

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, May 11, 2026

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

Absent and excused: Chad Tamez

Chris Jenkins excused himself from the meeting at 7:00 p.m. due to a schedule conflict, his absence is excused.

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 6-0.

2. Recognition

A. Recognition of Employee Award Recipients

The Board recognized the recipients of the 2026 Rolf's Education Foundation awards and the 2026 Support Staff Employee awards.

3. Student Reports

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.

4. Public Participation

- None

5. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes of the April 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting and Executive Session

B. Minutes of the May 5, 2026 Special Board Meeting

C. Contracts

D. Resignations

E. Retirements

F. Traffic Impact Analysis Contract: High School Campus

G. Girl Scout Camp Interagency Agreement

H. Out of Country Trip: French Trip

I. Early Onboarding of Mechanical Sub-Contractors for High School Construction

J. Disbursements posted to May 1, 2026

Mr. Zwygart moved approval of the consent agenda, Mr. Pichler seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 6-0.

6. Reports

A. Curriculum Committee Report

Melanie Ehrgott, Committee Chair, reported on the Curriculum Committee meeting held on May 5, 2026. Following a pilot comparison of credit recovery platforms, the committee recommends Subject.com for Alternative Education software resource, with contract and pricing details to be brought forward at a future meeting. Additionally, following a multi-month evaluation process that included resource screenings, vendor presentations, site visits, and a public viewing period, the committee recommends adopting Savvas myPerspectives as the primary instructional materials for 6th–8th grade English Language Arts, citing its writing support, vertical alignment with K–5 instruction, and tools for diverse learners. This item appears on the agenda this evening for discussion.

B. Construction Reports

Tim Harder, Director of Facilities and Technology, reported on construction progress. At Badger Middle School, off-hours work will begin on the first-floor locker room next week, along with early mechanical work including wire-pulling for a new fire alarm system. Starting this work ahead of summer is intended to allow for an earlier return of staff prior to fall. At Green Tree Elementary, crews will begin mobilizing approximately one week before the end of the school year to begin a new parking lot and drop-off area approved through the referendum. The redesigned layout will separate bus and parent drop-off and add parking to serve students relocating from Rolf's Education Center as well as address existing overflow parking needs. At Jackson Elementary, the project has advanced from site grading to active foundation work, with footings currently being poured. Daily inspections are being conducted by the general contractor, subcontractors, the Village of Jackson, and third-party testing firm Miller Scientists as required by state commercial building regulations.

C. Financial Report

Lenny Hanson, Assistant Superintendent, presented the monthly fiscal performance report through March. Overall expenditures are tracking as expected, with some anticipated catch-up spending projected toward year-end in vendor payments, transfers, and purchased services. A larger-than-typical salary and benefit expenditure in March was due to retroactive pay on this year's raises, though the same timing occurred last year, keeping the year-over-year comparison consistent. Substitute costs are expected to come in at or slightly under budget, and health and dental insurance remain within budgeted amounts. Revenues are performing as expected following the typical mid-year pattern. Cash flow is at its second highest level in five years, and no short-term borrowing is anticipated for the current fiscal year. Year-end state compliance reporting is in progress.

D. Superintendents Report

Dr. Jennifer Wimmer, Superintendent, reported on highlights, events, and celebrations happening in the West Bend School District.

7. Discussion

A. Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) Service Agreements

Dr. Jennifer Wimmer, Superintendent, presented the Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) Service Agreements for board discussion. The agreements are largely a continuation of prior year services, with many costs covered through state and federal grant funding.

B. Grade 6-8 English Language Arts Resource Recommendation

Crissy Steinhaus, Badger Language Arts teacher, and Kelly Downs, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the grade 6-8 English Language Arts resource recommendation, SAVVAS My Perspectives. Following a thorough review process that began in September, the curriculum team evaluated 25 resources, narrowing the field through rubric scoring, EdReports evaluations, vendor presentations, site visits to neighboring districts, and a staff consultation survey. Preliminary contract options range from one to six years, with a six-year agreement providing complimentary novels annually. Year one implementation would include summer training, professional development throughout the year, and coaching support from SAVVAS representatives. The recommended resource is supported by the Curriculum Committee.

C. Budget Development

Lenny Hanson, Assistant Superintendent, presented an update on the district's multi-year budget development process, noting the district's goal of maintaining long-term financial stability rather than a reactive year-to-year approach. He reported that the projected budget gap for the 2026-2027 school year has been reduced from 6.1% to approximately 1.5% through departmental efficiencies and strategic reductions, with a target of reaching a fully balanced budget. Hanson noted that a tentative state budget deal announced earlier that day would, if approved by the legislature, provide some benefit to the district, primarily through \$300 million in statewide special education reimbursement funding and \$300 million in property tax relief. He emphasized that while the deal is positive news, it will not independently resolve the district's long-term budget challenges. Hanson highlighted that as the district looks for opportunities to close the budget gap, it operates from a solid foundation. Teacher retention is above the regional average at 97.4%. Teacher salaries and employee health insurance benefits outpace the region as well. The board was advised that a preliminary budget will be forthcoming, with a comprehensive budget to follow in the fall once key state aid figures are released by DPI.

8. Action

A. Board Officers, Terms, and Election

Mr. Jenkins nominated Mr. Zwygart for President, Mrs. Lang for Vice President, Mr. Pichler for Treasurer, Mrs. Ehr Gott for Clerk, and Peggy Schmidt for Board Secretary; Mr. Zwygart, Mrs. Lang, Mr. Pichler, Mrs. Ehr Gott, and Peggy Schmidt accepted the nominations. All officer positions were uncontested. Mr. Zwygart moved to elect Mr. Zwygart for President, Mrs. Lang for Vice President, Mr. Pichler for Treasurer, Mrs. Ehr Gott for Clerk, and Peggy Schmidt for Board Secretary; Mrs. Lang seconded; the motion was approved 6-0.

B. Board Committee and Delegate Assignments

Mr. Jenkins volunteered to continue as the district Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) 6 Board of Controls Representative. Mrs. Kruger volunteered to continue as the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) School Board Convention Delegate, Mr. Pichler volunteered to serve as her alternate. Mrs. Ehrgott volunteered to continue to serve as representative on the Head Start Committee. Policy Committee members will include Dr. Tamez, Mr. Pichler, Mr. Zwygart, and Mr. Jenkins. Curriculum Committee members will include Mrs. Kruger, Mrs. Lang, and Mrs. Ehrgott. Mr. Zwygart moved to elect the board committee members and delegate assignments as presented, Mr. Jenkins seconded; the motion was approved 6-0.

C. School Board Meeting Calendar 2026-2027

Mr. Zwygart moved to approve the School Board Meeting Calendar 2026-2027 with a 5:30 p.m. meeting start time as presented, Mr. Pichler seconded; the motion was approved 6-0.

9. Future Agenda Items

A. Board Meeting Calendar

- Policy Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m., May 19, 2026
- Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., May 26, 2026 (Tuesday)
- Curriculum Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m., June 2, 2026
- Regular Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., June 8, 2026

B. Items for Follow-up and Communication

- None

10. 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: employment; Mrs. Lang seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 6-0 upon roll call vote: Mr. Zwygart, Mrs. Lang, Mrs. Kruger, Mr. Jenkins, Mrs. Ehrgott, Mr. Pichler. The meeting adjourned into executive session at 6:59 p.m. There was discussion regarding employment.

Mr. Jenkins left at 7:00 p.m. prior to Executive Session.

11. 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: Mrs. Kruger, Mrs. Lang, Mrs. Ehrgott, Mr. Zwygart, Mr. Pichler. The meeting reconvened into open session at 7:32 p.m.

12. Adjourn

Mr. Zwygart moved to adjourn; Mrs. Kruger seconded. The motion was approved unanimously 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Ehrgott

Clerk