

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #235 HELD IN THE ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA ON MAY 20, 2026.

The meeting was called to order by President Schaley at 6:26 p.m., in the Elementary Cafeteria. The following board members answered roll call: Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Lenahan, Schaley and Vancil. President Schaley declared a quorum present. Also present were Superintendent Day, J. Shultz, K. Lafary, B. Taylor, B. DeWeese, B. Helt, J. Kirby, S. Kreps, J. Hennings, WCES SIP Team Members, WCMS SIP Team Members, and WCHS SIP Team Members.

President Schaley then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

GOOD NEWS ITEMS

Under good news items the following items were highlighted:

- Congratulations to our students and staff on their outstanding Spring Music performances.
- Elementary IPA Student Recognition Award winners: Hailey Thompson and Rowen Crum
- Middle School IPA Student Recognition Award winners: Wyatt Goff and Gabby Deverall
- High School IPA Student Recognition Award winners: Delaney Endress and Teegan Rodeffer
- We appreciate the Stronghurst Lion's Club and the Henderson County Soil and Conservation group for partnering to provide trees to our 4th grade students in recognition of Arbor Day.
- A big thank you to the Lion's Club for completing our annual vision screenings.
- WCMS State Track Meet Qualifiers - Wyatt Goff and Nate Good
- Several of our WC students participated in the 24th Annual Courageous Smiles Invitational at Illini West High School. We are so proud of our student athletes.
- Four of our WC students (Elli M., Noah H., Ava C., and Kaylinn B.) participated in the Special Olympics. Elli M., Noah H. and Ava C. will be attending State in June.
- WCMS Play had 3 fabulous public performances and 1 private show for Oakwood Lane of Crumpled Classics.
- Congratulations to PJ Thompson, Paige Leath and Stacie Anderson being our 2026 ROE Excellence in Education winners for West Central.
- We also want to recognize the following staff members who are retiring at the end of the year: Kathy Lafary, Betty Mynatt, Brenda Steck, Connie Sue Torrance and Darrell Gittings
- Congratulations to Julie Ricketts who was selected as a 2026 Regional ROE Excellence in Education winner!
- Our District, Our Legacy - All Transportation Staff, Brenda Steck, Brian Sterett, Carrie Todd, Connie Wiley, Emily Klossing, High School Special Education Teachers, Jalyne Young, Jessie Winters, Karri Wallace, Kathy Lafary, Kaycee Myers, Kilene Chapin, Kristi Lumbeck, LeaAnn Nylin, Michelle Johnson, Sara Dittner, Shelby Bailey, Stacey Day, Stacey Kreps, and Tiffany Ouellette.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Gullberg to approve the agenda as presented. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jessica Winters spoke with the Board about the 2026 - 2027 School Calendar. Mrs. Winters asked that the Board consider adjusting the start date to August 17 (with a tentative last day of June 3, 2027).

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Clark, seconded by Vancil to approve the consent agenda including the following items:

- The minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 15, 2026;
- The minutes of the Closed Session of April 15, 2026;
- The minutes of the Special Meeting Of May 3, 2026;
- The minutes of the Closed Session of May 3, 206;
- The minutes of the Special Meeting of May 8, 2026;
- The minutes of the Closed Session of May 8, 2026;
- The minutes of the Reconvened Special Meeting of May 9, 2026;
- The minutes of the Closed Session of May 9, 2026;
- The minutes of the Special Meeting of May 14, 2026;
- The minutes of the Closed Session of May 14, 2026;
- The payment of all bills;
- The activity accounts;
- The Treasurer's Report for April 2026;
- The approval of the milk bid;
- The approval of the School Photographer Precision Image;
- The approval of Summer 2026 Behind the Wheel Driver Education Program;
- The approval of the Final 2025-2026 Public School Calendar

On roll call the following members voted aye: Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Lenahan, Schaley, Vancil, and Chockley.

The WCES, WCMS, and WCHS SIP Plans were presented by teams from each of the buildings. Each group shared their strengths, weaknesses and plans for improvement for the 2026-2027 school year.

Motion by Vancil, seconded by Chockley to approve the WCES, WCMS, and WCHS SIP Plans as presented. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Day notified that Board that we received six FOIA requests over the last month. Five came from DataBranch, requesting contracts, vendor payments and agreements with different vendors, many of which we have not worked with. Of the five DataBranch requests, two sets of them were identical, but cited Illinois or Iowa FOIA law. The responses were the same, but submitted back to two different requests. We also received the request from Smart ProCure for vendor information. All requests were responded to within the needed time frame.

The Board was reminded that the registration for the Triple I Conference in Chicago opens on June 1. Board members Schaley, Lenahan and Clark all confirmed their interest to attend. Other Board members were reminded that they can sign up later, but we are unable to guarantee the same hotel if we do not sign up as a group. The conference takes place the weekend before Thanksgiving each year.

Superintendent Day briefly discussed the FY26 Amended Budget. The notes of the changes are currently on display in the District Office. The changes are routine, adjusting line items, updated final grant revenue and expenses and include information about the new HLS Bond that the District purchased in November. In June, we will hold the Amended Budget hearing and then approve the final budget during the Regular Meeting.

Superintendent Day provided the Board with an overview of projects happening over the summer. The Elementary Playground work has started with the old equipment and tire chips being removed and the ground work for the new playground is set to start on Tuesday. The Elementary exterior doors are set to be delivered and installed during the month of July. The HS Courtyard windows are estimated to be delivered at the end of July and due to a manufacturer and supply issue, there is no estimate on when the Middle School windows will be installed. The HS Roof project pre-construction meeting is in the process of being scheduled. We are planning on installing new flooring in 10 classrooms throughout the elementary and high school. There will be lots of painting happening throughout the District. We will also complete the HVAC portion of the Middle School Locker Room project, in order to complete the FY25 Maintenance Grant.

The Board discussed the logos that are currently being used for the District and considered the need to select one that would be the primary logo used for branding purposes. No final decision was made and the discussion will continue in the future.

The Board continued their discussion on a Chromebook Plan for the District. After a lengthy discussion on the usage of chromebooks and online platforms, amount of total time used versus continuous time and using technology as a reward or for free-time, the next step was decided that Superintendent Day would work with the administrators at their next meeting to talk about a framework or possible guidelines for chromebook usage to consider moving forward. The framework and guidelines could be used to focus future conversations and plans for the District.

Superintendent Day presented a draft copy of the 2026-2027 District Student Handbook with the recommended changes. Many of the changes are just in legal information that has changed over the last few years and needs included in the handbook. There are no substantive changes to the policies, procedures or practices of the District. The Board did discuss Dual Credit opportunities and reimbursement for the high school students. Due to the increasing number of students taking advantage of Dual Credit opportunities, the updated handbook will clarify reimbursement steps, requirements and limits for students and families. The final changes will be presented at the June Board Meeting in order for the handbook to be ready when registration opens for the new school year in July.

Superintendent Day presented an overview of some of the expenditures and revenues related to our Special Education programming. The Board was able to see the changes between fiscal years for the previous 5 fiscal years. This was just a discussion item to show the financial impact on the increasing needs of students in the District.

REPORTS

The Board reviewed and heard reports from the Building Principals K. Lafary, B. DeWeese, J. Kirby, and HS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director S. Kreps, and District Technology Coordinator J. Hennings.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Vancil, seconded by Clark to approve the renewal quote for our district health insurance with BCBS through ISEBC package as presented. On roll call the following members voted aye: Gullberg, Higgins, Lenahan, Vancil, Chockley, and Clark. Schaley voted nay. 6-1 Motion carried.

Motion by Clark, seconded by Gullberg to approve the Unland renewal quote for our district insurance package as resented. On roll call the following members voted aye: Higgins, Lenahan, Schaley, Vancil, Chockley, Clark, and Gullberg. 7-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Clark, seconded by Lenahan to approve PressPlus Issue 121 on the second reading as presented. On roll call the following members voted aye: Lenahan, Schaley, Vancil, Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, and Higgins. 7-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Clark, seconded by Gullberg to declare the elementary playground equipment/structures as surplus as presented. On roll call the following members voted aye: Schaley, Vancil, Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, and Lenahan. 7-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Clark, seconded by Vancil to approve the WCMS and WCHS Athletic Directors job descriptions as presented. On roll call the following members voted aye: Vancil, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Lenahan, and Schaley. Chockley voted nay. 6-1 Motion carried,

Motion by Clark, seconded by Chockley to approve the short-term substitute training agreement with the ROE as presented. On roll call the following members voted aye: Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Lenahan, Schaley, and Vancil. 7-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Clark, seconded by Gullberg to approve the quote from Inghram Lawn and Landscape in the amount of \$48,275 for the middle school concrete work as presented. On roll call the following members voted aye: Gullberg, Higgins, Lenahan, Schaley, Vancil. Chockley, and Clark. 7-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Vancil seconded by Chockley to approve the intergovernmental agreement resolution with the GAVC as presented. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Warren County Public Transportation, 2026-2027 School Calendar and the Kickball field next to the elementary playground (consideration for leveling out the ground for safety). The Board was reminded if they have additional requests to send them to President Schaley or Superintendent Day.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Gullberg to adjourn to closed meeting pursuant of the Illinois Open Meetings Act - 5ILCS 120/2 (2) (16) at 10:30 p.m. to discuss the following subjects:

- A. Personnel - The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity;
- B. Negotiations - Collective negotiating matters between the school board and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees;
- C. Student Issues - The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students.

Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

The Board took a short break and reconvened in the District Office conference room at 10:32 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Lenahan, Schaley, and Vancil. Also present was Superintendent Day.

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Gullberg to return to open session at 10:46 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Lenahan, Schaley, and Vancil.

The Board took a short break and reconvened in the West Central Elementary Cafeteria at 10:46 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Lenahan, Schaley, Vancil.

PERSONNEL ACTION

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Gullberg to approve the personnel agenda as follows:

West Central School District School Board Meeting Personnel Items for Board Approval Wednesday, May 20, 2026		
<i>Please note: the following new appointments are pending completion of all certifications, requirements, and clearance on the state required background investigation.</i>		
Personnel Changes		
Name	Title	Salary
New Appointments:		
Kaylee Logan	WCES Teacher	WCATS Contract
Allyson Celus	WCES Teacher	WCATS Contract
Change of Assignment:		
Jacque Clark	Paraprofessional to Secretary	WCATS Contract
Gwen Kahlke	7th Grade Volleyball Coach to 8th Grade Volleyball Coach	WCATS Contract
Board acknowledges the following resignations/retirements (effective end of 2025-2026 school year):		
Casey Goff	8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach	N/A
EJ Santos	MS Football Coach and MS Paraprofessional	N/A
Jennifer Bratcher	HS Physical Education Teacher	N/A
Lene Lox	MS Teacher and 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach	N/A

On roll call the following members voted aye: Lenahan, Schaley, Vancil, Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, and Higgins. 7-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Higgins, seconded by Gullberg to approve the MOU retirement adjustment for Connie Sue Torrance as presented. On roll call the following members voted aye: Vancil, Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, and Lenahan. Schaley voted nay. 6-1 Motion carried.

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Clark to approve a 3 year elementary assistant principal contract for Nikki Theordore-Moad for 2026-2029 as presented. On roll call the following members voted aye: Chockley, Clark, Lenahan, and Schaley. Vancil and Higgins voted nay. Gullberg abstained. 4-2-1 Motion carried.

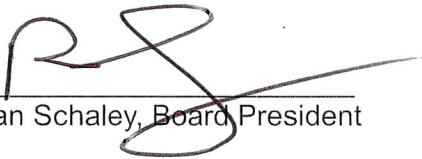
FUTURE MEETING DATE

The Board was reminded that the next regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m., in the elementary cafeteria. There will be a FY26 Amended Budget Hearing at 5:45 pm on the same night.

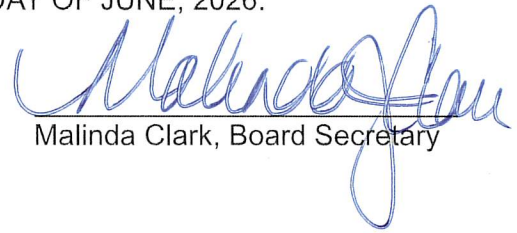
ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Higgins to adjourn at 10:50 p.m. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

THESE MINUTES ARE APPROVED AS WRITTEN THIS 17th DAY OF JUNE, 2026.



Brendan Schaley, Board President



Malinda Clark, Board Secretary