

Minutes of Budget Committee Meeting

The Board of Education Waunakee Community School District

A Budget Committee Meeting of the Board of Education of Waunakee Community School District was held Monday, May 4, 2026, beginning at 7:30 AM in the Waunakee Community School District, 905 Bethel Circle, Waunakee, WI 53597.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hetzel called the meeting to order at 7:30am.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Hetzel, Sonne, Ensign (Subbing for Heinrichs)

Also present: Brown, Newton, Summers, and Grabarski

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ADDITIONS

A motion was made by Sonne, second by Ensign, to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried 3-0.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS There were no public comments for this meeting.

V. 2026-2027 PLANNING

Newton presented the first draft of the budget, student fees, facility use fees, fund 10, 27, 50, & 80. Newton and Summers answered questions regarding the first draft of the budget.

A. Timeline

B. Approval of First Draft of 2026-27 Budget

Please note that the first draft of the budget is based on the following:

1. The \$0/student increase in the per pupil categorical aid, with a \$325/student increase in the revenue limit formula
2. The personnel cost line includes an inflationary salary increase of 2.63%, implementation of the teacher and classified staff compensation systems, implementation of the classified staff operational referendum funds pay adjustments, a 13% increase in dental insurance rates, and a 5% increase for health insurance rates, utilities, and transportation.
3. The capital maintenance projects are funded from Fund 49
4. The first draft includes an increase of 6.55 FTE, as outlined on page 12 of the document.
5. The debt service fund includes the most recent financial plan.
6. All other remaining budget requests have been placed on hold at this time.

C. Approval of 26-27 Student Fees

Newton presented proposed 2026-27 student fees.

D. Approval of 26-27 Facility Use Fees

Newton presented facility use and aquatic center fees for 2026-27.

E. Review Fund 10

The first draft of the budget includes net FTE increases of 3.05 outlined on page 12 of the budget document. Administration continues to evaluate the need for custodial time between the existing middle school building and the new middle school. The second phase of the operational referendum has been incorporated into fund 10 and 27 for hourly staff pay

increases. Utility costs were adjusted to include the new middle school and the North American Mechanical contract has been funded via fund 10 instead of fund 49. Contingency was increased by \$50,000. The 4K budget has been adjusted to reflect the in-district and community programming. The business office budget includes adding back in student accident insurance including coverage for athletics/co-curriculars. All other budget requests have been placed on hold at this time.

F. Review Fund 27

The first draft of the budget includes an additional 1.0 FTE 1:1 para for a new student in the district. Also included is a 1.0 FTE increase for a teacher in our WaunaGROW program. Both of these requests would be funded through the state transfer of service program. Additional transfer of service requests may follow as students move into the district. The rent for the WaunaGROW program has been increased to reflect the additional square footage needs of the program.

G. Review Fund 50

Administration met with Taher management on April 29th to review the operation of the food service program and to plan for 2026-27. The student fee agenda item includes the recommended food service fees for the 2026-27 school year. Taher management has preparing a corresponding budget proposal that is included in the packet. Administration is recommending discontinuing contractual relationships with any food service partner sites outside the Waunakee Community School District. This recommendation is designed to focus our fund 50 efforts on Waunakee Schools as we seek to return a positive financial balance in 2026-27. The recommendation includes a \$0.50 meal increase. This is the first increase in 3 years.

H. Review Fund 80

The first draft of the budget includes an FTE increase of 1.5 reflected on page 12 of the budget document.

A motion was made by Sonne, second by Ensign, to recommend that the full board approve the first draft of the budget and details as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PROPOSALS

A. Request for Proposal for Legal Services

A request for proposal was sent out to the following firms:

Von Briesen & Roper

Renning, Lewis & Lacy

Strang Law

BoardmanClark

Attolles

All firms submitted a response. Administration is recommending moving forward with Strang Law at this time. Newton answered questions regarding the process. Dr. Brown recommended continuing with Strang Law.

A motion was made by Sonne, second by Ensign to recommend that the full board approve the recommendation of Strang Law as presented. Motion carried 3-0

VII. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION NA

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS NA

IX. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Sonne, second by Ensign, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30am. Motion carried 3-0.