

Minutes of Regular Meeting - Open

The Board of Education Waunakee Community School District

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Waunakee Community School District was held Monday, January 12, 2026, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Waunakee Community School District, 905 Bethel Circle, Waunakee, WI 53597.

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Ensign called the meeting to order. A motion was made by Heinrichs, second by Frey, to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(c), (e), (f) and (g) to review individual teacher contract recommendations, resignations and retirements, review individual co-curricular contract recommendations, review individual support staff/custodial staff recommendations, resignations, and retirements, and review student requests. Motion carried 7-0 on a roll call vote. Time 6:00pm

II. ROLL CALL

Eaton -Yes, Ensign- Yes, Frey-Yes, Hetzel-Yes, Heinrichs -Yes, Murray,-Yes, Sonne -Yes

III. CLOSED SESSION - ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION PER WISCONSIN

STATUTES 19.85 (1) (c) (e) and (f)

- A. Review Minutes of December 08, 2025 Meeting
- B. Update and Consideration of Legal Matters Related to the School District Including Current and Potential Actions Involving the School District.
- C. Review Individual Administrator, Teacher, Co-Curricular, Support Staff & Custodial Recommendations, Resignations, Leaves & Retirements
- D. Review a Performance Summary of the Individual Administrative Team Members
- E. Review Request from Superintendent for Benefit Consideration

IV. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Hetzel, second by Sonne, to adjourn closed session and reconvene in open session. Motion carried 7-0. Time: 7:01pm

V. BOARD DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

- A. *Great on Their Behalf* by AJ Crabill book study

There was not enough time for board development this month.

Ensign welcomed all in attendance at 7:05pm.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Review minutes from the December 8, 2025 meeting.

A motion was made by Heinrichs, second by Murray, to approve the December 8, 2025 meeting minutes as posted. Motion carried 7-0.

VII. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ADDITIONS

A motion was made by Hetzel, second by Frey, to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried 7-0

VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** There were no public comments at this meeting.

IX. **TEACHING STAFF, STUDENT, & BOARD**

REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Teacher Update

Representatives of the WTA provided an update on items related to the teaching staff. Jessica Stork updated the board on appreciation for a full two week winter break, please consider making this a standard practice, appreciation for the donation from Acker Builders for clearing any negative balance lunch accounts, for the potential of a new model for future 4K classes, the policy for therapy dogs in the schools. Staff are preparing for the winter testing and preparing semester grades.

B. Student Reports

1. Student Council Report

Abigail Anderson and Alena Wagoner are the student representatives from the high school. They updated the board on course registration for next year, finals week that has a change this year of going to each class. They gave updates on softball, boys and girls basketball, gymnastics, and wrestling. Music and drama updates were given about the high school band Fish Riot, choir showcase, WI Singers, the musical, the winter play, forensics, showcase and a cappella and solo ensemble. Club and organization updates were given about DECA, FBLA, FFA, and student council. They shared that a survey was given before winter break. Students find the most stressful part of school is classwork and homework. Sports and clubs are the most positive part of school.

2. Warrior Spotlight

A brief update will be shared by the Heritage 4th grade service students.

C. Board Reports/Action Items

1. Board Reports on Educational Related Events, Meetings, or Trainings Attended by Individual Board Members

This section of the agenda is reserved for any comments from members of the board on meetings they attended over the last month or other informational items.

MH AI meeting - compliment Rick Franz and all It people very terrific presentation. resources for parents and students.

2. 2026 WASB Resolutions

The board shared considerations and clarifications with Sonne regarding the resolutions.

3. Spring Election Update

The Board of Education Candidates for the April 7, 2026 election are as follows:

For the Village of Waunakee Seat - Kevin Thornberg

For the Town of Westport, City of Middleton, City of Madison Seat - Joan Ensign

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Budget Committee Meeting

1. The minutes from the January 5, 2026 Budget Committee Meeting were reviewed.

2. 2026-2027 Open Enrollment Capacity Recommendations -Action Item

Summers presented and answered questions regarding the request for school board approval of open enrollment space availability for the 2026-27 school year. To summarize to approach recommend by the administration and the budget committee, the approach recommends reallocating three K-4 teachers to start an in-district 4K classroom in each elementary school. A motion was made by Hetzel, second by Heinrichs, to approve the open enrollment

approach as recommended, but allowing kindergarten to allow 4 new open enrollment students rather than 0. Motion carried 7-0.

3. Consideration of 2024-25 Audit Report - Action Item

Summers presented and answered questions regarding the final 2024-25 audit report. A motion was made by Heinrichs, second by Eaton, to approve the 2024-25 audit as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

4. 4K Planning -

Summers presented and answered questions regarding the responses of contracts from the 4K sites. Miranda Moe, 4K Director, was in attendance to answer questions.

B. Facility Committee

1. The minutes from the January 7, 2026 facility committee meeting were reviewed.

2. Approval of Capital Maintenance Requests — Action Item

Summers presented and answered questions regarding the district-wide capital maintenance requests. A motion was made by Frey, second by Eaton, to approve the capital maintenance requests for January as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

XI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Update on Long Term Facility Planning Update

Mark Roffers with the urban planning firm MDRoffers presented updates since his last report in 2024 to his initial long-range facility for WCSD.

B. Administrative Update from the Communications and Engagement Specialist.

Brown introduced Anne Blackburn, WCSD Communications and Engagement Specialist and the high school youth apprentice working with her Denise MKB introduced and gave Denise Espirito Santo Dias. Anne and Denise shared an update on the work the Communications and Engagement department has been doing for the WCSD.

C. Request for funding for the Waunakee Community Cares Coalition

Tim Decorah, project coordinator for the Waunakee Community Care Coalition and other members of the WCCC presented a funding request to the WCSD. Summers explained that if the board approves the funding request for interim funding, these funds may come from Fund 80. After much discussion, a motion was made by Hetzel, second by Heinrichs, to cover the next month for the WCCC out of Fund 80, not to exceed \$7,000. This will allow time to bring more information back to the Budget Committee for more discussion and to also know what the Village board is considering. Motion carried 7-0.

D. Announcements/Correspondence

Brown shared congratulations from the Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech and Dramatic Arts Association for the awards received by the WHS students participating in the One-Act Play Contest in November at UW Stevens Point.

Brown also reminded the board of the Soup with the Supt. event to launch the Superintendent /Parent Advisory group, if anyone is interested in attending, please let Rebecca know.

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

The board acknowledged Gifts from the Optimist Clubs, Game Haven, Acker Builders, and One Community Bank

A motion was made by Sonne, second by Eaton, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

- A. Approval of Checks
- B. Finance
 - 1. Monthly Finance Reports
 - C. Safety Drill Logs
 - D. Gifts and Field Trips
 - 1. Gifts
 - a. Waunakee Optimist Club \$600 in gift cards for special education paraeducators.
 - b. Twenty-five board and card games and a program handbook from Game Haven/The Gift of Games valued at \$500.00
 - c. Acker Builders' Donation — \$11,835.76 to clear negative student food services balances
 - d. One Community Bank Donation of \$500.00 to SFAF
 - 2. Field Trips
 - a. Final BOE Consideration of Orchestra Scotland Trip, March 2026
 - b. WHS Chinese Class Field Trip to Chinatown in Chicago IL on April 17, 2026
 - E. Approve Individual Teacher, Administrator, Co-curricular, Support Staff & Custodial Recommendations, Resignations, Leaves & Retirements

New Support Staff

Jayley Schmelzer, Para Educator Special Education, HES

New Teaching Staff

Kelsey Gabriel, Occupational Therapist, AES/PES

Retirements

Brian Borowski, Principal, HS

Rick Braun, Speech Teacher, HS

Amy Johnson, Director of Elementary Curriculum & Instruction

Mike Steiger, Custodian, IS

Robert Tietz, Technology Assistant, AES/HES

Retirement - Special Request

Rick Franz, Director of Technology

Resignations

Maria Fite Guerrero, ELL Para Educator, HS

Luke Franda, English Teacher, HS

Bart Rhoades, Custodian, HS

BOARD BUSINESS

- F. Legislative Update
- G. Conventions/Workshops

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS AND MEETINGS

- A. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- B. Special Meeting –

Curriculum Presentations -February 23, 2026 @ 4:30pm at the WHS

A motion was made by Heinrichs, second by Murry, to approve the curriculum presentations as listed. Motion carried 7-0.

DAPES Training Date - June 29, 2026 3:30pm - 5:00pm A motion was made by Hetzel, second by Murray, to approve the DAPES meeting date as listed. Motion carried 7-0.

Board Coaching Dates - October 26, 2026 5:30pm - 7:00pm, November 2, 2026 5:30pm - 7:00pm, November 23, 2026 5:30pm - 7:00pm A motion was made by Murray, second by Eaton to approve the board coaching dates as listed. Motion carried 7-0.

- C. Budget Committee – February 2nd @ 7:30am
- D. Co-Curricular Committee
- E. Curriculum Committee
- F. Facility Committee - February 2nd @ 8:30am
- G. Human Resources Committee
- H. Policy Committee – January 15th @ 7:30am
- I. DEI Committee – January 26th @ 5:30pm

XIV. **RETURN TO CLOSED SESSION** - (if necessary) to complete agenda as listed under agenda item III

XV. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

XVI. **ACTION AS APPROPRIATE, ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION**

XVII. **ADJOURN**

The Board of Education adjourned at 10:04pm on a motion by Heinrichs, second by Eaton, and passed unanimously by voice vote 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlena Eaton, Clerk

Date: _____
CE/rm