated WAWM staff who reached milestones in their careers with 10, 20, 30, and even 40 years of experience. We also honored our retirees, teachers of the year, inaugural elementary and secondary teacher of the year, and

inaugural Suzette Zimmerman award recipients. It was a meaningful evening filled with gratitude, recognition, and appreciation for the incredible dedication of our staff.

Grand Opening of The Phoenix Market:

Congratulations to Dottke PBL High School on the grand opening of their new school store, The Phoenix Market.

Dottke PBL High School:

A big CONGRATULATIONS goes out to two Dottke PBL students whose work was recently published in the "Art of Writing; Young Authors & Artists" publication put out by the Milwaukee Art Museum. English teacher, Ms. Kayleigh Bitters, took Esther Higgins (10th grade) and Lorenzo Allen (9th grade) to the Art of Writing Conference in December. As a result of this experience, students had the opportunity to submit drafts of their work from the conference to be considered for their annual publication. The Milwaukee Art Museum had their publication party a few weeks ago and unveiled their digital e-book. Lorenzo Allen submitted a written work (pg. 8), and Esther Higgins submitted a digital art piece (pg. 113). Congratulations students! [Here is the link to the e-book.](#)

Recreation and Community Services:

We would like to recognize and thank Michelle's Action Angels Community Outreach. They donated \$2,000 towards our RAD Goes All IN(clusive) project which helped to raise funds to purchase and install an adult changing table. Michelle, who the organization was founded in memory of, was a WAWM Student, and later a member of the Community Based Transition Program. The organization was excited to see the progress the RAD program has made.

Referendum Kick-Off Video Drops June 16:

The Referendum Kick-Off Video Drops June 16!

6.3 Other Updates & Information Items:

Community Visits and Meetings:

Dr. Robinson gave an update on his recent meetings and community visits since May 19, 2025, which included the following: Participated in multiple "Tagalongs" within the Special Education Department, Prelude Strings Concert, City/Schools monthly meeting, District Leadership monthly meeting, West Allis Rotary Club meeting, District Employee Recognition, monthly manager's meeting, participated in HR Director interviews, ribbon cutting ceremony for the Phoenix Market at Dottke, Senior Celebration Dinner for Voice Students, PTA Council meeting, read to Ms. Jackson's Class at Hoover, WAWM Brewers Tailgate (over 400 participants), and Dottke PBL High School.

"The Voice"- Student Advisory Committee:

President Burns, Ms. Deal, and Dr. Robinson took "The Voice" students out for a celebratory dinner on Tuesday, June 3. Congratulations to graduating seniors Ervon Edwards (Central), Devin Williams (Central), Arianna Reyes (Dottke PBL), Shaelynn Smith (Dottke PBL), John Gruichich (Hale), and Brody Kaminski (Hale). Each senior received a purple cord to wear at graduation to represent their participation in "The Voice".

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 College & Career Readiness – Becker

Committee Chair Becker reported that the Committee met on June 9, 2025. The Plier Family, West Allis Residents, made a public comment. The Committee revisited the thematic practice activity with a discussion focus on the whole child. The Committee discussed KPI feedback and development, noting appreciation for aligning goals with state standards and requesting consistent wording for special education; further review is planned. A course audit proposal was also introduced and the recommendation of a pass/fail credit option for up to one course per semester starting next school year.

8.3 Board Member Reports of Community Events:

- Ms. Keyser attended West Allis A La Carte and the Brewers game. Ms. Keyser also noted she now represents the District on the CESA 1 Board of Control.
- Mr. Keller attended the senior walk at Jefferson ES.

- Ms. Deal attended the Hale Jazz Concert, the Employee Recognition Event at The Deco, the presentation of a \$4,004 check donation to the Hunger Task Force from Franklin ES students and families, Dottke PBL's Phoenix Market grand opening, dinner with "The Voice" students, and the final PTA Council meeting of the school year.
- Ms. Lee attended West Allis A La Carte and the regional and sectional track meets, where both Hale and Central students competed.
- Mr. Verbos attended West Allis A La Carte and the Brewers game.
- Mr. Leigh attended West Allis A La Carte, including volunteering at the Hale wrestling program's booth; the Brewers game; the Employee Recognition Event at The Deco; the Jefferson Innov8ors and Achieve Spring Concert, which was outdoors. Mr. Leigh, and the Board at large, were thanked by Ms. Hendricks, a teacher at Jefferson ES for all the hard work and dedication in the District.
- Mr. Becker attended the Employee Recognition Event at The Deco, the Hale Fall Sports Orientation, and the Booster Club meeting.
- Mr. Burns attended West Allis A La Carte, the Brewers game, the Employee Recognition Event at The Deco, dinner with "The Voice" students, the senior walk at Wilson ES, and Horace Mann's student created a Civil War museum and gift shop.
- Ms. Carr attended the Career Fair at West Milwaukee IS.

8.4 Other Updates & Information Items – Burns

None

9. Consent Agenda:

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

9.1 Approval of Board Minutes

The minutes of the May 19, 2025, Regular Board meeting.

9.2 Employment Summary:

Appointments:

Full Name	Title	Location	Hire Status	Contract Type	Effective Date
Benetti, Aliscia	Coor of Secondary Math Ins	Admin	New	At Will	7/14/2025
Busch, Olivia	Teacher (Gr 4/5)	Irving	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Egelseer, Carissa	SLP (Elementary)	Elementary	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Garcia, Deirdre	Dir of Talent & Employee Engagement	Admin	New	Admin	7/01/2025
Gray, Yusef	Youth Advisor (SPED)	Central	Rehire	EA-Limited Term	8/28/2025
Jones, Anissa	Custodian II – 2 nd Shift	Jefferson	New	Maintenance	6/16/2025
Jones, Darius	Youth Advisor	W. Milw	Rehire	EA-Limited Term	8/28/2025
Kimmel, Rebecca	Teacher (SPED/ID)	Irving	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Kronenberg, Sophie	Teacher (EC SPED)	Irving	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
La Marre, Audrey	Teacher (Gr 2)	Franklin	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
May, Jillian	Teacher (SPED/CC)	W. Milw	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Monteen, Lauren	Teacher (SPED/CC)	Central	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Petitt, Katharine	Teacher (Grade 1)	Wilson	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Quick, Ladonne	Custodian II – 2 nd Shift	Walker	New	Maintenance	6/12/2025
Rageth, Alison	Comms & Engagement Spec	Admin	New	At Will	7/01/2025
Redman, Ally	Teacher (SPED/CC)	Hoover	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Reed, Monica	Teacher (SPED/ID)	Wilson	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Rose, Kathryn	Teacher (Art)	W. Milw	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Roth, Westley	Teacher (Physics/Math)	NHL	New	Renewing	8/25/2025

Resignations/Retirements:

Full Name	Title	Location	Type	Effective Date
Ali, Alia	EA (SPED)	Central	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Alvarez, Veronica	EA (SPED)	Irving	Conclusion of Employment	End of the 24-25 SY
Becker, Jennifer	Teacher (SPED)	Jefferson	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Bell, Brenda	EA (SPED)	Franklin	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Casper, Nick	Teacher (CTE/Woods)	NHL	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Ciardo, Alyssa	Teacher (SPED)	W Milw	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Gutknecht, Mirka	EA (SPED)	Wilson	Conclusion of Employment	End of the 24-25 SY
Heiderschedit, Sarah	Teacher (Gr 2)	H. Mann	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Hellrung, David	Teacher (Gr 4/5)	H. Mann	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Janowski, Angela	EA (SPED)	H. Mann	Conclusion of Employment	End of the 24-25 SY
Knueppel, Tori	Teacher (SPED)	FLW	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Laney, Tywonna	Teacher (SPED)	W Milw	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Lohrei, Veronica	Teacher (Soc Studies)	Central	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Marshall, Marianne	Dir of Human Resources	Admin	Resignation	6/30/2025
Menden, Stephanie	EA (SPED)	FLW	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Moore, Jerral	Youth Advisor	FLW	Conclusion of Employment	End of the 24-25 SY
Northern, Sherry	EA (SPED)	Franklin	Conclusion of Employment	End of the 24-25 SY
Rodriguez, Elizabeth	Secretary PT	Jefferson	Resignation	6/18/2025
Stolpe, David	Teacher (Soc Studies)	Dottke	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Wiberg, Susan	EA (SPED)	Jefferson	Conclusion of Employment	End of the 24-25 SY

9.3 Supplementary Contracts

Supplementary contracts as listed on the June 9, 2025, report.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Action Item(s):**10.1 2025-2026 Rights and Responsibilities Handbook for Students and Parents – Hahn & Sage**

Adoption of the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion by Mr. Verbos, second by Ms. Keyser to adopt the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

10.2 Multilingual Learner Courses for Fall 2025 – Burrage

Approval to add a progression of Multilingual Learner Courses for the Fall of 2025. Each of the courses proposed would count as an elective credit for 0.5 credit.

Motion by Mr. Leigh, second by Mr. Keller to approve adding a progression of Multilingual Learner Courses for the Fall of 2025. Each of the courses proposed would count as an elective credit for 0.5 credit.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Workshop(s):**11.1 Student Services – Sage & Martin**

Director Student Services Laura Sage and Public Health Specialist Coordinator Nick Maniaci from the Southwest Suburban Health Department presented information about proactive efforts to save lives through increased accessibility and training around the use of Narcan (naloxone), a medication that reverses opioid overdoses. The presentation focused on a growing collaboration between the school district and the Southwest Suburban Health Department. Key initiatives included staff and nurse training sessions, distribution of Narcan boxes, and discussions about stocking Narcan alongside AEDs in schools. The goal is to treat Narcan like other life-saving tools, such as EpiPens or CPR, with the emphasis on community-wide preparedness, not just student-focused intervention. Feedback from Board members emphasized expanding training to athletic staff, students, and community members, reducing stigma, and making access discreet and widespread. Additionally, Ms. Sage noted the District also completed a special education audit and successfully relocated its Community Transition Services program to Madison School.

District Safety Coordinator Marla Martin presented information on vape detector wands, dog sniffing, and Halo Smart Sensors, which are designed to deter vaping and improve safety in school bathrooms and hallways. These camera-free devices detect nicotine, THC (even when masked), aggression, occupancy, tampering, and air quality issues, sending real-time alerts directly to administrators. The system is intended to support prevention and early intervention rather than solely focusing on discipline, and it integrates with student education programs addressing vaping and wellness. The Board supports a balanced approach that combines this technology with vape detection wands and expanded educational efforts to address student vaping and safety in a comprehensive manner. However, the Board also expressed concerns regarding privacy, installation challenges, and the overall costs, including device purchase, installation, and ongoing subscriptions. Ms. Martin will compile additional information to address the Board's concerns.

11.2 Financial Stability & Efficiency – Norris

Assistant Superintendent Aaron Norris presented the proposed 2025-2026 budget and preliminary tax levy workshop #2. A key focus was the “transfer of service” (TOS) process, which lets districts increase revenue limits when taking over services, especially for special education. This is crucial as mid-year shifts in students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) drive unexpected staffing and budget needs. During the 2024-2025 school year, an unusually high number of students with IEPs transferred into the District, prompting additional hires and budget adjustments. Though the budget remains balanced overall, some non-reimbursed positions could cause a minor deficit. Capital projects continue, funded partly by referendum dollars, and food service funding remains stable. Tax levy increases depend on state aid and property values, with a (likely) moderate mill rate increase. Budget management remains complex due to varying district wealth and funding challenges.

The Board will take action on the proposed 2025-2026 budget and preliminary tax levy at the June 23 regular board meeting, with spending beginning July 1. A Public Hearing on the 2025-2026 budget will be held on September 8, as well as approval of preliminary budget and levy before final revenue limit adjustments at the regular board meeting on the same date. Approval and adoption of the final 2025-2026 budget with final revenue limit adjustments and set final 2025-2026 tax levy will take place at the October 27 regular board meeting.

12. End of Recording/5 Minute Break

Motion at 9:20 p.m. by Mr. Leigh, second by Mr. Keller 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