WATERFORD UNION HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Monday, August 24, 2026

The regular meeting was called to order by President Schwartz at 6:30 p.m. Board members present at the meeting were: Ashley Bzdawka, Kelly Datka, Noah Wishau, Dennis Purtell and Doug Schwartz.

Due to ongoing construction and the unavailability of the regular meeting space at Waterford Union, themeeting was relocated to the WUHS Library Media Center. Official notice of the meeting was made by way of publication in the *Waterford Post* of Thursday, August 20, 2026, and by posting in the District Office (Door #7) and on the District's website. Minutes from the June 15, 2026 regular board meeting were posted on the District's website.

Mr. Schwartz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

There was a motion by Purtell, seconded by Wishau to approve the following items presented under the Consent Agenda.

1. **Approval of Bills Paid**
2. **Meeting Minutes**
   - Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting - July 27, 2026
   - Minutes of Special Meeting - July 20, 206
   - Minutes of Special Meeting - July 13, 2026
3. **Staffing Updates**
   - Resignation - Trevor Pye, Special Education Program Assistant
   - New Hire - Miranda Rubenzer, Special Ed. Teacher/Case Manager
4. **2025-26 Seclusion and Restraint Report**
5. **Overnight Field Trip Request - Music Dept**

Roll call vote was recorded: Ashley Bzdawka (Vice President): Yea, Kelly Datka (Treasurer): Yea, Dennis Purtell (Clerk): Yea, Doug Schwartz (President). No objections were noted, motion carried.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

No residents commented.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **Staff Survey**

Dr. Francois reported the district has spent the past few months preparing for another year of continuous improvement at Waterford Union which includes a staff survey, the Guiding Coalition, and setting a district goal. Francois further discussed the review of the Energage staff survey data and recommended establishing a baseline for the next survey questions and built the survey from there. Bzdawka suggested an alternative approach regarding the survey design. Discussion was held that a timeline is established and survey questions must be in the final draft a week before they are scheduled to be sent to staff and to be prepared at the September board meeting to narrow the questions down to be ready for October launch.

Further discussion was held regarding at the completion of this staff survey cycle, the Board could decide whether to renew the contract with Energage or explore other survey providers.

2. **Back-to-School Opening**

Principal Foster outlined the schedule of the two weeks immediately prior to the first day of school. The first week starts with substitute orientation on Monday, August 24. Tuesday and Wednesday are scheduled for new teachers, culture, climate, a tour, systems expectations for students, and more. Thursday is a soft start with all staff attending. The second week continues on Monday, with a full start that front-loads the "need to know" information, followed by uninterrupted work time in the rooms for most of the day to provide staff with the flexibility to ease in, reconnect, prepare their rooms, and manage their time before our wellness and Leader in Me professional growth begins on Monday and Tuesday, respectively. SOAR is scheduled for the morning of Thursday, September 3, and all students will begin on Tuesday, September 8th. Datka confirmed that the Leader in Me programming is continuing.

3. <u>2026-2027 Budget — Preview of the Budget Hearing & Annual Meeting</u>

The Annual meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2026 at 4:00pm. Dr. Francois outlined what is most notable in the proposed budget is the flat tax rate of 4.15 mills is unchanged from the prior year; a total proposed tax levy of $14,544,777 (General Operations, Long-Term Debt Service, and Community Services); state general aid of $4,784,635 (up 3.62%), with the increase directed toward debt reduction; fund-by-fund revenue and expenditure summaries and the district's reserve position; and a planned $100,000 Community Service Fund investment to upgrade the baseball and softball diamonds, funded from fund balance (no new taxes). Discussion was held. Purtell questioned if funds were being levied in the community service fund. Dr. Francois confirmed $79k is being levied in the Community Service fund through the budget, but the $100K is fund balance and will be used towards repairs to the baseball and softball diamonds. Further discussion that the fields are made available for community use and it is expected cost of $96,400 for the upgrades. Bzdawka questioned if any other needs would displace the project. Francois confirmed it would not. Datka questioned the extent of the repairs to the fields. Francois confirmed the repairs will not remedy the flooding and the fields are being updated where there are safety concerns.

4. <u>Construction Update</u>

Dr. Francois reported that the D-wing is completely abated from all asbestos and lead piping. He reported on unforeseen delays with the addition of the loading dock and the elevator shaft which is under engineering review for solutions on how to proceed with the goal to be completed by October. Discussion was held while the timeline is being adjusted there is an expectation during renovations on old structures to have to pivot. Francois reported that a large majority of the project is on budget, on time. Important to mention is that the main water valves are being run through the entire building this coming year and next year the project will be completed, and the whole school building will have fire suppression. Dr. Francois further reported under budget funds could be reallocated for other projects for grounds and buildings. Basically anything already within the scope of this referendum. Francois reported only two or three change orders have been made, and in these instances were made quickly on site in collaboration with buildings and grounds when a situation came up. Datka suggested that change orders be shared at the next regular board meeting for continued transparency. It was agreed that change orders will be presented at the next meeting.

ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION

No items for Board action

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Francois noted that Joe Bianchi, WUHS math teacher, is present at this meeting as part of his practicum work toward his master degree in school business administration.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Schwartz expressed his appreciation for dedicating the lower Main St. baseball parking lot as an accessible entrance for handicapped and senior event attendees. He also thanked the golf cart company and volunteers for assisting event goers to and from the stadium on game days.

ADJOURN FROM OPEN MEETING

There was a motion by Datka, seconded by Wishau to adjourn. All ayes; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held Monday, September 21, 2026 in the WUHS Library Media Center. The Finance Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m., and the regular meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dennis Purtell, Clerk