

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, April 13, 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 Frey, second by Sonne, to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(c), (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 6-0 on a roll call vote. Time 6:00pm

II. ROLL CALL

Eaton -Yes, Ensign- Yes, Frey-Yes, Hetzel-Yes, Heinrichs -Yes (arrived for open session only), Murray,-Yes, Sonne -Yes

III. CLOSED SESSION - ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION - PER WISCONSIN STATUTES 19.85 (1)(c)(f) and (g)

A. Review Minutes of March 9, 2026 and March 16, 2026 meetings

B. Update and Consideration of Legal Matters Related to the School District Including Current and Potential Actions Involving the School District.

C. Review Student Discipline/Expulsion Recommendation

A motion was made by Frey, second by Sonne, to approve the Hearing Officers Decision as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

D. Review Individual Administrator, Teacher, Co-Curricular, Support Staff & Custodial Recommendations, Resignations, Leaves & Retirements

E. Review Summer School Contract Recommendations

F. Superintendent Evaluation

IV. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - BEGIN REGULAR AGENDA

A motion was made by Hetzel, second by Murray, to adjourn closed session and reconvene in open session. Motion carried 6-0. Time: 6:57pm

V. BOARD DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

A. Superintendent and Board Book Study *Great on Their Behalf* by AJ Crabill

There was not enough time for board development this month.

Ensign welcomed all in attendance and resumed the meeting at 7:00pm.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Review Minutes of March 9, 2026 Regular Meeting and the March 16, 2026 Special Meetings.

A motion was made by Hetzel, second by Eaton, to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

VII. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ADDITIONS

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

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

IX. BOARD RECOGNITION

President Ensign reflected on the term of Dawn Heinrichs as she finishes her term on the board.

X. TEACHING STAFF, STUDENTS, & BOARD REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Staff Report

Melissa Hill and Bethany Pottinger, members of the WTA, provided an update to the board from the teachers. They thanked Dawn for her collaboration with the board over the years and congratulated Joan and Kevin for winning their election. Teaching staff across the district found creative ways to support students during state testing. Some of the highlights were “off Chromebook time”, no homework that required technology, therapy dogs at some of the schools, growth mindset work, and special decorations to encourage the students. The Friends of Education and the WTA scholarships have been determined, please look for upcoming announcements. The WTA is looking forward to negotiations.

B. Student Reports

1. Student Council Report

Abigail Anderson and Alena Wagoner are the student representatives from the high school they were both unable to make it to this meeting, but sent a summary of what is happening at the high school. The science and service trip going to Peru this summer, member of each political party hosted during contact time on April 8th. Prom is this Saturday and there is a prom speaker on Thursday. Leadership workshop on April 6th, students nominated by teachers. Forensics had WFCAs this past weekend. Future problem solvers are currently at the state competition. The pre-act is on Tuesday and Wednesday.

2. Warrior Spotlight

The HS MSAN (Multicultural Student Achievement Network) students gave an update on their group, being part of the WHS student body and the upcoming conference.

C. Board Reports/Action Items

1. Individual Board Reports on Educational Related Events, Meetings, or Trainings Attended by Individual Board Members. The board talked about the tour of the new MS for the Legislators Monday at 10:30am. Thank you to the community for electing Joan Ensign and Kevin Thornberg to the board. Thank you to Ripp’s Dairy farm for the tour they gave to kindergarteners.

2. National School Staff Appreciation Week Board Correspondence

National School Staff Appreciation Week is May 4-8, 2026. Attached please find a draft correspondence that Mark Hetzel and Communication Specialist, Anne Blackburn, would like consideration from the Board on sending to all staff during the week of May 4th. They are seeking board feedback and consideration.

3. Spring Election Update

The canvass results of the April 7, 2026 election were shared.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Human Resources Committee

1. The minutes of the March 18, 2026 HR committee meeting were reviewed.
2. 26-27 Plan Year Insurance Committee Update -
Grabarski explained and answered questions regarding the changes from the Insurance Committee of an increase to the employee dental contributions of 13%, changes to the health plan structure incorporating coinsurance in the HMO and copays in the HDHP and offering supplemental insurance options at employee cost. A motion was made by Hetzel, second by Eaton, to approve the changes to insurance as presented. Motion carried 7-0.
3. Discuss the proposed change of the social workers from an administrative support style contract to a teacher -style contract for the 2026-2027 school year.
Grabarski explained and answered questions regarding the social worker requests to review their contract structure. A motion was made by Sonne, second by Eaton to approve the change for the 26/27 contract year moving forward, while allowing the dissenting members of the group to remain with their current administrative-style contract structure. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Co-Curricular Committee

1. The minutes from the April 2, 2026 Co-Curricular meeting have been reviewed.
2. 2026-27 Handbooks
Conrad explained and answered questions regarding the WHS Co-Curricular handbook, the WMS Co-Curricular handbook and the WCSD Coaches Handbook.
A motion was made by Frey, second by Sonne, to approve the handbook changes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

XII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Update on District 4K Program

Newton and Summers provided an update on 4K planning for 2026-27.

B. Administrative Update

Alexandra Newton gave an update on WCSD Business Services

C. Announcements

Dr. Brown reminded everyone to complete the survey that was received in the mail recently.

XIII. CONSENT AGENDA

The board acknowledged the generous gifts from The Meadows, Waunakee Ecumenical board, the Hetzels, the Village Mobil, Vogel Brothers, and EUA.

A motion was made by Hetzel, seconded 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 Drills Report

D. Consideration of the 2026-2027 CESA 2 Contract

E. Gifts and Field Trips

1. Gifts

- a. Mark Hetzel \$1200.00 for Student Financial Assistance Fund
- b. The Meadows of Sixmile Creek - \$1500.00 toward Van Wrap
- c. The Waunakee Ecumenical Board 12 - \$40 fuel-only Kwik Trip Cards for the WCSD Social Workers to assist families enrolled in the Free & Reduced Lunch Program
- d. Village Mobil - \$250.00 Student Financial Aid Fund.

- e. Vogel Brothers - \$500.00 Student Financial Aid Fund.
- f. Eppstein Uhen Architects, Inc. \$20,000 to Student Financial Aid Fund.
- 2. Field Trips
 - a. Physics Lab Trip to Great America — Gurnee IL.
 - b. Engineering Machine Design Championship - Mankato MN April 16-17, 2026
- F. Approve Individual Administrator, Teacher, Co-Curricular, Support Staff & Custodial Recommendations, Resignations, Leaves & Retirements

New Administrative Staff

Amy Fassbender, Director of Elementary Curriculum & Instruction

Joel Lewis, Social Worker, IS

Philip Smith, Director of Technology

New Teaching Staff

Adaora Bilse, Special Education Transition Program Teacher, HS

Julie Erickson, 4K Teacher, HES (New)

Holly Salverson, 4K Teacher, AES (New)

Michelle Townley, 4K Teacher, PES (New)

New Support Staff

Nancy Gibba, Custodian, HS

Hector Padilla, Technology Assistant, HS/MS

Resignations

Amy Heatherman, Special Education/Cross Categorical Teacher, IS

Lindsey Laufenberg, Associate Principal, IS

Catherine Lowery, Music Teacher, IS

Paulette Rodriguez, Para Educator Special Education, AES

Retirements

Heather Horn, LMTC Assistant, IS

Lori Ketter, 6th Grade Teacher, IS

Corey King, Alternative Education Teacher, HS

Sharon Thompson, French Teacher, HS

Internal Changes - No Action

Howard Losinger, from Custodian, IS, to Head Custodian, IS

Christine Olkowski, from Kindergarten Teacher, PES, to 2nd Grade Teacher, AES

Janelle Pherson, from Title I Interventionist, HES/MS, to Reading Interventionist, IS

Co-curricular staff updates posted in the extra section of boardbook.

- G. Approve Summer School Contract Recommendations

Summer School staff updates posted in the extra section of boardbook.

XIV. BOARD BUSINESS

- A. Board Reorganization

For the Board Reorganization, Rebecca will provide all Board Members with a document to choose their committee preferences as well as officer interest.

- B. Legislative Update

- C. Correspondence

XV. FUTURE AGENDAS AND MEETINGS

- A. Agenda Items for Next Board Meeting

B. Special Meetings

Reorg - May 5th @ 7:30am A motion was made by Eaton, second by Murray, to approve the reorganizational meeting as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

BOE Summer Workshop — before August board meeting TBD

BOE Annual Meeting - August 24th @ 7:00pm A motion was made by Sonne, second by Hetzel, motion carried 7-0.

C. Budget Committee

D. Co-Curricular Committee

E. Curriculum Committee

F. Facilities Committee

G. Insurance Committee

H. Human Resources Committee

I. Policy Committee

J. DEI Committee

XVI. **RETURN TO CLOSED SESSION** - NA

XVII. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION** - NA

XVIII. **ACTION AS APPROPRIATE, ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION** - NA

XIX. **ADJOURN**

The Board of Education adjourned at 8:10pm on a motion by Heinrichs, second by Murray, and passed unanimously by voice vote 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlena Eaton, Clerk

Date: _____
CE/rm