

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #235 IN THE ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA ON FEBRUARY 18, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Schaley at 6:01 p.m. in the elementary cafeteria. The following board members answered roll call: Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Schaley and Vancil. Board Member Lenahan was absent. President Schaley declared a quorum present. Also present were Superintendent Day, J. Shultz, K. Lafary, B. Taylor, B. Helt, S. Kreps, J. Hennings, and M. Allen.

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

GOOD NEWS ITEMS

- WCE celebrated the 100th day of school on January 29 with many activities!
- Our 4th and 5th grade parent programs on February 9 were a great success. We are grateful to the Title Team for creating a science themed Escape Room that made learning both interactive and fun.
- We are grateful to Mrs. Kelly for her hard work in coordinating our World Read Aloud Day activities. Her efforts ensured that our students celebrated the power of reading through engaging and interactive sessions that inspired readers of all ages.
- Thanks to Ms. Lewis for organizing the "Send a Sucker" sales! All funds raised are being dedicated to our playground fund.
- Both of our Middle School Boys Basketball Teams had great seasons! Our 7th graders qualified for state and played a tough game to finish their season! Our 8th graders made it to the Regional Championship! Congratulations on a great season!
- Mrs. Lafary was selected as the 2026 IPA Western Region's Elementary Principal of the Year!
- Our Winter Alumni event was held in January at a High School Basketball game. We had over 75 alums come back to campus to celebrate!
- Our District. Our Legacy. Recognitions - Alyssa Hawk & Sherri Walters, Amanda Billingsley, Amy Wolf, Austin Bigger, Bryan Taylor, Elly Olson, Heather Hinshaw, Heidi Crane, HS Staff, Jalynne Young, Judy Kelly, Julie Ricketts, Karri Wallace, Kathy Lafary, Katie Westfall, Laura Lewis, Mike Lewis, Shylah Lenahan, Stacey Day, and Tiffany Byers

APPROVE AGENDA

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no one present who wished to address the Board on any agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- The minutes of the regular meeting of January 21, 2026;
- Closed session minutes of January 21, 2026;
- The payment of all bills;
- All activity accounts;
- The treasurer's report for January 2026;
- The District Asthma Episode Emergency Response Protocol;

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Day reported to the Board the following FOIA requests since the last Board meeting: all responses to the request from Bailey Templeton were completed (information on the District Magazine, Credit Card Statements, State and Federal Grants and vendors and contracts all from January 1, 2023 - Present), Public Info Access requested information on purchasing thresholds and procedures, SmartProCure submitted a recurring request for vendor information, Sunlight Records submitted a request for details on online programming and the final request was from Michael Henry requesting information on District attorney firms, recent bond purchases and background screenings for Board Members (there is no legal requirement for those background checks). All requests have been completed within the needed time frames.

The Board members were reminded that they are Mandated Reports for the abuse and neglect of students at West Central. They all signed off on a document stating they understand the requirement and agree to report either to DCFS or to Superintendent Day concerns or information about the abuse or neglect of any students.

The Board was provided an update from the Building and Grounds Committee. The playground surface project has been sent out for bids and those bids are due back by February 26. We will hold the bid opening for that project on February 26 at 1:30 pm in the District Office. The MS and HS windows project is the next set of bids that are available. Those went out this week and the pre-bid meeting is scheduled for February 26 after the playground bid opening. We have started our new construction projects landing page on our District website for contractors interested in projects to see the bids and needed timelines. We will add information to that landing page as we develop it more.

The Board was provided an update on the Elementary Playground project. The playground committee is in the process of determining the final pieces of equipment to purchase and their associated costs. The plan is to send in the final order in the next two weeks in order to ensure that all equipment is onsite in time for the installation this summer. We are still waiting to hear back on grant opportunities. The PTC is working on fundraising and the brick project (\$100/brick) is going really well! Once final equipment items and associated costs are determined, we will need the exact cost and will be able to finalize payment details. The Board was reminded to mark their calendars for Singo on April 17 at the Barn, more details on this fundraiser to come in the coming days!

REPORTS

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board Member Gullberg asked for Pre-Kindergarten and Board Member Vancil asked for the baseball field to be placed as a discussion item for next month's meeting. .

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Clark, seconded by Gullberg to adjourn to closed meeting pursuant of the Illinois Open Meetings Act - 5 ILCS 120/2 at 6:53 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 6:58 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Schaley, and Vancil. Also present was S. Day.

Motion by Vancil, seconded by Higgins to return to open session at 8:37 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Schaley, and Vancil. 6-0 Motion carried.

The Board took a short break and reconvened in the elementary cafeteria at 8:39 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Gullberg, Higgins, Schaley, Vancil, Chockley, and Clark.

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

West Central School District School Board Meeting Personnel Items for Board Approval Wednesday, February 18, 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
Volunteers:		
Clinton Stimpson	WCHS Bass Fishing Coach	N/A
Gage Stimpson	WCHS Bass Fishing Coach	N/A
Steve Fryrear	WCHS Bass Fishing Coach	N/A
Mike Waddell	WCHS Bass Fishing Coach	N/A
David Knustrom	WCHS Bass Fishing Coach	N/A
Lewis McGraw	WCHS Bass Fishing Coach	N/A
Maternity Leave:		
Sara McVey	Elementary Teacher - 12 weeks	N/A
New Appointments:		
Zoey Ryan	District Paraprofessional	WCATS
Heather Hinshaw	Long-Term Substitute - January 16, 2026	\$175.00/day
Board acknowledges the following resignations/retirements:		

Brittney DeWeese	WCMS Principal - Effective June 30, 2026	N/A
Thomas Williams	WCHS Girls' Basketball Coach	N/A
Brad Underwood	Bus Driver - Effective February 13, 2026	N/A

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

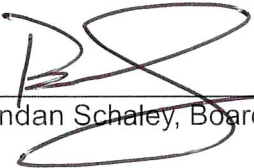
FUTURE MEETING DATE

The Board was reminded that the next regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday March 18, 2026.

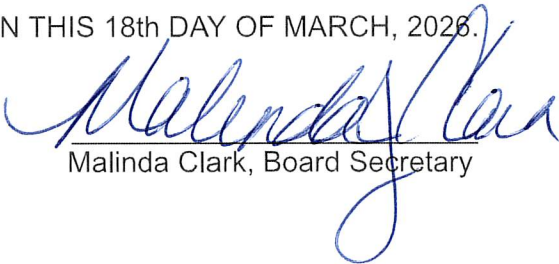
ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Gullberg to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

THESE MINUTES ARE APPROVED AS WRITTEN THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2026.



 Brendan Schaley, Board President



 Malinda Clark, Board Secretary