

**WEST BEND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1**  
**Education Service Center**  
**735 S. Main Street**  
**West Bend, WI 53095**

**Regular School Board Meeting**  
**Education Service Center**  
**Monday, February 9, 2026**

**Members present:** June Kruger, Chris Jenkins, Kelly Lang, Chris Zwygart, Melanie Ehrgott, Joe Pichler, Chad Tamez (virtual)

**1. Opening Items**

**A. Call to Order**

School Board President Chris Zwygart called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Approval of Agenda**

Chris Zwygart moved approval of the agenda; Mrs. Ehrgott seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0 upon roll call vote; Mr. Zwygart, Mrs. Lang, Dr. Tamez, Mrs. Kruger, Mr. Jenkins, Mrs. Ehrgott, Mr. Pichler

**2. Student Reports**

**A. Student reporters:** Hailey Kuester, East senior; Isabella Downs, East junior; Quinn Mathe, East senior, presented recent achievements of athletic teams, clubs, and students at the high school, as well as upcoming high school events.

**3. Public Participation**

- None

**4. Consent Agenda**

**A. Minutes of the January 26, 2026 Regular Board Meeting and Executive Session**

**B. Contracts**

**C. Resignations**

**D. Retirements**

**E. Summer 2026 Early College Credit Approvals**

**F. Findorff AIA Contract Amendment-Green Tree and McLane Projects**

**G. Interpretation Services Agreement**

**H. Disbursements posted to January 30, 2026**

Mr. Zwygart moved approval of the consent agenda, Mr. Pichler seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0 upon roll call vote: Mrs. Lang, Mrs. Kruger, Mr. Pichler, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Zwygart, Mrs. Ehrgott, Dr. Tamez.

**4. Reports**

**A. Curriculum Committee Report**

Melanie Ehrgott, Committee Chair, reported on the Curriculum Committee meeting held on February 3, 2026. The K-12 music curriculum review has completed its evaluation phase and will now move into review and revision, including updating curriculum maps, improving instructional units, reviewing orchestra materials, and developing a training plan. The district is reviewing alternatives to its current online alternative education platform, Imagine Edgenuity, which has been in use for eight years. A pilot program with the new platform Subject will include approximately 50 students and 11 staff members during second semester, with a recommendation to follow at year end. The committee reviewed district assessment data for the winter report and quarter four book club selections, with one book moved from seventh to eighth grade for better alignment.

**B. Construction Reports**

Tim Harder, Director of Facilities and Technology, reported on construction progress. Fencing installation has begun at the future Jackson Elementary and demolition of the former Department of Public Works building at the site is underway. A safety note will be sent to Jackson families regarding the construction site. More significant construction activity will occur in spring. At the next board meeting,

a contract for AIA change orders will be presented for summer work at Silverbrook, Badger, and the exterior of Green Tree, scheduled to begin two days after school ends. Bid returns have been positive and are under review. The major groundbreaking will take place later in spring once frost lines permit.

### **C. Compensation Update**

Lenny Hanson, Assistant Superintendent, provided an update on compensation negotiations. The administration has been engaged in base wage negotiations with the negotiation team from the West Bend Education Association (WBEA) through multiple sessions. Additional sessions are scheduled, and updates will be provided.

### **D. Financial Report**

Assistant Superintendent, Lenny Hanson, presented the monthly financial report. December's expenditure performance reflected a triple payroll month. Cash flow remains at its second-best level over the past five years, insurance plan costs are within budgeted projections, and overall expenditure pace is on track. Regarding debt management, proactive bond proceeds investment strategy has eliminated approximately one and a half years from the district's 20-year debt repayment term. Additional cost reductions may be achieved through refinancing and strategic early debt payments. Two employee benefit contracts are approaching renewal. The nearside health clinic contract with Froedtert expires this summer. The administration will conduct a Request for Proposals process for this service, with a board recommendation anticipated later this spring. The pharmacy benefit manager contract with OptumRx expires at the end of 2026. The administration will evaluate options and conduct a Request for Proposals process. A contract for pharmacy benefit manager consulting services is anticipated to come before the board later this year.

### **E. Student Engagement and Behavior Report: First Semester**

Emily Melstrand, Director of Student Services, presented the first semester behavior report. The district is on target to meet both behavioral goals, with over 95% of students in grades seven through ten achieving zero to one referrals for disrespectful behaviors, exceeding the 93% goal. District-wide, 98 to 99% of students meet safety expectations. Badger High School showed significant progress with students in the zero to one referral category increasing by 4.4% over the past three years. Success factors include clear expectations, family engagement, and earlier intervention. Planning is underway for integrating sixth grade into Badger, and future goals will focus on fine-tuning minor behaviors.

### **F. Winter Screening Data Results**

Tina Van Roo, Student Data and Assessment Coordinator, presented winter screening data results. The Enhanced ACT will be administered to juniors on March 17th, and Wisconsin Forward exams begin in mid-March. If winter to spring growth mirrors fall to winter progress, the district will be on track to meet goals.

### **G. Superintendents Report**

Dr. Jennifer Wimmer, Superintendent, shared that the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association Distinguished Service Award was presented to Bill Knight, a bus driver for Go Riteway, for his dedication to student athletes. Updates on district events were also given.

## **6. Discussion**

### **A. Financial Forecast**

Assistant Superintendent, Lenny Hanson, presented the district's three-year financial forecast. The forecast was built on a starting assumption of no changes to current operations and serves as the foundation for the administration's multi-month budget development process leading to a final budget recommendation to the Board in late October. To achieve a balanced budget for 2026-2027, the district identified a need to reduce expenses by 6.1%. Through work completed to date, the administration has already identified 4.5% in expense decreases, with approximately 1.5% remaining to be addressed. The administration has established guiding principles to frame budget decisions: prioritizing instructional programming, maintaining current class sizes, preserving existing student pathways and programs, and sustaining investment in district facilities. Administration will continue to update the Board as planning progresses.

### **B. High Schools Configuration**

Dr. Jennifer Wimmer, Superintendent, shared an update on the high school configuration engagement. The first community meeting drew nearly 50 attendees, with the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 11th at 6:00 p.m. at the high school. The online survey has received 2,230 responses to date. The survey closes on the 16th, and data will be synthesized for board review in March.

## **7. Future Agenda Items**

### **A. Board Meeting Calendar**

- Policy Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m., February 17, 2026
- Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., February 23, 2026
- Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., March 9, 2026
- Curriculum Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m., March 17, 2026

### **B. Items for Follow-up and Communication**

- None

#### **8. Adjourn into Executive Session**

Mr. Zwycart moved to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, and take any such action, if necessary, based on its discussion, namely: compensation and base wage negotiations; Mr. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0 upon roll call vote: Mr. Pichler, Mr. Zwycart, Dr. Tamez, Mrs. Kruger, Mrs. Lang, Mrs. Ehrgott, Mr. Jenkins. The meeting adjourned into executive session at 6:56 p.m. There was discussion regarding compensation, base wage negotiations, and employment.

#### **9. Reconvene into Open Session**

Mr. Zwycart moved to reconvene back into open session, Mrs. Kruger seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0 upon roll call vote: Mr. Zwycart, Mrs. Lang, Dr. Tamez, Mrs. Kruger, Mr. Jenkins, Mrs. Ehrgott, Mr. Pichler. The meeting reconvened into open session at 7:31 p.m.

#### **10. Adjourn**

Mr. Zwycart moved to adjourn; Mrs. Lang seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0 upon roll call vote: Mr. Zwycart, Mrs. Ehrgott, Mrs. Lang, Dr. Tamez, Mr. Pichler, Mr. Jenkins, Mrs. Kruger. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Melanie Ehrgott**  
**Clerk**