

Regular Board of Education Meeting
April 28, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

President Leigh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on April 28, 2025, at 1300 S. 109th Street, West Allis.

2. Ms. Lee led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Newly Elected Board Members Take Oath of Office – Mayor Dan Devine

West Allis Mayor Dan Devine administered the Oath of Office to Joe Becker, Rebecca Lee, and John J. Verbos for a three-year term on the West Allis-West Milwaukee School Board.

4. Roll Call

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

5. Declaration of Public Notice

6. Modifications to Agenda

None

7. Frank Lloyd Wright Student Showcase

Frank Lloyd Wright Principal Fish gave a brief overview of the District's Theory of Action, specifically noting the importance of instruction and collaboration. Assistant Principal Elahi was also present. Principal Fish introduced eighth grade math teacher and Learn Fresh Coach Mr. Knueppel, who detailed the baseball- and basketball-based board games students have been playing, which involves both math and statistical analysis. This school year, over 250 eighth graders have participated in Learn Fresh NBA Math Hoops and MLB STEM League programs, which were made possible by donors including ATC, GameChanger, and the Milwaukee Bucks. Teegan Cohen shared her experience participating in NBA Math Hoops and Josie Timm and CJ Howard shared their experiences participating in MLB STEM League. President Leigh and Dr. Robinson thanked parents, the students, and staff for attending.

8. Superintendent's Report

8.1 Legislative Update:

Supreme Court upholds 400-year \$325/pupil revenue limit increase veto:

The State Supreme Court has ruled in favor of the governor's use of his partial veto authority to raise revenue limits by \$325 per pupil per year until 2425. The decision has raised concerns about the delay in the state budget process and the potential impact on property taxes. The court rejected the petitioners' arguments that the governor's veto increases appropriations and that the rule prohibiting digit deletion does not apply to digits. The decision will now fall to local school boards to decide if to increase levies to take advantage of the new revenue authority.

Assembly and Senate in session for three bills impacting school boards:

The Senate and Assembly will vote on several bills, including SB 134, which would create an alternative open enrollment application process for children of military who change residencies due to an order, and SB 126, which would delay the effective date of 2023 Wisconsin Act 126 from July 1 to December 1, 2027. Act 126, drafted in partnership with the Ethics Commission, made several substantive changes to how local government officials and candidates register for election and the duties and privacy rights of local election clerks. The Assembly will vote on AB 166, a bill requiring higher education institutions to report and distribute certain data comparing student costs with outcomes post-graduation to high school students. Both chambers will also approve a resolution to approve this week (April 28-May 2) as school nutrition professionals appreciation week.

8.2 District Recognitions:

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe:

On behalf of Director Peggy Link, Scott Girmscheid introduced the following cast members from the upcoming production of The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe: Evan Hupp, eighth grade, playing Aslan; Zharick Manrique, eighth grade, playing Susan; and Elijah Mueller, eighth grade, playing Tumnus. The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe will run May 15-18 at Frank Lloyd Wright.

Inaugural Suzette Zimmerman Award:

Congratulations to our inaugural Suzette Zimmerman Award winners: Lisa Dreske (Wilson Elementary) and Sue Baldwin (Irving Elementary)! Thank you for your outstanding dedication and service!

April Educators of the Month:

Congratulations to our April Educators of the month Lexy-Ann Berman (first grade teacher) and Tyler Hartmann (Innovation Coach) both from Irving Elementary school!

Nathan Hale – Indoor Track:

Nathan Hale had two champions at the Boys Indoor State Track Meet (over 200 teams competed) held at UW-Whitewater on April 5 to close out the indoor season. Christian St. Claire-Pole Vault, and Max St. Claire-60M Hurdles, breaking the Indoor State Record in 8.01 seconds.

Nathan Hale – Rock Climbers:

Congratulations goes out to our Nathan Hale Rock Climbers for an awesome season! Extra special shout out to our senior climbers Gavriilia Fyrogeni, Camille Stassin, and Henry Hubrich for qualifying for the state championship held on Saturday, April 12 at Adventure Rock Milwaukee!

8.3 Other Updates & Information Items:

Community Visits and Meetings:

Dr. Robinson gave an update on his recent meetings and community visits since April 14, 2025, which included the following: Board orientation for Board Member John Verbos, City/ Schools monthly meeting, instruction partners meeting, CESA #1 meeting concerning the Parkway property, West Allis Rotary Club, Boys & Girls Varsity Mondo Invitational, meeting with Elmbrook Superintendent Dr. Mark Hansen to discuss WAWM's potential participation with LAUNCH, Midwest NABSE Conference Panelist, Les Misérables, meeting with Representative Karen Kirsch, and Board Member one-on-one meetings.

Les Misérables:

Dr. Robinson congratulated the Les Misérables cast, stage crew, orchestra, staff, and specially thanked seniors for their commitment over the years and making the district's productions the best in the area.

“The Voice”- Student Advisory Committee:

Dr. Robinson introduced Student Advisory Committee “The Voice” representative Shae Smith. Ms. Smith, a senior at Dottke and dual-enrolled between Dottke and Central, is concertmaster (violin) and principal viola of Central Orchestra, a published author in books and on websites, and ranked #1 at Dottke and ranked in top 10 at Central. Ms. Smith shared that Dottke is working hard to increase attendance, both individually and as a whole school, and has been offering incentives for those with 92% attendance or greater to be entered in a monthly drawing for a chance to win a prize. Dottke's Exhibition Night, which gives students from all grades the opportunity to showcase 1-2 projects and is open to the public, will take place on June 10 from 4-7 p.m. Ms. Smith also shared that Dottke's Crew Time (similar to advisory) has introduced Crew Clubs, such as academic intervention, to help students succeed as much as possible. Additionally, Dottke is in the middle of Hope Week, which is hosted by the Hope Squad and includes building school spirit and teamwork.

9. Public Comment(s):

None

10. Board Reports:

10.1 Review of Board Calendar

President Leigh reviewed the Board calendar.

10.2 Board Committee Reports:

10.2.1 Financial Stability & Efficiency – Burns

On behalf of Committee Chair Burns, Vice Chair Keyser reported that the Committee met on April 28, 2025. The Committee discussed and received updates on the compensation model, State Biennial Budget, financial and facility referenda, and the committed fund balance. The Committee also discussed the District Strategic Plan, next steps for employee contracts, budget amendments, Milliman Actuarial Study - May 2025 (State Required), and transfer of service.

10.2.2 Recreation & Community Service – Becker

Committee Chair Becker reported that the Committee met on April 21, 2025. The Committee discussed and reviewed the District Athletic Strategic Plan presentation, which will be presented at the Board Workshop on April 28. President Leigh requested that an update be provided to the Board by the end of the school year on the potential of adding flag football for girls.

10.3 Board Member Reports of Community Events:

- Ms. Keyser, whose daughter was in the production, attended Les Misérables two days in a row and commented, “it was the most beautiful thing I have ever seen performed by kids.” Ms. Keyser further praised the senior theater members for their hard work over the years, as well as thanked the entire theater group.
- Mr. Verbos, whose daughter was stage manager, attended Les Misérables and commended the theater group for their hard work and dedication.
- President Leigh’s wife and daughter attended Les Misérables. President Leigh looks forward to seeing how the program grows in the future and expressed the importance of parent involvement feeding into the program’s growth.

10.4 Other Updates & Information Items – Leigh

None

11. Consent Agenda:

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

11.1 Approval of Board Minutes

The minutes of the April 14, 2025, Regular Board meeting.

11.2 Employment Summary:

Appointments:

Full Name	Title	Location	Hire Status	Contract Type	Effective Date
Leopold, Trevor	Athletic Director/Asst Principal	NHL	New	Admin	7/01/2025
Marshall, Vanessa	School Psychologist	High School	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Olson, Hailey	School Psychologist	TBD	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Pearson, Amber	Teacher (SPED)	Jefferson	Rehire	Renewing	8/25/2025
Prestosa, Jamie	Instructional Coach	W. Milw	New	At Will	7/01/2025
Rucka, Katherine	Athletic Director/Asst Principal	Central	Change	Admin	7/01/2025

Resignations/Retirements:

Full Name	Title	Location	Type	Effective Date
Anderson-Argyres, Rebecca	DLC	Walker	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Dedering, Riley	Teacher (Soc Studies)	Dottke	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Groth, Ari	Teacher (Spec Ed)	Central	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Jacoby, Christopher	Teacher (Spec Ed)	Wilson	Resignation	4/21/2025
Jennings, Benjamin	Teacher (BL)	West Milw	Resignation	5/07/2025
Kamps, Antony	Teacher (Business Ed)	West Milw	Resignation (Date Change)	4/15/2025
Pienkowski, Brianna	OST Spec	Rec Dept	Resignation	5/09/2025
Stran, Matthew	Teacher (Soc Studies)	Central	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY

11.3 Supplementary Contracts

Supplementary contracts as listed on the April 28, 2025, report.

11.4 Financial Summary

Approval of the Financial Report Summary for the Month of March 2025 including Receipts #7355 through #7413 in the amount of \$21,910,230.29 and Vouchers Payable #375459 through #375868, wire transfers, and payroll disbursements in the amount of \$8,846,398.71 and Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for Nine Months Ending March 31, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Action Item(s):

12.1 Extended Travel: West Allis Central & Nathan Hale Student Exchange Trip to France – Burrage

Approval of the extended travel for the West Allis Central and Nathan Hale Student Exchange Trip to France, March 28 - April 6, 2026.

Motion by Ms. Lee, second by Ms. Carr to approve the extended travel for the West Allis Central and Nathan Hale Student Exchange Trip to France, March 28 - April 6, 2026.

Motion carried unanimously.

13. Workshop(s):

13.1. Athletic Strategic Plan – Strasser

Shelly Strasser, Director of Recreation and Community Services, and Katie Rucka, West Allis Central Athletic Director, presented the Athletic Strategic Plan. The Athletic Strategic Plan took a phased approach of: Identify (SWOT analysis to determine top three priorities based on common themes), Develop (feedback from Connectivity, Engagement and Facilities Committees), Draft Plan (reviewed by the Core Team, Stakeholders, and Board of Education) and Share the Plan (website, coach handbook and meetings, parent meetings, coach meetings, Booster Clubs, and Jr. Feeder Programs). Based on this approach, the Athletic Strategic Plan will focus on:

Engagement - Simplify and streamline processes to attract and retain coaches, athletes, families, and the community at large.

Goal 1: Recruit and Retain Student Athletes and Coaches.

Goal 2: Increase Parent/Guardian Engagement and Involvement.

Goal 3: Increase & Maintain Broader Community Interest, Participation and Support.

Connectivity - Create connections across all levels of athletics district wide to build one unified front.

Goal 1: Further the connection between recreation, intermediate school, junior feeder and high school sports.

Goal 2: Increased parent involvement - seek first to understand why so few are involved.

Goal 3: Create and establish a connection between elementary, intermediate and high school programs.

Facilities - Ensure facilities provide safe and optimal opportunities for athletes to grow, improve and succeed.

Goal 1: Consider and explore hiring/contracting a district grant writer to help secure funding to support ongoing facility upgrades and improvements.

Goal 2: Create a prioritized facility scheduling plan that is equitable and inclusive for all sports and all levels.

Goal 3: Build and nurture an athletics tourism partnership that is mutually beneficial.

Voice Student Representative Ms. Smith encouraged clear communication of athletic opportunities be shared with Dotke. SMART goals related to data analysis, coaching evaluations, and surveys were also discussed as a whole.

14. End of Recording & Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Carr, second by Mr. Verbos, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Carr, Board Clerk