

TO: **West Central Staff and Community**
FROM: **Stacey Day, Superintendent**
DATE: **December 29, 2025**
RE: **Summary of December 17, 2025, Board of Education Regular Meeting**

At the December 17, 2025, Board of Education Regular Meeting the following took place:

1. Prior to the Board Meeting, the Crossing Church provided dinner for the Board of Education and the Administration. We want to thank the Crossing Church and the Preisman Family for thinking of us and the great food before our meeting.
2. The Board also had a presentation by one of the MS Speech Team groups (included Justine Schaley, Claire Day, Shaelee Bowman and Alaina Goff. They presented their event that earned a 1st place rating at the Rockridge Speech Invitational earlier in the fall.
3. The Board of Education Regular Meeting was called to order by President Schaley at 6:14 pm. Board members present were: Mindy Clark, Brendan Schaley, Karl Gullberg and Mike Lenahan. Board member Lauren Chockley arrived at 7:15 pm, Board member Josh Higgins arrived at 7:35 pm. Board member Dillan Vancil was absent. Also present for the meeting were: Superintendent Stacey Day, District Administrators: Kathy Lafary, Bryan Taylor, Jason Kirby, Brittney DeWeese, District Technology Director Jeremy Hennings, Special Education Coordinator Mallory Allen and Board Recording Secretary Jaime Shultz. Also present was Tiffany Ouellette, District Librarian.
4. President Schaley led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. The following items were presented as Good News Items:
 - a. WCHS Illinois State Scholars - Teegan Rodeffer and Delaney Endress
 - b. WC hosted their annual music concerts, which were amazing!
 - c. Mr. Brooks was recognized by Valley Propane and will receive \$150 for classroom projects!
 - d. The District received a \$175 donation for lunch accounts
 - e. 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.
 - f. 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.
6. The agenda was approved with an addition of a discussion item, Operating Fund Reserve Report.
7. There was no one from the public in attendance to speak to the Board.
8. The following items were approved as part of the Consent Agenda, by a 4-0 roll call vote:

- a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting, November 18, 2025
- b. Minutes of the Closed Session, November 18, 2025
- c. Payment of Bills
- d. Approval of Activity Accounts
- e. Approval of Treasurer's Report
- f. Approval of PRESSPlus Issue 120 - Second Reading

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. The building administrators, Technology Director, Special Education Coordinator and District Librarian provided a recap of their written reports. The HS administration presented information on student tardies to class and are requesting a change in the handbook for the tardy policy and consequences. The updated policy change will be presented in January for official action.

15. The 2025 Tax Levy was approved by a 5-0 roll call vote. The final tax levy to be submitted to each county clerk is asking for \$8,034,876 in funds for the school district.

This is about a 4.97% increase in the funds received by the District last year. The estimated tax rate is \$4.06 (including the bond payment), but that will officially be set by the county clerks when the final EAVs are set by the local assessors offices.

16. The WCHS FFA has requested to attend two new judging competitions in 2026. They requested to attend a large competition in Des Moines, Iowa and one in Columbia, Missouri, as they work to improve their skills from last year and see even stronger competition. The FFA Alumni will pay for the overnight accommodations for the trip. The Board approved their field trips by a 5-0 roll call vote.
17. The Board was reminded to submit agenda requests for the next meeting to President Schaley or Superintendent Day.
18. The Board went into Closed Session to discuss Personnel and Negotiations items. They returned to Open Session and took the following action:
 - a. Approved the rehiring of the following fall coaches by a 6-0 roll call vote:

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

- b. Approved the following personnel agenda items by a 6-0 roll call vote:
 - i. Employment - Ariel Dillard - WCMS 6th Grade Volleyball Coach
 - ii. Employment - Neo Colter - WCMS Boys' Track Coach
 - iii. Employment - Stacie Anderson, Jessica Winters, Loren Fox, Karri Wallace, Julie Ricketts, Dylan Brooks, Samera Lesher, Kara Keating, Alissa Wheeler - WCES After School Tutoring
 - iv. Employment - Conner Hill, WCHS Speech Sponsor
 - v. Resignation - Sierra Torrance - WCMS Cheer Coach
 - vi. Maternity Leave - Taylor Carpenter - WCES Paraprofessional
- c. Approved the resolution, as presented, to release Closed Session minutes and destroy verbatim recordings, as required by law.
19. The Board was reminded that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 21 at 6:00 pm in the Elementary Cafeteria.
20. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.