

**WATERFORD UNION HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 27, 2025
Bond Issue Hearing - 3:30 PM**

The hearing called to order by President Schoenfeld at 3:30 p.m. Board members present at the meeting were: Gary Beck, Kelly Datka, Mike Schoenfeld, and Doug Schwartz. Absent: Dennis Purtell.

Official notice of the meeting was by way of publication in the Waterford Post on Thursday, August 7, 2025, was posted at the District Office (Door #7) and at Entrance #19, and was published on the District's website. The meeting was also posted at the following municipal offices: Town of Dover, Town of Norway, Village of Raymond, and Village of Waterford.

PRESENTATION

Superintendent Francois shared that on August 12, 2025, the WUHS Board of Education adopted a resolution authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds titled: Resolution Authorizing the Use of Community Service Levy Funds for Community Recreation Facilities Debt Service. The maximum amount proposed to be borrowed is \$5,000,000 for the purpose of establishing a Community Service Fund to support the acquisition of land upon which to provide community programs and services as authorized in the Resolution. The Resolution was made available for inspection by electors during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, or Friday by appointment, at the District Office, 507 W. Main St., Waterford, WI 53185. This public hearing on this resolution is being held on this date for informational purposes only, in accordance with Section 67.05(6a)(a)2.b. of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Dr. Francois explained that a comprehensive study of the District's buildings and grounds was conducted at the start of his tenure in 2019, which resulted in the development of a ten-year facility plan. Following the successful building referendum decision in February 2025, the District has begun to address a portion of the maintenance and infrastructure needs outlined in the facility plan. Other needs identified by the study which are not currently slated for improvement, include athletic facilities. Dr. Francois cited the softball fields, which currently lie in a flood plain, as one example.

Dr. Francois noted that the resolution adopted by the Board on August 12 is not an additional referendum question, however, it allows the District the authority to borrow up to \$5 million through its Community Service fund for community recreation facility purposes. Legal counsel for the District has advised that this type of borrowing is allowed within the DPI framework, and the District's financial auditor also expressed no concerns about the District employing this funding mechanism. If the opportunity to purchase property becomes available, the District will be poised to act. The land purchase could be located in any of the municipalities in the district, including the Town or Village of Waterford, or possibly within the Village of Rochester.

PUBLIC HEARING

Superintendent Francois addressed concerns raised by community residents in attendance. Questions included why this hearing was held at 3:30 PM mid-week, rather than an evening meeting. Dr. Francois noted that this hearing was held immediately before the District's annual meeting, which is one of the most important meetings for taxpayers and which time and date is set a year in advance. Other questions included how many acres the District hopes to acquire, could the Bixler Environmental Center be converted to a park or athletic space, and why the high school district is involved in what some may view as a Village development project. Additional discussion followed about possible uses for the Community Service funds such as relocation of community softball fields, or building a community indoor hockey rink, pool, or indoor track. Dr. Francois noted that if the District would move forward with purchase of land, a survey would be sent to community members on what types of community recreation facilities they would like to see developed in Waterford. Dr. Francois noted that should the District move forward with this type of project, an operational plan would be developed to address how facilities would continue to be funded.

Following the discussion and there being no one present who wished to address the board, President Schoenfeld thanked the community members for attending the hearing and for their input.

ADJOURN FROM OPEN MEETING

There was a motion by Schwartz, seconded by Beck, to adjourn the meeting. All ayes; motion carried. This was done at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas P. Schwartz, Board Clerk

**Resolution Authorizing the Use of Community Service Levy Funds for
Community Recreation Facilities Debt Service**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Waterford Union High School District (the “Board”) has identified a need for increased access to recreational and green space to serve community members of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Board has approved the acquisition of land to be developed into a community park and publicly accessible facilities, which will be used year-round by youth sports leagues, adult recreation programs, senior activities, and other community-based programming and services; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Board’s investment in such land is to enhance opportunities for recreation, physical wellness, and community engagement outside the K–12 instructional day and to members of the community; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 120.13(19) authorizes the Board to establish and maintain community education, training, recreational, cultural or athletic programs and services, outside the regular curricular and extracurricular programs for students enrolled in the Waterford Union High School District (the “District”), under such terms and conditions as the Board prescribes; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined the need to issue bonds up to \$5,000,000 in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 67.05(6a)(a)2. to support the acquisition of land upon which to provide the community programs and services as authorized in this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the clerk of the District shall, within 10 days, publish notice of the adoption of this resolution by class 1 notice pursuant to Wis. Stat. Ch. 985 and such notice shall state the maximum amount proposed to be borrowed, the purpose of the borrowing, that the resolution was adopted pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 67.05(6a)(a)2., and that the resolution may be inspected at Waterford Union District Office, 507 W. Main St., Waterford, WI 53185, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday-Thursdays, or Fridays by appointment.

WHEREAS, a public hearing on this resolution shall be held, for informational purposes only, on August 27, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. in the Large Group Instruction Room (LGI) of Waterford Union High School, 611 W. Main Street, Waterford, WI 53185, in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 67.05(6a)(a)2.b.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board establishes a Community Service Fund pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 120.13(19) to provide and facilitate community programming and services which are not elementary and secondary educational programs, but which have the primary function of serving the community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 67.05(6a) to acquire land to be used for community programs and services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes an annual levy sufficient to support the debt service payments on the bonds authorized in this resolution, and further authorizes the transfer of such funds to Fund 38 to meet those scheduled obligations, solely for the purpose of retiring debt associated with the land purchase and related improvements;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice shall be issued and a public hearing shall be held in accordance with this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board directs the administration to ensure that all ongoing operational and programming costs, other than ineligible costs, for the community services fund established by this resolution be accounted for in Fund 80, and that public access, scheduling, and use be aligned with the Board’s community service goals and policies.

Adopted this 12th day of August, 2025 by the Board of Education of the Waterford Union High School District.