

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF WEST CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #235 HELD IN THE ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA ON APRIL 15, 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, 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, M. Allen. Also present was Diane Robertson, consultant for School Exec Connect.

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

GOOD NEWS ITEMS

Under good news items the following items were highlighted:

- Raritan State Bank is partnering with WCE during the month of April in recognition of Community Banking Month. Our 4th grade students visited the bank and they also sponsored a coloring contest.
- Our District. Our Legacy Recognitions: Mallory Allen, Joyce Bass, Tabitha Cooper, Ariel Dillard, Trisha Forquer, Jennette Johnson, Emily Klossing, Maddie Leath, Lene Lox, Laura Lewis, Sheila Moore, Tiffany Ouellette, Julie Ricketts, Megan Rodeffer, Jaime Shultz, Peyton Steck, Brian Sterett, P.J. Thompson.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no remarks from the public at this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 18, 2026;
- The minutes of the Closed Session of March 18, 2026;
- The minutes of the Special Meeting of March 23, 2026'
- The minutes of the Closed Session of March 23, 2026;
- The payment of all bills;
- The activity accounts;
- The Treasurer's Report for March 2026;
- The approval of the Proclamation Regarding National Teacher Appreciation Week;
- The approval of the 2026-2027 Registration/Technology/Lunch fees

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Diane Robertson, consultant from School Exec Connect, made a presentation on the results of the survey and focus groups to design the new superintendent profile, which will be used to select candidates for the superintendent position. Ms. Robertson presented positives and areas of concerns that were reported in the focus groups as well as on the survey. Her full report will be posted on the District website and on social media pages. Ms. Robertson explained next steps of the superintendent search process which will include a Board training on May 3. Ms. Robertson will present a slate of candidates for Board consideration for interviews and then start the interview and selection process. If things go well, then the Board will have a candidate to negotiate a contract with in mid-May. Ms. Robertson reminded the Board that if none of the candidates are a fit and acceptable to the position, then the Board is able to consider an Interim Superintendent while they continue searching for a replacement.

Superintendent Day shared with the Board the FOIA requests since the last month. The District received four requests: Public Info Access wanted information about department heads (library, curriculum, CTE, etc) and their emails, Starbridge asked for vendor information from January 1, 2025-Present, Databranch USA asked for vendor information from January 1, 2022-Present and Michael Henry asked for information regard legal firms (names, contract/agreements and total costs) for the last 8 years. All responses were submitted within the required timeframe.

Superintendent Day provided the Board an update on the Strategic Plan. A Stakeholder Meeting was held on March 31 to talk with that group about the updates as well. The District has focused on the curriculum alignment process this year in all of the buildings. We have also worked on starting our projects in the 10-year life safety work, continued our work with 2nd Step for SEL support for students and provided career exploration opportunities to students at all levels. Later this spring the District Student Handbook will be given an overhaul to implement for next school year.

Superintendent Day shared with the Board a few updates on building projects that are in the works. The Board will discuss the roof project and elementary exterior doors as part of the action items on this agenda. Superintendent Day has started ordering equipment for the MS Kitchen and is waiting on a price for the HVAC portion of the MS Locker Room project to use towards the FY25 Maintenance grant that needs to be spent by June 30, 2026. This is a matching grant with the state, so the District needs to spend at least \$100,000 on the project in order to keep the \$50,000 match from ISBE. Superintendent Day also discussed the need to consider removing the pea gravel from the south side of the Middle School due to the concern of window damage with the new windows being installed this summer. This is on the 10 year life safety project, but currently is not on the list of projects for this summer. Board Member Vancil discussed the possibility of an additional baseball field. Vancil was able to get a quote for fencing for the project, for materials and labor the fencing portion would cost about \$46,000. The baseball project will be put on the list, but not a project that the District will undertake immediately.

The Board heard an update on the elementary playground project. All items have been ordered, with expected delivery of the equipment to be sometime near the second week of June, then the equipment will be installed. The Board was reminded that the PTC fundraising event, SINGO, is scheduled for Friday, April 17.

The Board discussed the draft, updated job descriptions for the Athletic Director job descriptions for both the Middle School and High School positions. The Board will read them over and provide feedback to the Athletic Committee and will take final action at the May Board meeting. The updated job description will be used to hire a new HS Athletic Director.

The Board discussed the current 1:1 Chromebook Plan for the District. They would like to look into the current usage and ensure that chromebooks are used to supplement instruction, not replace instruction by a teacher. There was a discussion about making sure that the benefits of what we are using the technology for outweighs the possible harm to students by more time on a device. Mr. Hennings shared that one of our current technology programs is able to track device usage for students who are on their chromebooks during the school day. We will track this information for the rest of the school year and present that data at the May Board meeting for determination of next steps. The Board asked for a check-in on the data at the end of April (about 2 weeks worth of data), that information will be shared with the Board and the staff. The intention is not to remove all chromebooks throughout the District, but to ensure that they are being used to the best of their ability to support instruction and improve learning for students.

Superintendent Day discussed with the Board the current lease agreement for the Driver Education car expires at the end of this school year. For years, we have leased a vehicle for \$1800 with Bruce Foote, who has notified us that after the 26-27 school year, we will no longer be able to lease. The Board asked for information on lease agreements with other companies and details on purchasing a driver education car. The information will be gathered and presented at the May meeting.

REPORTS

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

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Clark, seconded by Vancil to approve the 2026-2027 public school calendar as presented. On roll call the following members voted aye: Gullberg, Higgins, Lenahan, Schaley, Vancil, Chockley and Clark. 7-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Higgins, seconded by Lenahan to approve the bid from Laverdiere Construction, Inc in the amount of \$178,931 for the elementary door project presented. On roll call the following members voted aye: Higgins, Lenahan, Schaley, Vancil, Chockley, Clark and Gullberg. 7-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Higgins. Seconded by Vancil to approve the bid from R.A. Oldeen, Inc in the amount of \$773,409 for the high school phase I roof project as presented. 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 Vancil to approve PressPlus Issue 121 on the first reading as presented. On roll call the following board members voted aye: Schaley, Vancil, Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins and Lenahan. 7-0 Motion carried.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Schaley asked for the West Central Logo to be placed on the next meeting agenda and reminded the Board to submit requested agenda items to Superintendent Day or to President Schaley.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Vancil, seconded by Clark to adjourn to closed meeting pursuant of the Illinois Open Meetings Act - 5ILCS 120/2 (2) at 8:16 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;

Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

The Board took a short break and reconvened in the District Office conference room at 8:23 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Lenahan, Schaley and Vancil. Also present was S. Day.

Motion by Vancil, seconded by Lenahan to return to open session at 9:27 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 9:29 p.m. On roll call the following members answered roll call: Vancil, Chockley, Clark, Gullberg, Higgins, Lenahan and Schaley.

PERSONNEL ACTION

Motion by Vancil, seconded by Gullberg, to approve the rehire of WCMS and WCHS winter coaches as follows:

High School Coaches		Middle School Coaches	
Head Girls' Basketball	Open due to resignation	8th Grade Boys' Basketball	Casey Goff
Assistant Girls' Basketball	Jordain Johnson	7th Grade Boys' Basketball	Open due to resignation
Head Boys' Basketball	Doug Dennison	6th Grade Boys' Basketball	
Assistant Boys' Basketball	Trey Goff	8th Grade Volleyball	Open due to resignation
Bowling	Jimmy Register	7th Grade Volleyball	Gwen Kahlke
Basketball Cheer	Bailey Garner	6th Grade Volleyball	Ariel Dillard
Swim Volunteer	Heather Hinshaw	Basketball Cheer	Open due to resignation
		Athletic Director	

** The Board tabled 6th grade Basketball Coach until the next meeting.

** The Board did not rehire EJ Santos as Middle School Athletic Director.

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 Lenahan to approve the personnel agenda as presented.

West Central School District School Board Meeting Personnel Items for Board Approval Wednesday, April 15, 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:		
New Appointments:		
Gary Fryrear	Seasonal Groundskeeper (April - October 2026, max of 40 hours/week)	\$16.18/hour
Bailey Garner	WCHS Football Cheer Coach	WCATS
Tracy Mason	WCMS Assistant Principal Coach	Contract

Change of Assignment:		
Byron Helt	WCMS Asst. Principal to WCMS Principal	Contract
Bryan Taylor	WCES Asst. Principal to WCES Principal	Contract
Leaves:		
Kara Keating	Maternity Leave	N/A
Board acknowledges the following resignations/retirements (effective end of 2025-2026 school year):		
Stacey Day	Superintendent	N/A
Andrew Chockley	WCMS 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach	N/A
Lene Lox	WCMS 8th Grade Volleyball Coach	N/A
Sierra Torrance	WCES Part-time Paraprofessional	N/A

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

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Clark to approve the 2026-2029 administrative contract for Byron Helt as WCMS Principal as presented. On roll call the following members voted aye: Gullberg, Higgins, Lenahan, Schaley, Vancil, Chockley and Clark. 7-0 Motion carried.

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Vancil to approve the 2026-2029 administrative contract for Bryan Taylor as WCES Principal as presented. 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 Gullberg to approve the 2026-2029 administrative contract for Tracy Mason as WCMS Assistant Principal as presented. On roll call the following members voted aye: Lenahan, Schaley, Vancil, Chockley, Clark, Gullberg and Higgins. 7-0 Motion carried.

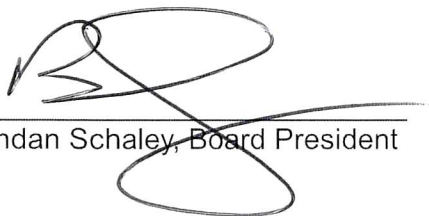
FUTURE MEETING DATE

The Board was reminded that the Special Board Meetings will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Saturday, May 9, 2026, at 8:00 a.m., and Saturday May 16, 2026, and the next regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, and will begin at 6:00 p.m., in the elementary cafeteria.


ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Chockley, seconded by Vancil to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. Majority of Ayes by Voice Vote. Motion carried.

THESE MINUTES ARE APPROVED AS WRITTEN THIS 20th DAY OF MAY, 2026.



Brendan Schaley, Board President



Malinda Clark, Board Secretary