

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, January 26, 2026

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

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,

2. Public Participation

- None

3. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes of the January 12, 2026 Regular Board Meeting and Executive Session

B. Contracts

C. Resignations

D. Retirements

E. Agreement Modification with Eppstein Uhen Architects (EUA): Fixed Fee Amount for Jackson, Silverbrook and Badger Projects

F. East and West Golf Team Course Usage Agreement for Spring 2026 Season

G. Enrollment Projections for Open Enrollment Seats

Dr. Jennifer Wimmer, Superintendent, presented the enrollment projections for open enrollment seats for the 2026-2027 school year. Dr. Jennifer Wimmer, Superintendent, presented the enrollment projections for open enrollment seats for the 2026-2027 school year. The School Board approved the following open enrollment seats for the 2026-2027 school year.

- K4-44 seats available for regular education, 0 seats available for special education
- K5-41 seats available for regular education, 0 seats available for special education
- 1st grade-5 seats available for regular education, 0 seats available for special education
- 2nd grade-5 seats available for regular education, 0 seats available for special education
- 3rd grade-20 seats available for regular education, 0 seats available for special education
- 4th grade-7 seats available for regular education, 0 seats available for special education
- 5th grade-0 seats available for regular education, 0 seats available for special education
- 6th grade-2 seats available for regular education, 0 seats available for special education
- 7th grade-2 seats available for regular education, 0 seats available for special education
- 8th grade-0 seats available for regular education, 0 seats available for special education
- 9th grade-14 seats available for regular education, 0 seats available for special education
- 10th grade-4 seats available for regular education, 0 seats available for special education
- 11th grade-3 seats available for regular education, 0 seats available for special education
- 12th grade-3 seats available for regular education, 0 seats available for special education.
- The administration reported that while there is limited capacity on special education caseloads for comprehensive special education services, there are opportunities available for students who require speech and language services only.

While special education caseloads are at capacity, the district may accept open enrollment students who require speech and language services only. Mr. Zwygart moved approval of the consent agenda, Mr. Pichler seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0.

4. Reports

A. Construction Report

Tim Harder, Director of Facilities and Technology, provided a construction update. Summer projects include the new Jackson Elementary building, improvements at Silverbrook and Badger facilities, and parking lot safety upgrades at Green Tree. All projects are currently out to bid. The Green Tree project will require City of West Bend Plan Commission approval once bids are finalized. The Jackson project remains on schedule for spring ground breaking, and preparatory work has begun at the site following the board's previous approval to sell the existing building for selective demolition and material reuse.

B. Financial Report

Lenny Hanson, Assistant Superintendent, presented the financial report. The district completed the sale of the remaining \$26.25 million in promissory notes associated with the November 2024 referendum on January 13th. The sale resulted in an all-in interest cost of 3 percent, significantly below the anticipated 4.75 percent rate communicated before the referendum. Combined with the April 2025 issuance, the district has reduced projected interest costs by \$10.7 million, representing an 18 percent reduction in taxpayer interest payments. The district maintained its double A credit rating from S&P for the sale. Proceeds will be received in early February and managed by American Deposit Management to ensure availability throughout project timelines while earning interest. Hanson also reported routine adjustments to budget forecast assumptions based on updated information from financial partners and the Department of Public Instruction, continuing the practice established with the comprehensive assumptions presented in December.

C. Superintendents Report

Dr. Jennifer Wimmer, Superintendent, reported that the ballot placement drawing for the spring school board election was held in January. Three candidates submitted paperwork for the April 7th election and will appear on the ballot as follows: Kelly Lang, Chad Tamez, and June Krueger, all seeking to return to their positions. The Superintendent provided an update on elementary boundary work necessitated by the upcoming closures of Fair Park and Decorah and the transition of Silverbrook to an elementary property. Dr. Wimmer also provided updates regarding district events.

5. Discussion

A. Financial Forecast

Lenny Hanson, Assistant Superintendent, presented the financial forecast outlining the district's multi-year forecasting process. The district utilizes a three-year forecast period to provide early visibility into fiscal challenges and allow for thoughtful planning. The forecast begins with conservative assumptions before incorporating realistic reductions through attrition and efficiency measures. Hanson presented revenue and expense trend data showing inflation has been double the district's per pupil revenue increases over fifteen years, representing a large revenue shortfall compared to pre-2011 levels. Special education reimbursement currently projects at thirty-five percent despite state projections of forty-two percent. Health insurance costs have increased much faster than per pupil revenues over the past ten years. The district allocates more resources to classroom instruction than the state average by operating more efficiently in other areas. Next steps include validation of modeling by financial partners, exploration of expense reduction opportunities, and presentation of the three-year projection to the board in coming weeks.

B. High Schools Configuration: Community Engagement

Dr. Jennifer Wimmer, Superintendent, provided an update on high school configuration and community engagement. Community forums are scheduled for February 2, 2026 and February 11, 2026 at 6 p.m. at the high school with tours available following sessions. The Superintendent will meet with high school and Badger student leadership teams, attend lunch hours for small group feedback circles, and conduct an athletics-focused group for Badger students. A staff meeting is scheduled in February for high school staff input. A survey will launch February 2, 2026 through February 16, 2026. Additional outreach will include meetings with PTO leaders, targeted communications to elected officials, and availability for civic groups. Input will be gathered through February, with the board set to synthesize feedback in March.

6. Action

A. School Year Calendar 2026-2027

Mr. Zwygart moved to approve the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar as presented, Mr. Jenkins seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0.

B. Findorff AIA Contract Amendment - Jackson Elementary School Project

Mr. Zwygart moved to approve the amended Findorff AIA contract for Jackson Elementary School project as presented, Dr. Tamez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0.

7. Future Agenda Items

A. Board Meeting Calendar

- Curriculum Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m., February 3, 2026

- Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., February 9, 2026
- Policy Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m., February 17, 2026
- Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., February 23, 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; Mrs. Lang seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0 upon roll call vote: Mr. Pichler, Mrs. Kruger, Mrs. Lang, Mr. Zwycart, Mrs. Ehr Gott, Mr. Jenkins, Dr. Tamez. The meeting adjourned into executive session at 6:21 p.m. There was discussion regarding compensation and base wage negotiations.

9. Reconvene into Open Session

Mr. Zwycart moved to reconvene back into open session, Mrs. Lang seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0 upon roll call vote: Dr. Tamez, Mrs. Kruger, Mrs. Ehr Gott, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. Pichler, Mr. Zwycart, Mrs. Lang. The meeting reconvened into open session at 6:59 p.m.

10. Adjourn

Mr. Zwycart moved to adjourn; Mrs. Kruger seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Ehr Gott

Clerk