

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
May 12, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order

President Leigh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on May 12, 2025, at 1300 S. 109th Street, West Allis.

2. Keller led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call

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

4. Declaration of Public Notice

5. Modifications to Agenda

None

6. Election of Board Officers

6.1 President – Dr. Robinson opened nominations for the office of president. Amy Deal nominated Brendan Burns, second by Kristen Keyser. Motion by Kristen Keyser to close the nominations for president, second by Rebecca Lee. Motion carried. Brendan Burns was nominated to the office of president by a unanimous voice vote.

6.2 Vice President - President Burns opened nominations for the office of vice president. Brendan Burns nominated Amy Deal, second by John Verbos. Motion by Kristen Keyser to close the nominations for vice president, second by John Verbos. Motion carried. Amy Deal was nominated to the office of vice president by a unanimous voice vote.

6.3 Treasurer - President Burns opened nominations for the office of treasurer. Brian Keller nominated Kristen Keyser, second by Rebecca Lee. Motion by Brian Keller to close the nominations for treasurer, second by Amy Deal. Motion carried. Kristen Keyser was nominated to the office of treasurer by a unanimous voice vote.

6.4 Clerk - President Burns opened nominations for the office of clerk. Rebecca Lee nominated Jane Carr, second by Amy Deal. Motion by Kristen Keyser to close the nominations for clerk, second by John Verbos. Motion carried. Jane Carr was nominated to the office of clerk by a unanimous voice vote.

7. Franklin Student Showcase

Franklin Elementary School Principal Harris gave a brief overview of the District's Theory of Action and how it aligns with the project being presented. Ms. Pracki, innovation coach, who oversees Kind Kids Club, introduced student participants Gemma Ard, Makenna Ard, Blake Wolf, Dalilah Fischer, and Jayde Fischer. The students shared activities they have participated in through Kind Kids Club such as the kind quilt, care packs, prep containers, soil/seeds/greenhouse/ Arbor Day tree planting, and May Day Walk. Each Board member was given a marigold container and painted rock. President Burns and Dr. Robinson thanked parents, students, and staff for attending.

8. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Robinson expressed thanks to all mothers and hoped that all had a happy Mother's Day.

8.1 Legislative Update:

Governor joins multi-state lawsuit:

Governor Tony Evers has joined a multistate lawsuit against the US Department of Education (USDE) for withholding federal funds from states that do not comply with a letter requesting state education agencies to certify compliance with Title VI. The suit, filed in Massachusetts' U.S. District Court, includes 18 states, including Wisconsin, New York, Illinois, Massachusetts, California, Minnesota, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.

Public hearings for bills on rehiring retired annuitants and sexual abuse education:

Two legislative committees held a public hearing on two bills affecting school boards and K-12 education. SB 170 allows WRS annuitants to return to work without suspending their annuity, while AB 156 requires sexual abuse prevention education in grades 4K-12. SB 170 allows rehired annuitants in the Wisconsin Retirement System to continue receiving their annuity for up to 60 months, while AB 156 requires school boards to provide a child sexual abuse prevention instructional program to pupils in grades 4K-12.

8.2 District Recognitions:

Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5-9):

To celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5-9), Dr. Robinson and school principals created a [thank you video for teachers](#).

FACES: Dr. Erika Minzlaff:

Dr. Robinson shared highlights from [Principal Minzlaff's FACES video](#), Dr. Minzlaff is the principal at Horace Mann Elementary School.

8.3 Other Updates & Information Items:

Community Visits and Meetings:

Dr. Robinson gave an update on his recent meetings and community visits since April 28, 2025, which included the following meetings: Dr. Robinson gave an update on his recent meetings and community visits since April 28, 2025, which included the following: DPI Urban Leadership Consortium at Frank Lloyd Wright, meeting with School Perceptions, Explore & Inspire Spring Concert at Jefferson, choir concert at Frank Lloyd Wright, MMABSE Gala, Neola administrative guidelines drafting session, facilities walkthrough at Frank Lloyd Wright, and the Nathan Hale and Central Spring Band Concerts.

"The Voice"- Student Advisory Committee:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the scheduled Student Advisory Committee "The Voice" representative could not attend.

9. Public Comment(s):

None

10. Board Reports:

10.1 Review of Board Calendar

President Burns reviewed the Board calendar.

10.2 Appointment of District Parliamentarian, CESA #1 Delegate, WASB Delegate & WASB Alternate

- District Parliamentarian will be Noah Leigh
- CESA #1 Delegate will be Kristen Keyser
- WASB Delegate will be Noah Leigh
- WASB Alternate will be Joe Becker

10.3 Board Committee Reports:

10.3.1 College & Career Readiness – Keyser

Committee Chair Keyser reported that the Committee met on May 12, 2025. Chair Keyser noted that the Committee discussed 2025 Strategic Plan goals and reviewed School Perceptions data.

10.4 Board Member Reports of Community Events:

- Mr. Keller attended the opening night of Les Misérables at Central and said it was absolutely amazing. Mr. Keller also attended the Battle of Dogs baseball game.
- Ms. Keyser attended Central's Jazz Band and Choir concert and the Les Misérables' cast performance showcase with four other high schools at the Skylight Music Theatre. Ms. Keyser also attended the Battle of Dogs baseball game and thanked the coaches and high schoolers for letting the West Allis Wolfpack Baseball team line up with their future high school teams.
- Mr. Verbos attended Central's Spring Band Concert and commented on the dramatic improvement over the past four years.
- Ms. Deal attended Frank Lloyd Wright's Spring Orchestra Concert and Hale's Spring Band Concert. Ms. Deal gave a shout out to Hale band teacher Ms. Wicichowski on her collaboration with a retired band director to compose a song specifically for Hale's band, which was played at the Spring Concert. Ms. Deal also recently spent half a day at the Deeper Learning Virtual Academy (DLVA) to see firsthand how it operates. Ms. Deal expressed thanks to the DLVA staff.
- President Burns attended NERF Nite at the Rec Center with his son.
- Mr. Leigh encouraged the public to attend the upcoming Suburban Singers Community Choir concert on Friday, May 16 at Dottke.

10.5 Other Updates & Information Items – Burns

None

11. Consent Agenda:

Motion by Keller, second by Verbos to approve the following:

11.1 Approval of Board Minutes

The minutes of the April 28, 2025, Regular Board meeting.

11.2 Employment Summary:

Appointments:

Full Name	Title	Location	Hire Status	Contract Type	Effective Date
Antony, Martha	EA (SPED)	Irving	New	EA	5/01/2025
Arendt, Brandon	EA (SPED)	Central	New	EA	5/05/2025
Greene, Summor	Teacher (Cross Cat)	Irving	New	Renewing	5/05/2025
Joyce, Robert	College & Career Readiness Mgr	District	New	Admin	7/01/2025
Lesko, Jessica	Teacher (SPED)	Irving	New	Renewing	8/25/2025
Padilla, Morgan	Teacher (Bal Lit)	West Milw	Rehire	Renewing	8/25/2025
Schmalfeldt, Kristen	Program Manager	Rec Dept	New	At Will	5/27/2025
Shea, Tim	Office Operations Spec	Rec Dept	New	Clerical	5/12/2025

Resignations/Retirements:

Full Name	Title	Location	Type	Effective Date
Coeur, Sarah	Teacher (SPED)	Irving	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Davis, Forrest	Teacher (Chem/Physics)	Hale	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
DeBenedetto, Kirsti	Teacher (Gr 1)	Franklin	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Fick, Hannah	SSW	H. Mann	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY
Harris, Nathaniel	EA (SPED)	Franklin	Resignation – Date Change	5/08/2025
Jennings, Benjamin	Teacher (BL)	W. Milw	Resignation – Date Change	End of the 24-25 SY
Wodushek, Samantha	Teacher (SPED)	Irving	Resignation	End of the 24-25 SY

11.3 Supplementary Contracts

Supplementary contracts as listed on the May 12, 2025, report.

11.4 Approval of Continued use of Facsimile Signatures

Approved the continued use of facsimile signatures of the President, Treasurer, and Clerk where Board Officers are required to sign school district checks or purchase orders and, in all cases, where Board Officers are required to sign a contract. The Administration will continue to use the signatures as adopted on May 13, 2024, for the period from May 12, 2025, through June 30, 2025. This allows for the continued use of the current signature plate, showing Board Officers elected as of May 13, 2024, until a new signature plate can be obtained.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. Action Item(s):

12.1 School District Financial Depositories – Dr. Robinson & Norris

In accordance with S120.12 (7) Wisconsin Statutes, approve the resolution that the following banks be and are hereby designated as public depositories for funds, including investments, of the School District of West Allis-West Milwaukee, et al.: BMO Harris Bank NA, Milwaukee, WI. For Investment Purposes Only: Local Government Investment Pool, Madison, WI; BMO Harris Bank NA, Milwaukee, WI; Wisconsin Investment Series Cooperative, Milwaukee, WI.

12.2 Release of 2025-2026 Purchase Orders – Dr. Robinson & Norris

Approve the release of Purchase Orders for the 2025-2026 school year.

12.3 2025-2026 Delegation of Leasing Authority – Dr. Robinson & Norris

Approve the 2025-2026 Delegation of Leasing Authority to approve, authorize, and direct the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, for a period of one (1) year, to take all necessary and appropriate actions and make all necessary and appropriate decisions in their business judgment on behalf of the District in connection with the negotiation of any amendments, extensions, renewals, or other modifications to, and the enforcement of, existing leases with tenants located at the properties owned by the District, and including, but not limited to, initiating and taking appropriate actions to enforce the District's rights and tenant's obligations under any such leases. The Superintendent

and Assistant Superintendent are authorized, either alone or together, to execute and deliver any and all documents, instruments, other agreements, and certificates contemplated in and consistent with this Motion.

Motion by Keller, second by Deal to approve the School District Financial Depositories (12.1), Release of 2025-2026 Purchase Orders (12.2), and the 2025-2026 Delegation of Leasing Authority (12.3) as one bundled vote. Motion carried unanimously.

12.4 Independent Hearing Officer Agreement for Student Expulsion Hearings – Dr. Robinson

Approve Attorney Aleah M. Loll to serve as the Independent Hearing Officer for the 2025-2026 school year effective July 1, 2025, for purposes of conducting student expulsion hearings.

Motion by Keller, second by Lee to approve the Independent Hearing Officer Agreement for Student Expulsion Hearings. Motion carried unanimously.

12.5 Designating South NOW as the Paper to Publish Board Minutes – Dr. Robinson

Approve designating *South NOW* as the paper to publish Board minutes.

Motion by Lee, second by Verbos to approve designating *South NOW* as the Paper to Publish Board Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

12.6 Seek Position on the CESA #1 Board of Control (3 yr. term) – President & Dr. Robinson

Consider seeking a seat on the Board of Control with CESA #1. This would be an At-Large Seat for a three-year term.

Motion by Keyser, second by Leigh to approve seeking a CESA #1 Seat on the Board of Control. Should the District be selected, CESA #1 Delegate Keyser would hold the Seat. Motion carried unanimously.

12.7 Adoption of Neola Policy 5411 (New) Third Grade Promotion & Retention: At-Risk Students – Dr. Robinson

Adopt Neola Policy 5411 (New) Third Grade Promotion and Retention: At-Risk Students to remain in compliance with Act 20 and the DPI model.

Motion by Keller, second by Lee to approve the adoption of Neola Policy 5411 (New) Third Grade Promotion & Retention: At-Risk Students. Motion carried unanimously.

12.8 Temporarily Waive Board Policies in Support of City of West Allis Event (July 4, 2025) – Strasser

Approve temporarily waiving Board Policies 3122.01 and 4122.01 - Drug-Free Workplace and Board Policy 7434 - Use of Tobacco and Nicotine on School Premises, and Board Rule 830 Rule-2 - Facility Usage Policy and Procedures, for the dates of July 4, 2025, and July 5, 2025 (rain date) on the West Allis Athletic Complex and Nathan Hale High School Grounds. Administration further recommends the board consider adopting policy in the future to approve this specific request, activity, and purpose on an annual basis.

Motion by Keyser, second by Keller to approve temporarily Waive Policies 3122.01, 4122.01, 7434, and 830 Rule-2, for a City of West Allis Fireworks Event on School District Property. At this time, the Board will not consider adopting policy in the future to approve this specific request, activity, and purpose on an annual basis; however, the Board will reconsider this decision if presented with suggested policy verbiage and reasoning that has been vetted by legal counsel. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Workshop(s):

13.1 Deeper Learning Virtual Academy (DLVA) – Dr. Smith & Dr. Schneider

DLVA school leader Dr. Smith and ELA teacher Dr. Schneider presented the DLVA Alternative Education Competency Pathway Proposal. Fifth-Eighth grade teacher Ms. Sykora also assisted with preparing the proposal. Students who satisfy the requirements described in the proposal will be awarded a high school diploma by the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District. Upon Board approval, the proposal would be submitted to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) under the authority of the School Board of West Allis-West Milwaukee and the Governance Board of the Deeper Learning Virtual Academy. The Board will take action on this matter at the May 19, 2025, Board meeting.

13.2 Leadership & Learning: 6-12 Math Curriculum – Burrage & Laurishke

Director of Leadership and Learning Alyssa Burrage and Coordinator of Secondary Instruction Chris Laurishke gave an overview of the proposed adoption of the Carnegie Learning math curriculum for grades 6–12. Representatives from Carnegie Learning were also onsite to answer questions. After piloting both Carnegie Learning and McGraw-Hill Reveal, the team recommended Carnegie due to its student-centered approach, real-world application of concepts, and support for collaboration and mathematical discourse. The curriculum follows a structured lesson model (Engage, Develop, Demonstrate) and offers flexibility in pacing. Staff feedback, student engagement, alignment with standards,

and support from instructional coaches drove the final decision, which also includes updates to pacing guides and summer training to prepare for a full rollout. The adoption is part of the district's ongoing curriculum cycle and comes with an 8-year, \$1 million investment, including teacher materials, student access, and professional development. To ensure smooth implementation, the plan includes 26 days of coaching over the first two years, and the district is building internal capacity through leadership training and revamped onboarding for new teachers. The Board will take action on this matter at the May 19, 2025, Board meeting.

14. End of Recording & Adjournment

Motion by Keller, second by Keyser, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Carr, Board Clerk