



MEETING MINUTES

Attendees

Voting Members

Astor Williams, Board President
Lyle Schmitt, Board Vice President
Jonathan Cox, Board Member
Janelle Ewing, Board Member
Jesse Knight, Board Member
Krystal Madlock, Board Member
Stacie Mills, Board Member

Non-Voting Members

Dr. Jared Smith, Superintendent
Amy Schmidt, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning
J.T. Anderson, Chief Financial Officer / Board Treasurer
Sam Kreassig, Interim Director of Human Resources
Pam Arndorfer, Assistant to the Superintendent / Board Secretary

I. Call to Order

President Williams called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

II. Moment of Silence

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Mission Statement

The Waterloo Schools mission statement was read by Director Mills.

V. Public Hearing on the Proposed Use of SAVE Revenue for an Athletic Facility Infrastructure Project

The Public Hearing on the Proposed Use of SAVE Revenue for an Athletic Facility Infrastructure Project was declared open by President Williams at 5:05pm.

- Michael Chapman, 2761 Deere Road, spoke in opposition to the use of SAVE funding for the athletic facility given the financial position of the school district; he also stated that he does not believe tennis courts are a good use of funds which could be better used if saved for upcoming high school or other expenses.
- Todd Obadal, 124 Amity Drive, spoke in opposition to the use of SAVE funding for the athletic facility; he asked the board not to add additional expenses to taxpayers, especially with the proposed tax increase.

- Charlene Mishler, 319 Center Street, spoke in opposition to the use of SAVE funding for athletic facilities; she stated that the taxpayers are hurting and this would add to their burden.
- Andrew Bachman, 2027 Huntington Road, stated that a lot of money is being put into a facility when we don't know what enrollment will be in the next 10 years.

The Superintendent's recommendation is to close the Public Hearing on the Proposed Use of Save Revenue for an Athletic Facility Infrastructure Project.

Motion made by: Jesse Knight

Motion seconded by: Stacie Mills

Voting:

Astor Williams - Yes

Lyle Schmitt - Yes

Jonathan Cox - Yes

Janelle Ewing - Yes

Jesse Knight - Yes

Krystal Madlock - Yes

Stacie Mills - Yes

The Public Hearing was closed at 5:13pm.

VI. School Presentation - Expo ALC and Waterloo Career Center

This item was presented as Information Only. Expo Assistant Principal, Henry Shepherd, and Dean of Students, Kyle Knox, along with Director of Career & Technical Education, Amy Miehle, and WCC Dean of Students, Whitney Fischer, provided information on the transition of Expo High School to the WCCx site. Administrators spoke about the welcoming environment at the WCC, the flexibility and convenience for kids to attend classes right on the campus, and not having to work out transportation makes it easier for kids to attend classes. Expo has seen a 164% increase in the number of students attending WCC classes. In addition, two Expo Lighthouse students shared their positive experiences with taking classes at the WCC.

VII. Board Celebration: FIRST Tech Challenge and FIRST Robotics Competition

This item was presented as Information Only. District STEM Coach, Erin Sale, along with FTC/FRC Coach, Dick Hurban, provided information and demonstrated their robots' capabilities. Students have spent between 3500–4000 hours creating and testing their robots this season.

VIII. Donation from R.J. McElroy Trust

The Superintendent's recommendation is that the Board of Education accepts with gratitude this donation in the amount of \$200,000 from the R.J. McElroy Trust in support of the Waterloo Schools LifeLab program.

Motion made by: Stacie Mills

Motion seconded by: Jesse Knight

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Dr. Jared Smith, Superintendent, provided information and thanked the R.J. McElroy Trust for their continued support.

IX. Graduation Dates for WCSD High Schools - Class of 2026

This item was presented as Information Only. The following graduation dates were announced for the Class of 2026:

- East High School at McLeod Center, UNI, Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 6:00pm
- Expo Alternative Learning Center, Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 6:00pm (location TBD)
- West High School at McLeod Center, UNI, Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 6:00pm

X. Information from Individuals and Delegations

- LaTanya Graves, 607 E. Donald Street, shared her disappointment that the District pulled out of the African-American Read-In. She also expressed her concern over the dismantling of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, stating that if we get rid of these three items, we will no longer have a voice.
- Kristin Stanford, 1708 Partridge Lane, thanked the Board and District for the time taken to look into budget cuts. She also shared concerns about the state legislature under-funding public schools 9 out of the past 14 years, and the effects this is having on public education across the state.
- Belinda Creighton-Smith, 416 Oliver Street, asked the Board to hold District leadership accountable, freeze salaries, and use the extra money to maintain the staff our students desperately need.
- Todd Obadal, 124 Amity Drive, spoke about the Iowa Supreme Court Case regarding Lowell Elementary, stating that only \$2 million was received on a \$19 million claim, with no dissenting opinion by the Supreme Court. He stated that SAVE funding is there to cover items such as the \$17 million shortfall that insurance does not cover. He also shared that the District said there would be no tax increase associated with the new high school project, and now we are seeing taxes being raised.
- Mike Chapman, 2761 Deere Road, spoke regarding the high school project and the large amount of bid documentation. He asked the Board to reconsider the bid date and add an additional 15-30 days to ensure the best cost outcomes. He also spoke about targeted local and small business goals.

XI. Consent Agenda

The Superintendent's recommendation is that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda including items i, ii, iii, and v as presented.

Motion made by: Janelle Ewing

Motion seconded by: Stacie Mills

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

i. Approval of Minutes: February 24, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

ii. Personnel Appointments and Adjustments

iii. Bills Due & Payable and Bills Paid Between Board Meetings

iv. Updated 28e Waterloo Career Center (WCC) 28e Agreements

The Superintendent's recommendation is that the Board of Education approve the 28e Agreements between the Waterloo Schools/Waterloo Career Center and the following school districts for WCC

programming as presented: Cedar Falls, Dike-New Hartford, Dunkerton, Gladbrook-Reinbeck, Grundy Center, Hudson, Janesville, Jesup, and Union.

Motion made by: Jesse Knight

Motion seconded by: Stacie Mills

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Jeff Frost, Executive Director of Professional Education, and Amy Miehe, Director of Career & Technical Education, provided information.

v. Memorandum of Agreement - AFJROTC at West High School

vi. Revised Board Meeting Dates/Times

The Superintendent's recommendation is that the Board of Education hold their regularly scheduled meetings as listed, amending the start time of the March 24, 2025, meeting to 5:30pm.

Motion made by: Stacie Mills

Motion seconded by: Jesse Knight

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Astor Williams, Board President, J.T. Anderson, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer, and Pam Arndorfer, Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Secretary, provided information.

XII. WCC Travel to Tampa, Florida

The Superintendent's recommendation is that the Board of Education approve travel for WCC Cyber students from July 19-25, 2025 to the University of South Florida CyberCon Leadership Development Conference in Tampa, Florida.

Motion made by: Stacie Mills

Motion seconded by: Lyle Schmitt

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Kyle Kuhlers, WCC Web Programming Teacher / Cyber Defense Coach, provided information.

XIII. Resolution Supporting the Proposed Use of SAVE Revenue for an Athletic Facility Infrastructure Project

The Superintendent's recommendation is that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Supporting the Proposed Use of SAVE Revenue for an Athletic Facility Infrastructure Project as presented.

Motion made by: Jesse Knight

Motion seconded by: Lyle Schmitt

Voting:

Astor Williams - Yes

Lyle Schmitt - Yes

Jonathan Cox - Yes

Janelle Ewing - Yes

Jesse Knight - Yes

Krystal Madlock - Yes

Stacie Mills - Yes

Dr. Jared Smith, Superintendent, provided information.

Pam Arndorfer, Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Secretary, read the resolution as follows:

Resolution to Be Considered

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED USE OF SAVE REVENUE FOR AN ATHLETIC FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the School District receives revenue from the State of Iowa Secure an Advanced Vision for Education Fund ("SAVE Revenue") pursuant to Iowa Code § 423F.2; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 423F and an election duly held in accordance therewith on March 3, 2020, the Board of Directors is currently entitled to spend SAVE Revenue for school infrastructure purposes, including the construction of an athletic facility infrastructure project; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has considered potential uses of the District's SAVE Revenue including use for secure entries for the District's attendance centers and has determined that it is necessary and advisable for the District to use SAVE Revenue for the following athletic facility infrastructure project that is not physically attached to a student attendance center: to construct tennis courts and a soccer/practice field; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has complied with the provisions of Iowa Code § 423F.3(6A) by adopting a resolution setting forth the proposal for the athletic facility infrastructure project, and holding a public hearing on the proposed construction of the athletic facility:

NOW, THEREFORE, it is resolved:

1. The Board of Directors hereby supports the proposed use of SAVE Revenue for the following athletic facility infrastructure project: to construct tennis courts and a soccer/practice field. The estimated cost of the construction of this athletic facility infrastructure project is \$3,100,000.

2. Eligible electors of the school district have the right to file with the Board Secretary a petition pursuant to Iowa Code § 423F.4(2)(b), on or before close of business on March 24, 2025, for an election on the proposed use of SAVE Revenue. The petition must be signed by eligible electors equal in number to not less than one hundred or thirty percent of those voting at the last preceding election of school officials under Iowa Code § 277.1, whichever is greater.

3. In the event a petition containing the required number of valid signatures is filed with the Secretary of the Board on or before close of business on March 24, 2025, the President shall call a meeting of the Board to consider rescinding this Resolution supporting the proposed use of SAVE Revenue or directing that the question of the proposed use of SAVE Revenue be submitted to the qualified electors of the School District.

If the Board determines to submit the question to the electors, the proposition to be submitted shall be as follows:

Shall the Board of Directors of the Waterloo Community School District in the County of Black Hawk, State of Iowa, be authorized to use revenue from the State of Iowa Secure an Advanced Vision for Education Fund to construct tennis courts and a soccer/practice field, with the estimated cost of construction being \$3,100,000?

XIV. Three-Year Budget Plan

The Superintendent's recommendation is that the Board of Education approve the proposed budget adjustments as presented.

Motion made by: Stacie Mills

Motion seconded by: Jesse Knight

Voting:

Astor Williams - Yes

Lyle Schmitt - Yes

Jonathan Cox - No

Janelle Ewing - Yes

Jesse Knight - Yes

Krystal Madlock - Yes

Stacie Mills - Yes

Dr. Jared Smith, Superintendent, J.T. Anderson, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer, Amy Schmidt, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, and Sam Kreassig, Interim Director of Human Resources, provided information. Individual Board members also shared comments regarding the proposed budget cuts.

XV. Board Policy Changes - Second Reading

The Superintendent's recommendation is that the Board of Education approve the following policies: *Limitations to Employment References; Objectives of Buildings and Sites; Buildings and Sites Long Range Planning; Buildings and Sites Surveys; Site Acquisition; Requests for Improvements; Emergency Repairs; Buildings and Sites Adaptation for Persons with Disabilities; and Asbestos Containing Material.*

Motion made by: Jesse Knight

Motion seconded by: Stacie Mills

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Pam Arndorfer, Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Secretary, provided information.

XVI. Superintendent's Report

- Appreciate the comments tonight regarding DEI - we have a roundtable discussion with the local NAACP and community leaders scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, from 4:30-6pm.

XVII. Information from Board Members

Each Board member was given the opportunity to comment.

XVIII. Adjourn

Motion made by: Janelle Ewing

Motion seconded by: Stacie Mills

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

The meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.