

**WATERFORD UNION HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 9, 2026
Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Dennis Purtell and roll call was conducted. Members present included Kelly Datka, Mr. Purtell, Mr. Schwarz, and Mr. Beck; Mr. Schoenfeld was absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Superintendent Luke Francois confirmed that the meeting was properly noticed through publication in the Waterford Post, postings at the district office, and on the district website.

Consent Agenda

The board approved the consent agenda (Motion by Beck second by Schwartz approved 4-0), which included:

- Bills paid in the previous month
- Minutes from the February 16 special and regular meetings
- Staffing updates (including one resignation, one hire, and the retirement of Ms. Newton)
- Field trip requests
- Early College Credit and Start College Now requests
- Establishment of a new student activity account

Public Comment

Karen Alexander, a community member, offered brief remarks congratulating the district on positive recognition in a recent newspaper article and commended the work of the school leadership.

Course Registration and Staffing Overview

Principal Dan Foster provided an overview of the course registration and staffing process for the upcoming school year. The presentation emphasized balancing three priorities: maintaining a well-rounded student experience, ensuring qualified staffing, and maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Key points included:

- Course offerings are built primarily from student requests.
- Classes with fewer than approximately 12 students typically do not run unless there are unique circumstances.
- Departments continue to consolidate or eliminate consistently low-enrollment courses while monitoring class sizes and staffing levels.
- Adjustments were discussed in areas such as adaptive physical education offerings, driver's education delivery, and reductions in certain staffing positions due to enrollment trends.

The administration also described several instructional initiatives, including:

- Continued implementation of the PLC framework and focus on the four PLC questions.
- Expansion of co-curricular opportunities such as SkillsUSA, HOSA, DECA, and Academic Decathlon.
- Exploration of accelerated academic pathways for highly advanced students, including pilot opportunities for select freshmen to enroll in AP U.S. History or AP Biology based on assessment data.
- Ongoing review of honors course expectations and reinforcement support structures for struggling students.
- Consideration of adjustments to math sequencing and special education support models.

Board members asked questions regarding reinforcement courses, honors programming, AP course sequencing, and the process used to evaluate course offerings. Administration clarified that several initiatives are being piloted with small cohorts and will be monitored and evaluated with data over time.

Student Fee Adjustments (Information Item)

Superintendent Francois presented a preliminary review of the district's student fee structure for the 2026–2027 school year. Most course fees would remain unchanged. Proposed adjustments include:

- Increasing the student parking fee from \$50 to \$100 to better align with surrounding districts.
- Increasing the athletic participation fee from \$75 to \$95 per sport.
- Reducing the physical education rollerblade maintenance fee from \$10 to \$5.

These changes were presented for discussion and will return as an action item at a future meeting.

Policy Update – Act 57 (NEOLA)

The board reviewed a policy update required under Wisconsin Act 57, which establishes new procedures for notifying parents when there is reasonable cause to suspect sexual misconduct involving a staff member and a student. The policy includes detailed guidance on identifying potential boundary violations and reporting procedures. The item was presented as a first reading and will return for action at a future meeting.

Construction Project Update and Change Orders

The board reviewed four change orders related to the current building renovation project:

1. \$2,000 deduct from the project due to a modification in fire-rated glass specifications.
2. \$13,178 increase to upgrade window framing from 4-inch to 6-inch aluminum frames to address field conditions and improve energy efficiency.
3. Gas line rerouting to relocate an exposed line in the renovation area.
4. Removal of abandoned gas piping in underground tunnels, with costs shared between the district and contractor.

The board approved all change orders (Motion by Schwartz, second by Beck, approved 4-0).

Administration reported that the project remains on schedule and within budget, with sufficient contingency funds available.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Francois provided several updates:

- Athletic Director Search: Approximately 20 applicants have expressed interest. Applications will remain open through April 1, with semifinalist interviews scheduled shortly after spring break and final interviews to follow. A candidate is expected to be recommended before the May board meeting.
- Discussion also occurred regarding administrative staffing levels and historical structures. Administration will provide comparative data with similar districts for context.
- The district's AI/Innovation Committee is nearing completion of a handbook and will meet with the board policy committee to align the handbook with district policy.

Adjournment to Closed Session

The board voted to convene into closed session under Wisconsin Statute 19.85 to deliberate regarding negotiations and potential purchase of public property and other specified district business requiring confidentiality. (Motion by Schwartz, second by Beck, approved 4-0 at 8:41 PM)

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, April 20, 2026. The meeting will be held in the Large Group Instruction Room beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas P. Schwartz, Board Clerk