# Minutes for Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

**To Be Held in the District Board Room**
**1055 Griffiths Lane**
**Ashwaubenon WI 54304**
**(Phone: 920.492.2900)**

**Wednesday, October 28, 2026** **6:30 pm**

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**A. Call to order:** Board President Vyskocil called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**B. Roll call:**

Board Members Present: Vyskocil, Garrigan, VandeWalle, Anderson, Kirst
Board Members Excused: all present
School Choice Advisory Representative: Matthew Rotter
Other Present: Andy Bake, Janelle Marotz, Tammy Nicholson, Michael Heim, Scott Truskowski, Jake Hintz, Nick Senger, Kane Mach, Rick VanLanen, Francine Craig

**C. Declaration of quorum:** Quorum present

**D. Pledge of allegiance:** The pledge was recited

**E. Adoption of Agenda:** Moved by Anderson, seconded by VandeWalle to adopt the agenda as presented. Aye 5 (Vyskocil, Garrigan, VandeWalle, Anderson, Kirst), Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0

**F. Citizens and/or delegations:**

- Rick VanLanen (2673 Pioneer Dr.) – Rick provided an update on the Brown County Board's October 28th budget work. He recognized Zek Przybelski and Gary Paul for their participation in the October 27th Honor Flight to Washington. This is a well-deserved recognition for Zek and Paul.

**G. Consent Agenda:** Moved by VandeWalle, seconded by Anderson to approve items 1-6 on the Consent Agenda as presented. Aye 5 (Vyskocil, Garrigan, VandeWalle, Anderson, Kirst), Nay 0. Motion carries 5:0

1. Minutes of the regular meeting held on Wednesday, September 9, 2026
2. Minutes of the special meeting held on Wednesday, September 16, 2026
3. Minutes of the board retreat held on Monday, October 5, 2026
4. Minutes of the board work session held on Wednesday, October 21, 2026
5. The schedule of checks written 09/01/26 to 09/30/26
6. There were 13 co-curriculars presented for approval

**H. Superintendent's Report:**

- **Fall athletics / clubs –** Andy provided a recap of accomplishments in girls tennis, girls golf, cross country, volleyball, football, CenterStage Encore singers, GAPP students visit and National Merit Scholars.
- **2026-27 Budget / Levy**
  - School district budgeting is uniquely challenging – must commit to staff levels in April for upcoming year, build a preliminary budget based on our best estimates in July; and receive the final, official revenue and enrollment numbers in late October. All this takes placed nearly two months after school starts and six months after hiring decisions were made.
  - For the past three years, this board has been an exceptional steward of taxpayer dollars. Thanks to careful management, we chose to under-levy between $200,000 and $982,000 each year, using less than the $3.9 million our voters approved in the 2023 referendum. We committed to under-levy if the state provided additional funding and inflation remained manageable.
  - We were able to keep this commitment for as long as we possibly could. Due to several unexpected financial shifts that occurred over the last few months, this year will be difficult to under-levy (i.e. high inflation, frozen state aid, an inability for the state to maintain their commitment to reimburse for 45% of special education costs, and rising private school voucher payments). All this change results in not being able to maintain our current programs and services for students without utilizing our full voter-approved revenue authority.

- The board is being asked to approve using the full $3.9 million referendum authority for this year's tax levy. This decision allows us to protect the quality of our students' education while remaining within the limits our voters previously authorized.

- **School Board Appreciation Month** – Thank you to the board for their continued dedication to our students, schools, and community. We are so lucky to have the student-centered community advocates that we have serving on our board. The conversations that happen at this board table and the difficult decisions that need to be made require a great deal of focus and time to review data. Know that your work is truly appreciated.

**I. Discussion Items:**

**J. Action Items:**

1. **Dance Team Trip - November 2026 and January 2027:** Nick Senger presented two overnight trips for the high school Dance Team. Both of these events have been attended in the past. They are coming to the board for approval to align with district policy regarding overnight trips.
   - WACPC Fall Leadership Conference - November 13-15, Wisconsin Dells – this is a leadership conference designed for Junior and Senior dancers. Typically, our Junior dancers attend. The conference is designed to develop athlete leaders, strengthen team culture, and develop dancers into leaders in their programs. Students that attend bring their leadership training back to the team and work with others.
   - Best of the Best Showcase – January 9-10, University of Minnesota – the team is invited to perform with some of the strongest collegiate and high school dance teams. Cost for this trip has been completely fundraised and no school will be missed

   Moved by Anderson, seconded by VandeWalle to approved the overnight Dance Team trips in November 2026 to compete in the WACPC Fall Leadership Conference and in January 2027 to compete in the University of Minnesota Best of the Best Showcase as presented. Aye 5 (Vyskocil, Garrigan, VandeWalle, Anderson, Kirst), Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0

2. **Parent and Family Engagement in Title I Programs:** Michael share that the Parent and Family Engagement in Title I Programs and related policy 2261.01 must be presented to the board annually for review and approval. Ashwaubenon's Title I schools are Cormier and Valley View. He stated that Michele Schmidt, Deb Patterson, and Stacie Schabow organize and collaborate all family engagement opportunities. Michael shared some of these opportunities. These individuals review these opportunities with families during open houses and use all information gathered to plan for the year.

   Moved Kirst, seconded by Garrigan to approve the Parent and Family Engagement in Title I Programs as presented. Aye 5 (Vyskocil, Garrigan, VandeWalle, Anderson, Kirst), Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0

3. **Approval of Budget Carryover from FY 2025-26 to FY 2026-27**: Janelle Marotz presented the school's local control budget carryover for the 2026-27 school year. Carryover allows school to save the money for larger purchases and not lose it at the end of the FY. The total carryover amount is $5,704.19 more than the previous year. The individual building carryover being requested is as follows:

| School Building | Carryover Amount |
|---|---|
| Cormier | $23,261.40 |
| Pioneer | $20,444.29 |
| Valley View | $43,101.24 |
| Parkview | $1,346.57 |
| High School | $20,691.69 |
| High School | $48,210.90 (CTE Carryover) |
| High School | $4,750 (CDCP Funds) |
| Total Requested Carryover | $147,726.62 |

Moved by VandeWalle, seconded by Anderson to approve the local control budget carryover of $147,726.62 as presented. Aye 5 (Vyskocil, Garrigan, VandeWalle, Anderson, Kirst), Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0

4. **Property Tax Levy Adoption 2026-27**: Janelle Marotz explained the district's responsibility for adopting a budget and setting the levy. She explained the current concerns around school funding: revenue limit caps, special education deficits and inflation versus flat funding. Ashwaubenon is experiencing a decline in resident enrollment. Janelle explained that a decline in enrollment means a decrease in revenue limits.

   **Equalized Mill Rate***: $6.96*

   - $6.96 for every $1,000 of a home's value - On a $300,000 home, annual property tax is $2,088.
   - This is a $.28 increase from last year resulting in an increase of $84 more a year on a $300,000 home.
   - This is a $.23 increase from July's budget presentation. July included under levying $-981,727.

   Janelle explained how the revenue limit calculations for setting the levy. She explained why it is necessary to levy the full amount (i.e. increases in employee compensation, employee benefits, insurance, transportation and utilities with State revenue limit increases failing to keep up with inflation). She recommended a total levy of $20,484,502

| Fund | Proposed Levy |
|---|---|
| Fund 10 | $19,097,802 |
| Fund 39 | $576,700 |
| Fund 80/81 | $810,000 |
| Total Levy | $20,484,502 |

   Moved Kirst, seconded by VandeWalle to approve the levy of $20,484,502 as presented. Aye 5 (Vyskocil, Garrigan, VandeWalle, Anderson, Kirst), Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

5. **Approval of Budget Revision:** Janelle stated that the budget being presented is an unbalanced budget. The district will work throughout the year to balance it. At this point, expenses are higher than revenue. She shared the budget reduction over the last three years. She explained the difference between fair market value (annually determined by the State; used by school districts; sets the district's tax rate) and assessed value (periodically determined by local assessors; use by the local municipality; cuts the community tax pie into fair slices). Janelle went through the budget and explained the line item changes in each fund that differ from what was presented in July. She provided an explanation for the changes.

   The board has worked hard over the last month with Janelle to work through this budget, maintain programs and services for our students and help our tax payers. It is being recommended that the board approve the revisions to the budget as presented: total net changes of $-969,817.97; Revenue increases of $1,801,429.05; Expenditure increases of $2,771,247.02.

   - **Fund 10** revenues of **$47,010,525.19** and expenditures of **$47,945,561.71**
   - **Fund 27** revenue and expenditures of **$7,886,530.97**.
   - **Fund 50** expenditures of **$2,105,909.86**.
   - **Fund 80** expenditures of **$1,341,798.41**

   The board thanked Janelle for all the work she did on this budget while still maintaining the programs and services for our students. The overall concept of school funding is very difficult to wrap our head around. Janelle has done a great job working through this budget. The board also wanted to be clear that any dollars needed for the unbalanced budget will come out of fund balance. Janelle plans to provide updates to the budget throughout the year as she works closer to balancing it.

   Moved Anderson, seconded by Kirst to approve the 2026-27 budget proposed total net changes of ($-969,817.97) Revenue increases of ($1,801,429.05) and expenditure increases of ($2,771,247.02) as presented. Aye 5 (Vyskocil, Garrigan, VandeWalle, Anderson, Kirst), Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

**K. Board & Superintendent Communications:**

- Thank you to the board and Janelle for the work they put into tonight's budget.
- If anyone is interested in touring the new Somerville facility, please reach out to Brian Anderson and he will arrange a tour.

**L.** **Future Board Meetings & Topics:**

- The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 11, 2026, at 6:30 pm in the District Office; 1055 Griffiths Lane; Ashwaubenon, WI.

**M**. **Adjournment:** Moved Anderson, seconded by VandeWalle to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 pm. Aye 5 (Vyskocil, Garrigan, VandeWalle, Anderson, Kirst), Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

Respectfully submitted,
Brett VandeWalle