

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #235 IN THE ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA ON MARCH 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. DeWeese, B. Helt, J. Kirby, S. Kreps, J. Hennings, M. Allen, Bethany Nannen, Heather Hernandez, Brittani Olson, Madison Brokaw, Amy McGowen, SinCora H., Braelynn O., Carter S., and Matthew G.

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

GOOD NEWS ITEMS

- Our third grade students participated in ag related activities provided by the Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau. We are appreciative of their continued partnership.
- The West Central PTC is very appreciative of the ongoing support of our community as we collect funds for our new playground equipment. Most recently, we hosted an "Art Night with Mr. E" where our families were engaged in creating masterpieces using watercolors.
- We had an incredible time hosting our Mad Scientist event. A huge shoutout to our partners at the ROE and Henderson County Public Library for helping our families experiment, learn, and - most importantly - make a mess!
- Matt Goff earned a first place recognition for his ceramic piece at the Buchanan Center for the Arts High School Art Contest.
- Shelby Bowman, 2024 Graduate, is participating in the 2026 Women's NCAA Division I March Madness Tournament as a member of the WIU Women's Basketball Team.
- The high school baseball team held their annual trivia night fundraiser and earned over \$2000 towards their program.
- We had five high school students participate in the LTC Band Festival held at Stark County.
- Kadence Dieckow, 2023 Graduate, earned a full ride scholarship to Iowa State University and a \$1300 scholarship after being named to the 2026 Coca-Cola Academic Team!
- Our District. Our Legacy. Recognitions - Austin Bigger, Chad Ellison, Dalton Chenault, EJ Santos, Emily Schaley, Jackie Biggs, Jackie Olson, Jackie Spence, Jenny Ford, Julie Colwell, Kathy Lafary, Krystal Busch, Hallie Eisnicher, Lene Lox, Lisa Miller, Logan Avery, Mary Casey, Michelle Carnes, Molly Inghram, Nikkie Mills, Sara Dittner, Stacey Day, Teresa Stevenson, Wade Alexander.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The following members of the public addressed the Board in regards to the employment of Ms. Nannen, District music teacher: Sincora H, Bethany Nannen, Madison Brokaw, Brittani Olson, Carter S. and Matthew G.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- The minutes of the regular meeting of February 18, 2026;
- Closed session minutes of February 18, 2026;
- The minutes of the special board meeting of February 25, 2026

- Closed session minutes of February 25, 2026;
- The payment of all bills;
- All activity accounts;
- The treasurer's report for February 2026;
- The approval to direct the Superintendent to begin work on the FY27 District Budget;
- The continued participation with IHSA;
- The continued participation with IESA.

The 2026-2027 School District Calendar was tabled until the April Board meeting for further discussion and information regarding spring parent-teacher conferences.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Day presented her recommendation on the 2026-2027 Registration and meal fees. There are no recommended changes to the registration or technology fee for next school year. Meal costs are recommended to increase by \$0.10. Our meal prices are below the recommended cost from the USDA and therefore we are required to raise them at least \$.10 to move towards the recommended charge. To get to the recommended price, we would need to raise them over \$0.25, but Superintendent Day recommends sticking with the \$0.10 as we have done in the past so as not to overly burden our families.

Board Member Vancil requested that the Board discuss an additional baseball field at this meeting, but he was unable to get a price quote back for part of the project. This item will be placed back on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

Superintendent Day presented an infographic from IASA discussing school transportation funding and the impact on West Central due to the State not fully funding transportation (one of the Mandated Categoricals or MCATS). Transportation costs are rising exponentially, but the State is not keeping up with those rising costs when they build the state budget to reimburse school districts. For last school year alone, the reimbursement was \$272,000 short of what the District should receive at the full reimbursement rate. EBF funding has been steady and helpful for school districts, but if the MCAT reimbursement does not keep up, we will have to use some of the EBF funds to cover the cost of transportation, which in turn may impact staffing and programming in the district.

The Board discussed Building and Grounds and the Elementary Playground as part of the action items later in the meeting.

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, and Special Education Coordinator Mallory Allen.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Gullberg to approve the playground surface project bid from Trotter in the amount of \$761,350 as presented. On roll call the following board members voted aye: Gullberg, Higgins, Schaley, Vancil, Chockley, and Clark. 6-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Clark to approve the bid from Laverdiere Construction in the amount of \$831,855 for the Middle School and High School window project as presented. On roll call the following board members voted aye: Schaley, Vancil, Chockley, Clark, Gullberg. Board member Higgins voted nay. 5-1 Motion carried.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board members were asked to contact Superintendent Day or Board President Schaley with future agenda items.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Clark, seconded by Chockley to adjourn to closed meeting pursuant of the Illinois Open Meetings Act - 5ILCS 120/2 at 7:37 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 7:45 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Schaley, and Vancil. Also present was S. Day. Kathy Lafary, Brittney DeWeese and Jason Kirby entered closed session at 7:54. Kathy Lafary and Brittney DeWeese left the meeting at 8:33 p.m. and Jason Kirby left the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Stacey Kreps entered the meeting at 8:39 p.m. and left the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Superintendent Stacey Day left the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Gullberg to return to open session at 9:26 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Schaley, and Vancil.

The Board took a short break and reconvened in the elementary cafeteria at 9:27 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Schaley, Vancil, Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, and Higgins.

Motion by Clark, seconded by Gullberg to approve the personnel agenda as presented.

West Central School District School Board Meeting Personnel Items for Board Approval Wednesday, March 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:		
Mike Lenahan	WCHS Baseball Coach	N/A

Jena Goff	WCMS Track Coach	N/A
Erin Von Kannon	WCMS Track Coach	N/A
Leave:		
Molly Inghram - Maternity Leave	WCMS Science Teacher	N/A
New Appointments:		
Natalie Ensminger	Long-Term Substitute (Maternity Leave)	\$175.00/day
Board acknowledges the following resignations/retirements (effective end of 2025-2026 school year):		
Amy McGowen	WCHS Teacher	N/A
Erin Von Kannon	WCES Teacher	N/A

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

Motion by Clark, seconded by Vancil to table the dismissal of PEL employee Bethany Nannen as District Music Teacher as presented. On roll call the following board members voted aye: Vancil, Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, and Schaley. 6-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Higgins, seconded by Chockley to approve the contract renewal for Stacey Kreps as High School Assistant Principal as presented. On roll call the following board members voted aye: Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Schaley, and Vancil. 6-0 Motion carried.

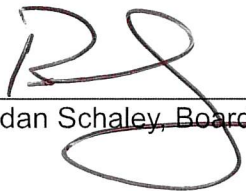
FUTURE MEETING DATE

The Board was reminded that the next regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Gullberg to adjourn at 9:29 p.m. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

THESE MINUTES ARE APPROVED AS WRITTEN THIS 15th DAY OF APRIL, 2025.



 Brendan Schaley, Board President



 Malinda Clark, Board Secretary