

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEST ALLIS-WEST MILWAUKEE, ET AL.  
1205 S. 70th Street, West Allis, WI 53214 (Board Meeting Room 6<sup>th</sup> Floor)  
9333 W. Lincoln Ave., West Allis, WI 53227 (District Administration Office)

**Regular Board of Education Meeting  
March 17, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order**

President Leigh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on March 17, 2025, at 1205 S. 70<sup>th</sup> Street, West Allis.

**2. Ms. Carr led the pledge of allegiance.**

**3. Roll Call**

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

**4. Declaration of Public Notice**

**5. Modifications to Agenda**

None

**6. Nathan Hale Student Showcase**

Nathan Hale Principal Mr. Lesar gave a brief overview of the District's Theory of Action and how it aligns with the students' presentation. CTE auto instructor Mr. Hart introduced junior Alexzander Lyles and senior Jackson Hauser, who were both winners at the Technicians of Tomorrow Competition. Mr. Lyles and Mr. Hauser shared that all unit content in their Power Mechanics & Autos #1 course entailed math and measurement, scientific method-problem solving, reading-technology applications as well as building soft skills. Mr. Lyles noted his end goal is to work on aircraft and jet engines and Mr. Hauser would like to pursue a dual major in auto and education. President Leigh and Dr. Robinson thanked parents, the students, and staff for attending.

**7. Superintendent's Report**

**7.1 Legislative Update:**

**Legislative session continues: Bills formally introduced:**

A new round of education bills has been introduced, introducing additional restrictions and requirements for school boards to pass referenda. These include eliminating recurring referenda, requiring property tax information on the ballot, and eliminating funds raised by referenda of more than \$50 million from a school district's shared costs. Other bills include designating school athletics by sex at birth, allowing more backup lights on buses, requiring specific policies on student names and pronouns, and extending open enrollment timelines for military members.

**Marquette Law School Poll includes Education Issues:**

Marquette Law School conducted a poll on K-12 education, focusing on public views on Act 10, satisfaction with public schools, private school vouchers, property taxes, DEI programs, and special education funding. The results showed mixed sentiments:

- 58% satisfied with public schools and 41% dissatisfied with public schools.
- 58% supported holding down property taxes is more important and 41% supported increasing taxes for public school funding.
- 76% supported a major increase in special education funding, with a majority of all partisan groups supporting this idea.

**WASB Day at the Capitol:**

Board members Leigh, Deal, Keyser, Carr, and Becker along with Superintendent Dr. Robinson, Assistant Superintendent Aaron Norris, and Manager of School Services Connie Bergmann attended the WASB Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. The team lobbied for increased funding for special education and for better and equitable funding for all school districts.

**7.2 District Recognitions:**

**WAC Basketball:**

An incredible season comes to an end. The WAC boys basketball team gave it their all, battling to the sectional final with heart, determination, and teamwork. We are so proud of their effort and the way they represented our school. Thank you, players, coaches, and fans for an unforgettable journey!

**Coach of the Year:**

Congratulations to Eric Vis, Woodland West Wrestling Coach of the Year!

**Youth Art Month:**

Youth Art Month celebrates the importance of arts education in fostering creativity, critical thinking, and self-expression in young people. It highlights how the arts enrich academic achievement, build confidence, and cultivate cultural awareness, preparing students for success in all areas of life. Pieces of art created by students throughout our district will be on display at the West Allis Public Library and the WAWM Rec Center for the month of March.

**Dottke PBL High School:**

On Friday, March 7th Dottke hosted a site visit from eight educators from CESA #4 and the LaCrosse Polytechnic High School. Mr. Goelz coordinated nearly a full day of activities for the group to observe and learn the philosophies behind our powerful and innovative project-based learning work. The itinerary included a school overview, building tour, data analysis presentation, staff collaboration and best of all, a student Q & A panel. It was an energizing day for our visitors and school alike.

**Dottke PBL High School:**

Congratulations to Dottke junior, Jovanni Brown, for being the newest addition to the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee "The Voice". Jovanni is new to WAWM this year, so he brings a fresh perspective on education, as well as a firm grasp on the needs of his peers at Dottke, so he will be a valuable addition to the group. Congrats, Jovanni!

**7.3 Other Updates & Information Items:****Community Visits and Meetings:**

Dr. Robinson gave an update on his recent meetings and community visits since March 10, 2025, which included meeting with the Leadership Team and the following community and school visits: Instructional rounds at Walker and Franklin Elementary Schools, WASB Day at the Capitol, and a safety walk and demonstration at Waukesha West High School with District Safety Coordinator Marla Martin and Aaron Norris.

**Bill Smith:**

Dr. Robinson introduced William (Bill) Smith, the district's new Facilities Project Manager. Bill is a highly experienced construction management professional with over 20 years specializing in commercial building and renovation including schools, retail, and government projects.

**"The Voice"- Student Advisory Committee:**

Dr. Robinson introduced Student Advisory Committee "The Voice" representative Toby Jesse. Mr. Jesse, a junior at West Allis Central, is captain of the football team, has a 4.0 GPA, and is a member of the WAC Leadership Team. Mr. Jesse noted four wrestlers from Central went to state and that Coach Vis was named Woodland West Wrestling Coach of the Year. The Pat Connaughton Foundation granted Central a new basketball court in the fieldhouse, which will also be renovated, and that the All City Orchestra, Band, and Choir Concerts went very well. Lastly, Central staff put on an underground spirit week, which challenged students to figure out each day's theme based on provided clues.

**8. Public Comment(s):**

None

**9. Board Reports:****9.1 Review of Board Calendar**

President Leigh reviewed the Board calendar.

**9.2 Board Committee Reports:****9.2.1 Financial Stability & Efficiency – Burns**

Committee Chair Burns reported that the Committee met on March 17, 2025. The Committee discussed and received updates on the compensation model, Housing for All, compensation model, and referendum. The Committee also discussed the 2025-26 budget forecast, State Biennial Budget, and the budget impact on contracts and CPI.

**9.2.2 Recreation & Community Service – Becker**

Committee Chair Becker reported that the Committee met on March 17, 2025. The Committee discussed and reviewed the District Athletic Strategic Plan, as well as facility scheduling process for athletic in-season and out-of-season.

**9.3 Board Member Reports of Community Events:**

- Board members Leigh, Deal, Keyser, Carr, and Becker attended the WASB Day at the Capitol. All expressed thanks to Dr. Robinson and Mr. Norris for the well-prepared resolution, as well as how proud they were to be a part of the day. Ms. Deal encouraged the community to contact their legislatures for special education funding support. President

Leigh noted the importance of increasing the low revenue ceiling, which affects about 76% of districts in the State of Wisconsin and thanked all the Board members who attended.

- Ms. Keyser and Mr. Burns each attended the West Allis Central boys basketball game.
- Mr. Burns commended the cheerleading teams for advocating for their needs, which included resources and funding, at the March 10, 2025, Board meeting.
- Mr. Becker attended National History Day at UW-Milwaukee and said how nice it was to see students from Frank Lloyd Wright competing in regional, project-based learning.

#### **9.4 Other Updates & Information Items – Leigh**

None

#### **10. Consent Agenda:**

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

##### **10.1 Approval of Board Minutes**

The minutes of the March 10, 2025, Regular Board meeting.

##### **10.2 Employment Summary:**

###### Appointments:

Full Name	Title	Location	Hire Status	Contract Type	Effective Date
Crespo-Ortiz, Mary	Secretary III (Part Time)	Pershing	New	Clerical (Part Time)	04/02/2025

###### Resignations/Retirements:

Full Name	Title	Location	Type	Effective Date
Brunner, Tammy	EA (SPED)	Wilson	Termination	3/12/2025
Guenther, Julie	Teacher (Science)	W Milw	Resignation	3/24/2025
Morris, Avery	Teacher (Music)	H. Mann	Resignation	3/10/2025

##### **10.3 Supplementary Contracts**

Supplementary contracts as listed on the March 17, 2025, report.

##### **10.4 Financial Summary**

Approval of the Financial Report Summary for the Month of February 2025 including Receipts #7309 through #7354 in the amount of \$12,715,706.88 and Vouchers Payable #374947 through #375458, wire transfers, and payroll disbursements in the amount of \$9,818,340.61 and Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for Eight Months Ending February 28, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **11. Action Item(s):**

##### **11.1 Construction & Management Services RFP – CG Schmidt Contract – Norris**

Recommendation by Administration to award CG Schmidt the Construction Management Firm contract to oversee the school district's construction projects following the approval of the Capital Referendum.

Motion by Ms. Keyser, second by Ms. Carr to approve the Construction & Management Services RFP – CG Schmidt Contract.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **12. End of Recording/5 Minute Break:**

Motion at 7:06 p.m. by Ms. Keyser, second by Ms. Lee, to convene into executive session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Section 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy related to a DPI Boundary Appeal. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jane Carr, Board Clerk