

# Minutes of Policy Committee Meeting

## The Board of Education Waunakee Community School District

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A Policy Committee Meeting of the Board of Education of Waunakee Community School District was held Tuesday, March 3, 2026, beginning at 7:30 AM in the Waunakee Community School District, 905 Bethel Circle, Waunakee, WI 53597.

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ensign called the meeting to order at 7:30am.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Ensign, Hetzel (sub for Frey), Sonne

Also present: Brown, Newton, Schell, Weisman, and Blackburn

### **III. APPROVE AGENDA**

A motion was made by Sonne, second by Hetzel, to approve the agenda as posted.

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

### **V. TRANSPORTATION DISCUSSION**

Newton discussed and answered questions regarding changes to transportation starting in the fall of 2026.

Implementation of the unusually hazardous transportation plan would eliminate bus transportation for 251 students or 3 bus routes.

A possible option for 2026-27 would include:

- 1) Implement unusually hazardous transportation plan as previously approved by the school board (saves 3 bus routes for 5th through 12th grade).
- 2) Eliminate shuttles between the 3 elementary schools — replace the shuttles with 3 new shorter and 3 new longer routes that provide alternative transportation options for elementary students. The 3 shorter routes do not have a fiscal impact because they will continue on as 5th through 12th grade routes as they currently do. The 3 longer routes would have a fiscal impact because they would not connect to 5th through 12th grade routes. However, there would be 3 fewer 5th through 12th grade routes required if the unusually hazardous transportation plan remains as approved.
- 3) St. John's students would be served by a northern and southern bus route.

A motion was made by Sonne, second by Hetzel, to recommend to the full board to consider for one year only the request from the family who lives in WCSD boundaries and is open enrolled in Deforest Schools to have the Deforest bus to cross the boundary line to pick up these students. Prior to the 27-28 school year, this parent should request again. Motion carried 3-0.

**VI. TRANSPORTATION POLICIES FOR DISCUSSION, REVIEW & CONSIDERATION**

Newton presented and answered questions regarding the changes to these policies.

- A. 751 Exhibit Fee Schedule for Transportation to and from Licensed Daycare
- B. 751 Student Transportation Services – for review/reference only, no changes required.
- C. 751 Rule 1 Student Transportation Services

A motion was made by Sonne, second by Hetzel to recommend that the full board keep the title of policy 751 Exhibit the same for 26/27 and review again for 27/28 to consider changing to license daycare only and/or any other considerations. For policy 751 Rule 1 remove bullet #8 since there will be no shuttle services, but short and long routes to get students to after school care. Also, implement any other changes as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

**VII. CELL PHONE POLICIES FOR DISCUSSION, REVIEW & CONSIDERATION**

Schell presented and answered questions regarding the changes to this policy. 2025 Wisconsin Act 42 requires all public-school districts to implement policies that prohibit student use of cell phones and other personal devices during instructional time with limited exemptions. The new law takes effect July 1, 2026.

Our current 443.6 policy generally meets or exceeds the scope of Act 42's requirements, but revisions are required to include more detail under the law and the limited exemptions. The revised policy extends our current stance, which is a bell-to-bell restriction in our elementary schools, the Intermediate School and the Middle School with an instructional time restriction in our High School. Preparing students for adult life and the greater complexity of their activities cause us to view the High School differently. Further points are noted in the attachment.

The high school team is continuing to evaluate future directions with cell phone restrictions and will conduct a needs assessment process with stakeholders this fall on policy direction for 2027-2028.

A motion was made by Sonne, second by Hetzel, to recommend that the full board consider the revisions to this policy as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

**VIII. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION** – N/A

**IX. FUTURE MEETINGS** -N/A

**X. ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Hetzel, second by Sonne, to adjourn the meeting at 8:16am. Motion carried 3-0.