

WATERFORD UNION HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 12, 2025
Regular Meeting - 6:30 PM

The regular meeting was called to order by President Schoenfeld at 6:40 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 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. Minutes from the regular board meeting of June 16, 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 - July 14, 2025 Regular Meeting
- C. Staffing Updates
 - 1) Resignation - Amy Hatch, Special Education Teacher
 - 2) New Hire - Beau McCullough, Special Education Teacher (1.0 FTE)
 - 3) New Hire - Brett Slawny, Full-Time Custodian (1.0 FTE)
- D. Seclusion and Restraint Report 2024-25

There was a motion by Schwartz, seconded by Purtell to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call vote taken; all ayes. The motion carried.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

No residents asked to address the board.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Back-to-School Opening

Superintendent Francois indicated that student enrollment is anticipated to be approximately 900 students at the start of the new school year. The custodial staff and summer cleaning crew are working hard and remain on pace in preparing the building for school opening on September 2. Currently, they are removing furniture and other apparatus from Section D (Maple View) in preparation for building renovations slated to begin later this school year.

Principal Foster shared that he is working with several staff members to hone and tighten the in-service days schedule. Rana Freeze will be working with new staff next week to introduce and determine their individual Clifton strengths, which all staff will revisit during in-service. Earlier this summer, the English Department team attended in-person or online professional learning offered through the College Board in preparation for teaching AP Seminar and AP Capstone courses. In July, ten staff members attended the CESA 6 Summer Leadership Retreat, and earlier this month, five staff members attended the PLC Summer Institute in Madison. Associate Principal Adam Bell is collaborating with the Continuous Improvement Team as to the next steps in the District's PLC journey, which also will be a focus with staff during in-service.

Student registration was held over one day this year, on August 5, with a 70% attendance rate. Most of the registration process is now online, and those students unable to attend will be contacted to complete any start-of-school requirements such as picking up their Chromebook or having their picture taken. Associate Principals Adam Bell and Mark Peperkorn are overseeing preparations for the SOAR half-day orientation for first-year students scheduled for the morning of August 28.

In response to Board questions, it was noted that Section D (Maple View) will be kept off-limits to students and staff immediately from the start of the school year, with the exception of the PAC, Drama and

Tech. Ed. hallways and classrooms. Ms. Ganas, FCS, is the only first-year teacher hired for 2025-26; all other new hires have between 4 to 20 years teaching experience.

2025-26 Budget Update

Superintendent Francois reported that earlier today, the unofficial District property value was released and will be used in forecasting final budget numbers for setting the tax levy in October. Overall, property values throughout the District have increased, which will result in a positive impact for community members with a decrease in the WUHS mill rate. Dr. Francois noted that although the WUHS portion of their tax bill likely will not increase, taxpayers may still see an overall property tax increase if the assessed value of their homes or property has increased significantly.

2025 Referendum Building Project Update

Superintendent Francois provided a recap of construction and pre-construction activities, noting that the design team will be doing a walk-through with Nexus and other stakeholders next week. Although there was a slight delay related to asbestos abatement, the house located at 128 S. Center Street is scheduled to be razed before the start of school to make room for a loading dock and receiving area. Dr. Francois opened the floor for discussion and input from board members.

Discussion included a question about the ADA-compliant ramp located by the WEC Office and existing plans for landscaping in that area. Superintendent Francois responded to a question regarding the overall budget for the project. He noted that kitchen plans were revised in order to stay under budget. The team is hopeful that construction bids will come in lower than conservative project estimates, and engineering solutions look favorable at this time as well.

ACTION ITEMS

The following items were presented for Board action.

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

There was a motion by Beck, seconded by Purtell to approve the resolution as presented. (A true copy of the resolution as adopted is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.) A roll call vote was taken with the following board members voting aye: Beck, Datka, Purtell, Schoenfeld, Schwartz. No board members voted nay, and none abstained, and the resolution was declared adopted/motion carried.

B. Neola Policy Updates Vol. 34-2

There was a motion by Schwartz, seconded by Purtell to approve the Neola Policy Updates Vol. 34, No. 2 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Board member Datka asked about the number of students who graduate early after the first semester of their senior year. Principal Foster estimated that approximately 20 students graduate early each year. He explained that students must meet specific criteria to be eligible. Some students leave early to start an apprenticeship program, join the military, or begin a full-time job before starting at a university in which they are enrolled in the fall. Each student desiring to graduate early must meet with their school counselor to create a post-graduation plan. Afterward, a meeting is scheduled with the student, a parent, and Mr. Foster to finalize the plan.

Mrs. Datka expressed concern about students' ability to purchase energy drinks from vending machines at school. Superintendent Francois clarified that the vending machines are owned by the food service vendor and revenue from the machines contributes to their bottom line, which in turn benefits the District. It was also noted that energy drinks are readily available off-campus at local gas stations where students might also purchase them. Following board dialogue, it was agreed to add this topic to the next regular board meeting for further discussion.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Francois had nothing additional to report.

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 7:12 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2025. The meeting will be held in the Large Group Instruction Room beginning at 7:30 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.