

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #235 IN THE ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA ON DECEMBER 17, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Schaley at 6:14 p.m. in the elementary cafeteria. The following board members answered roll call: Clark, Gullberg, Lenahan, and Schaley. Board Member Chockley, Higgins and Vancil were absent. Board Member Chockley arrived at 7:16 p.m. and Board Member Higgins arrived at 7:34 p.m. President Schaley declared a quorum present. Also present were Superintendent Day, J. Shultz, K. Lafary, B. Taylor, B. DeWeese, J. Kirby, S. Kreps, M. Allen, J. Hennings and T. Ouellette.

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

GOOD NEWS ITEMS

- WCHS Illinois State Scholars - Teegan Rodeffer and Delaney Endress
- WC hosted their annual music concerts, which were amazing!
- Mr. Brooks was recognized by Valley Propane and will receive \$150 for classroom projects!
- The District received a \$175 donation for lunch accounts.
- The WC PTC has been busy raising money for the new playground. From Drinks at Drop Off to auctioning off front row seats at the winter music concerts, we have raised over \$50,000 over the past couple of years. Although our goal is \$125,000, we are well on our way. Thanks to everyone who has supported our ongoing efforts. Be on the lookout for other ways to help our cause.
- Our District. Our Legacy. Recognitions for the Month of December were: Amy Chandler, Betty Mynatt, Chad Ellison, Coach Kelley, Emily Klossing, HS Kitchen Staff, Jessica Burrell, Kara Keating, Kim Thompson, Logan Avery, Maddie Leath, Mackenzie Johnson, Michael Holloran, MS Kitchen Staff, Payton Clark, Samera Lesher, Stacey Day, Stacey Kreps, Stacie Anderson, Tiffany Byers, and Tiffany Kaup.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Clark, seconded by Gullberg to approve the agenda with the additional Discussion Item 8-E Operating Reserve Funds. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- The minutes of the regular meeting of November 18, 2025;
- Closed Session minutes of November 18, 2025;
- The payment of all bills;
- All activity accounts;
- The treasurer's report for November 2025;
- The approval of Press Plus Issue 120 on second reading;

On roll call the following members voted aye: Clark, Gullberg, Lenahan, and Schaley. 4-0 Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Day reported the District received one FOIA request since the last meeting. The request was from Stephanie Bernake asking for information regarding the District Magazine and contracts with the Forgottonia Times. The needed information was provided in the required timeframe.

Board members Schaley, Lenahan and Clark, as well as Superintendent Day, provided follow-up information on the sessions they attended at the Triple I Conference earlier in November. Sessions included information on rural school lobbying/needs, IHSA updates, school accountability and great keynote speakers.

Superintendent Day gave an update on the playground project. The playground committee has been working to finalize plans for equipment needs for the PTC to order and purchase as well as the ground surface project that the District will fund. There is an additional discount for equipment purchased prior to the end of the calendar year. The PTC is continuing to look at fundraising opportunities to cover the cost of the equipment they order. They will sell bricks to use at the playground starting after the first of the year and are going around to local businesses for sponsorship support. Be on the lookout for more details about fundraisers and upcoming events.

Board member Gullberg gave an update on the Building and Grounds committee. The committee met with the architect in December to talk through the summer projects. We will work on completing a variety of projects during the summer of 2026: MS windows, HS courtyard windows, HS roof, Elementary playground surface and Elementary exterior door replacement. The committee will meet again with the architect in January or February, with plans to put bid information out in February/March so that projects can be approved in the early spring.

Superintendent Day provided a report on the Operating Fund Reserves. This is a new requirement by ISBE to report to the Board fund balances compared to expenditures in the three main operating funds: Education, O&M and Transportation. If fund balances in those accounts are more than 2.5 times the average total expenditures for those same funds in the previous three fiscal years, then the District is required to complete a Fund Balance Reduction plan. After updating the District information with the FY25 audit information, the cash reserve balance to expenditure ratio is 0.967, so the District is not required to complete a Fund Balance Reduction plan for this year.

REPORTS

The Board reviewed and heard reports from the Building Principals K. Lafary, B. DeWeese, and J. Kirby, District Technology Coordinator Jeremy Hennings, WCHS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Stacey Kreps, Special Education Coordinator Mallory Allen and District Librarian Tiffany Ouellette.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Clark, seconded by Gullberg to approve the 2025 Tax Levy for a total levy amount of \$7,289,779.00 (not including the bond amounts). The District's unaudited balances on June 30, 2025, Fund 10 - \$8,034,876, Fund 20 - \$2,568,727, Fund 30 - \$101,713, Fund 40 - \$462,934, Fund 50 - \$456,007, Fund 60 - \$53,028, Fund 70 - \$1,110,527, Fund 80 - \$348,295, and Fund 90 - \$688,273. On roll call the following board members voted aye: Gullberg, Lenahan, Schaley, Chockley, and Clark. 5-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Clark, seconded by Gullberg to approve the WCHS FFA trips to Des Moines, Iowa and Columbia, Missouri as presented. On roll call the following board members voted aye: Lenahan, Schaley, Chockley, Clark, and Gullberg. 5-0 Motion carried.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board was reminded to contact President Schaley or Superintendent Day to request future agenda items.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Clark, seconded by Lenahan to adjourn to closed meeting pursuant of the Illinois Open Meetings Act - 5ILCS 120/2 at 7:34 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; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

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. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)

Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

The Board took a short break and reconvened in the District Office Conference Room at 7:38 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Lenahan, and Schaley. Also present was S. Day. Mrs. Lafary and Mr. Taylor entered closed session at 7:45 p.m.

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Higgins to return to open session at 9:22 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Lenahan, and Schaley 6-0 Motion carried.

The Board took a short break and reconvened in the elementary cafeteria at 9:24 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Lenahan, and Schaley.

Motion by Clark, seconded by Chockley to approve the fall coach rehires as presented

High School		Middle School	
Varsity Volleyball	Stephanie Higgins	Head Football	EJ Santos
JV Volleyball	Jacinda Hill	Assistant Football	Chris Root
Head Golf	Jackie Biggs	Head Baseball	EJ Santos
Asst. Golf	Carrie Todd	Assistant Baseball	Greg Link
Head Football	Jason Kirby	Head Softball	Dylan Voyles
Asst. Football	Steve Arnold	Assistant Softball	Jena Goff
Asst. Football	Tom Williams	8th Grade Girls Basketball	Jena Goff
Asst. Football	Austin Bigger	7th Grade Girls Basketball	Lene Lox
Football Cheerleading	Open due to resignation	6th Grade Girls Basketball	Jena Goff

On roll call the following members voted aye: Lenahan, Schaley, Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, and Higgins. 6-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Higgins, seconded by Gullberg to approve the personnel items as presented.

**West Central School District
School Board Meeting
Personnel Items for Board Approval
Wednesday, December 17, 2025**

Please note: the following new appointments are pending completion of all certifications, requirements, and clearance on the state required background investigation.

Personnel Changes

Name	Title	Salary
Maternity Leave:		
Taylor Carpenter	Elementary Paraprofessional	N/A
New Appointments:		
Ariel Dillard	WCMS 6th Grade Volleyball Coach	WCATS
Neo Colter	WCMS Boys' Track Coach	WCATS
Stacie Anderson, Jessica Winters, Loren Fox, Karri Wallace, Julie Ricketts, Dylan Brooks, Samera Lesher, Kara Keating, Alissa Wheeler	WCES After School Tutoring	\$20.00/hour
Conner Hill	WCHS Speech Sponsor	WCATS
Board acknowledges the following resignations/retirements:		
Sierra Torrance	WCMS Cheer Coach	N/A

On roll call the following members voted aye: Schaley, Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, and Lenahan. 6-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Clark, seconded by Lenahan to approve the resolution to release closed session minutes per exhibits A and B and destroy the verbatim recordings per exhibit C, as presented. On roll call the following members voted aye: Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins Lenaha, and Schaley. 6-0 Motion carried.

FUTURE MEETING DATE

The Board was reminded that the next regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Lenahan to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

THESE MINUTES ARE APPROVED AS WRITTEN THIS 21st DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.


Brendan Schaley, Board President


Malinda Clark, Board Secretary