

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 12, 2026

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

Absent and excused: Chris Jenkins and 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. Lang seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 5-0,

2. Recognition

A. State Recognition: East Girls Cross Country

Assistant Coach Kara Moran recognized athletes who qualified for State.

3. Student Reports

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

4. Public Participation

- None

5. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes of the December 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting and Executive Session

B. Contracts

C. Resignations

D. Retirements

E. Authorization to Expend Jackson Trust Fund as Part of Jackson School Construction Project

F. Sale of Building (Former Department of Public Works Garage-New Jackson Elementary Site)

G. Fiber Optic Extension Agreement

H. Summer School 2026 Program Plan

I. Accept Monetary Donation from the West Bend Public Schools Foundation

J. Disbursements posted to January 2, 2026

Mr. Zwygart moved approval of the consent agenda, Mr. Pichler seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.

6. Action

A. Audited Financial Statements for 2024-2025 Effective June 30, 2025 and Fund Balance Designation

Lenny Hanson, Assistant Superintendent, introduced Bryan Grunewald, Principal auditor of the CliftonLarsonAllen team. Mr. Grunewald presented and discussed highlights of the 2024-2025 audit. Mr. Zwygart moved to accept and file the 2024-2025 audited financial statements and approve the fund balance designations as presented, Mr. Pichler seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.

7. Reports

A. Construction Report (Including Introduction of Owners' Representatives from Huffman Keel Partners, Inc.)

Tim Harder, Director of Facilities and Technology, introduced the team from Huffman Keel Partners, Inc., the owner's representatives for the Jackson and High Schools projects. The Jackson Project plans have been submitted to state and local entities for review, and bids have been received. The Findorff team is reviewing bids and will present analysis to district leadership, followed by introduction of the Guaranteed Maximum Price contract change. Construction is targeted to start March 2, 2026, with metal removal from the Department of Public Works building. The Silverbrook and Badger projects are currently out for public bid with bids due January 28th. The High Schools project remains in the planning and design phase with ongoing engagement of school teams and district leadership in collaboration with project partners.

B. Curriculum Committee Report

Melanie Ehr Gott, Committee Chair, reported on the Curriculum Committee meeting held on January 6, 2026. The new math materials are showing positive early results with increased student engagement. Teachers continue training, and feedback will be collected this winter and spring. Elementary literacy implementation continues in year two for K-4 and year one for grade 5, with teachers reporting increased confidence and anecdotal student growth. The K-12 music curriculum review is nearing completion. The music department recommended transitioning fifth-grade music to general music and discontinuing the summer band camp, with instrument selection beginning in sixth grade. The committee reviewed ongoing work on high-impact teaching strategies guiding curriculum decisions district-wide. The committee noted steady progress across all initiatives.

C. Financial Report

Lenny Hanson, Assistant Superintendent, presented an update on district finances. The monthly fiscal performance review showed expenditure trends tracking similar compared to prior years. The district is at its seasonal low point for cash flow as state aid and tax payments begin arriving, which is typical for this time of year. Cash flow is slightly below last year but above historical levels. Substitute expenses are 2.2% higher than last year, down from 5.2% a month ago, due to seasonal variations and timing of long-term leaves. Mr. Hansen reported the district is selling \$26.25 million in promissory notes tied to the November 2024 referendum, with the sale scheduled for the following day. S&P maintained the district's AA rating, placing it in the top fifth of all S&P-rated school districts in the state. The first bond sale secured a 4.42% interest rate, 0.33% below projections, saving the district \$8 million in interest costs. A final report on the sale results will be presented at the next board meeting. Future discussion will include short and long-term forecasting information.

8. Information

A. Annual Parental Notice of District Educational Options

Dr. Jennifer Wimmer, Superintendent, shared the Annual Parental Notice of District Educational Options with parents of students residing in the District, as required by Wisconsin State Statute. This notice provides information about the educational options offered in the District and the school's performance rating from the state accountability program administered by the Department of Public Instruction. The notice is sent to families using the same methods the District employs for other district-wide communications. Additionally, a Class 1 notice will be published and posted on the school district website.

9. Discussion

A. Enrollment Projections for Open Enrollment Seats

Dr. Jennifer Wimmer, Superintendent, presented the enrollment projections for 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. A formal recommendation for seats will be brought to the January 26th meeting.

B. Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) Delegate Assembly Proposed 2026 Resolutions

Dr. Jennifer Wimmer, Superintendent, shared the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) Delegate Assembly proposed 2026 resolutions. There are 12 proposed resolutions. In addition to the resolutions, there is a proposed amendment to the Bylaws being presented for consideration.

C. High Schools Configuration

Dr. Jennifer Wimmer, Superintendent, presented on high schools configuration community survey development and engagement planning. The district is entering the engagement window through February with community meetings and focus groups regarding high school configuration. A survey has been drafted for broad community distribution. To avoid an overly lengthy survey, a supplementary resource page will be created allowing respondents to access additional information by section as needed.

10. Future Agenda Items

A. Board Meeting Calendar

- Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., January 26, 2026
- 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

B. Items for Follow-up and Communication

- Add open enrollment projections item to consent agenda for next meeting
- Continue to add standing item to agenda regarding high schools configuration
- Boundary recommendations for elementary school reconfiguration will be presented for School Board review after final school community feedback session
- Calendar for 2026-2027 school year to be presented at next board meeting for review and action

11. Adjourn into Executive Session

Mr. Zwygart 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, base wage negotiation, and employment; Mrs. Ehrgott seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 5-0 upon roll call vote: Mr. Zwygart, Mr. Pichler, Mrs. Kruger, Mrs. Ehrgott, Mrs. Lang. The meeting adjourned into executive session at 6:39 p.m. There was discussion regarding employment.

12. Reconvene into Open Session

Mr. Zwygart moved to reconvene back into open session, Mrs. Lang seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 5-0 upon roll call vote: Mr. Pichler, Mrs. Ehrgott, Mr. Zwygart, Mrs. Kruger, Mrs. Lang. The meeting reconvened into open session at 7:19 p.m.

13. Adjourn

Mr. Zwygart moved to adjourn; Mrs. Kruger seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Ehrgott
Clerk