

**WAUNAKEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

Monday, November 2, 2020

6:00 PM

Waunakee Community School District
905 Bethel Circle
Waunakee, WI 53597

Members of the public may attend Board of Education meetings in-person, subject to space limitations, as well as guidelines and orders that are in place for indoor gatherings. Members of the public who choose to access the meeting via live stream video may do so

at: <https://www.waunakee.k12.wi.us/district/Agendas.cfm>

Public comments are to be sent to Rebecca McDonough at district_administrator@waunakee.k12.wi.us by 5:00 p.m. the day of the Board meeting. All comments will be reviewed by the Board members. If you would like your comment to be read aloud at the meeting, please state this request clearly in your email. Comments must include the commentator's name, address, and must identify their connection to the District (if any) and any group they are representing in order to be considered by the Board.

If you would like to address the Board in-person during the public comments section of the meeting, you will be greeted outside the buildings and brought into the meeting individually to present; if you are attending the Board meeting in person, you will be asked to check in with District personnel when you arrive so that you can be recognized and address the Board when your name is called.

You will be required to abide by guidelines and/or orders required for indoor public locations in Dane County and Wisconsin. If in-person attendance is unexpectedly high at a Board meeting, adhering to social distancing guidelines may not be possible in the limited space available in the District Office; when this does occur, the District will provide access to an alternative location where the meeting will be presented and accessed through live stream video.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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Individuals may use this time to comment on any school district items. A copy of Board Policy 187 —Public Participation at Board Meetings is enclosed for your reference. Past practice has allowed 30 minutes for this section of the agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ADDITIONS

A motion will be necessary to approve the agenda as presented (or) with changes as recommended.

V. TO REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN FOR THE RETURN OF GRADES 5-12 TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND RELATED ISSUES OF SCHOOL REOPENING OR COVID-19.

Per the motion by the Board of Education at the October 26th meeting, the administration is preparing a plan/timeline for returning students to school in grades 5-12 in a hybrid learning model by the start of the 2nd semester of the 2020-2021 school year.

The administration is preparing a succinct presentation for Monday night that will highlight the planning for a return of grades 5-12. As part of this plan we will illustrate the steps that will be taken logistically to make this plan operational and an associated timeline. The

presentation that will be used on Monday night is not included in BoardBook as a few parts of the presentation are not yet ready for public presentation. Randy Guttenberg will present the plan on Monday evening. The initial request by the Board was for this plan to be presented on November 9th. Any aspects of this plan that you want further outlined, or any part of the plan that is not fully prepared for Monday evening, will be presented to the Board on November 9th.

The other purpose for this agenda item is to allow for dialog about school reopening plans and other school related matters as they relate to COVID-19, school reopening, or school programs/activities.

VI. DISCUSS/CONSIDER A BOARD STATEMENT REGARDING AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

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Attached please find a statement that was written and submitted by Mark Hetzel regarding American Education Week.

VII. FUTURE AGENDAS AND MEETINGS

A. DISCUSS/CONSIDER STAFF LISTENING SESSIONS

Joan Ensign has requested that the Board consider conducting their annual staff listening sessions. These listening sessions would most likely be virtual and could be organized by building, grade level spans or the whole staff. The District Office Staff can assist with finding a date, time, and setting up the logistics.

VIII. ADJOURN

“Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act who requires assistance with access or materials should contact the Waunakee Community School District Office at 849-2000, 905 Bethel Circle Drive Waunakee, WI 53597, at least twenty-four hours prior to the commencement of the meeting so that necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate the request.”

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS DURING BOARD MEETINGS

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While the public has the right to attend meetings of the Board of Education that have not been convened in a closed session, individuals or groups generally do not have a right to be included on a Board meeting agenda or a right to enter into the discussions or deliberations of the Board. However, without affecting the Board's discretion to authorize other forms of input or participation during Board meetings from persons who are not Board members, the Board expressly authorizes and directs limited public participation during duly-noticed public comment periods as follows:

1. The Superintendent and Board President shall ensure that the agenda and public notice of the Board's primary regular business meeting each month includes a period for public comment. During a public comment period noticed under this paragraph, interested persons may briefly address the Board on topics that are reasonably germane to some aspect of the District's policies, practices, programs, or operations, regardless of whether the speaker's topic is otherwise noticed as a specific subject matter of the meeting in question.
2. Subject to any more specific decision or directive of the Board, the Board President has discretion to include a period of public comment on the agenda and public notice of additional Board meetings. In exercising such discretion, the President may specify on the public notice of the meeting that speaker comments during the public comment period will be limited to topics that are sufficiently germane to the noticed subject matter of the meeting.

When a public comment period is expressly included on the public notice of a Board meeting and there is sufficient interest in addressing the Board, the period shall either include at least 10 individual speakers or extend for 30 actual minutes, whichever limitation permits the greater total number of speakers. However, the Board may extend the total duration of a noticed public comment period at any meeting by a majority vote.

The Superintendent, or his/her designee, will implement a viewpoint-neutral speaker registration process that establishes an order for speaking in the event that the interest in appearing before the Board at any meeting may exceed the time that is allocated for the public comment period. Each speaker, upon being recognized by the presiding officer, will state his/her name and identify his/her connection to the District (if any) and to any group they are representing in connection with their remarks.

Each speaker's presentation is normally limited to a maximum of 3 minutes. However, at a meeting the Board may vote to reduce the time limit to no shorter than 2 minutes per speaker in order to accommodate a greater total number of speakers. In addition, at the Board's discretion, a speaker's time may be briefly extended provided that, upon request, a similar extension shall be granted to other speakers at the same meeting. Any individual may speak only once during the public comment period at any meeting.

Speakers generally should not expect an immediate response or reaction to their comments from the Board. Further:

1. If, at applicable meetings, a speaker raises a topic during a public comment period that was not among the publicly-noticed subject matter of the meeting, the extent of any response to

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the speaker and his/her remarks shall be limited in accordance with applicable law.

2. During a public comment period, Board members will not engage in a substantive discussion of or otherwise attempt to materially investigate or reach a Board resolution of either (a) complaints or grievances regarding the conduct of individual staff members or individual students; or (b) attempts to appeal staff or administrative decisions relating to individual District employees or students. A public comment period during a Board meeting is not the preferred or established means of processing such issues or bringing such matters to the Board's attention.
3. If time or other limitations preclude an interested person from addressing the Board at a specific meeting, the person may submit written information to the Board and/or attempt to utilize a public comment period at a future meeting.

Subject to an appeal to the Board that is made by a Board member, the presiding officer of the Board meeting shall have the authority to conduct and maintain proper order in connection with any authorized public comment period, including the authority to (1) recognize speakers; (2) enforce established time limits; (3) interject and request that speakers voluntarily redirect specific complaints, grievances, or attempted appeals to more appropriate District procedures; and (4) terminate the remarks of any individual who does not adhere to established rules and procedures for public participation, who speaks in a threatening or profane manner, whose comments are repetitive of that person's previous comments, or whose conduct is disruptive and impedes the Board's ability to conduct its business in an orderly and timely fashion.

Individuals who are permitted to address the Board during a meeting are responsible for the content of their comments. The forum represented by a public comment period does not exempt a speaker from any liability arising from his/her comments (e.g., for defamation or for any breach of legally-protected confidentiality).

This policy and any rules and/or procedures that may be adopted related to the administration of public comment periods under this policy are not intended to apply to the following:

1. A meeting or any portion of a meeting that constitutes a formal public hearing on a particular topic or issue.
2. Instances where the Board seeks or agrees, by majority vote, to accept input that is relevant to a noticed agenda item from a person who is not a Board member in order to (for example) resolve a formal or informal point of information that arises during the Board's discussion of an agenda item.
3. Meetings of any standing or ad hoc committee that may be established by the Board.

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

- [Section 19.81](#) [state policy on open meetings]
[Section 19.83\(2\)](#) [discussion during period of public comment]

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[Section 19.84\(2\)](#) [public notice of board meetings, including public comment period]
[Section 19.85](#) [exemptions to open meetings]

Cross References:

WASB PRG 187 Sample Policy 4 (with substantial local adaptation)

Adoption/Revision Date(s):

October 1989
March 1994
September 1994
January 2000
February 2002
May 2020

American Education Week is next week, November 16 - 20. What a great time to express our gratitude to our students, staff, families, and members of our community for their hard work and commitment to providing and using the best public education for our community.

American Education Week is a week sponsored by the National Education, the Dept. of Education, the American Legion, and nearly all major state and national professional education organizations to celebrate public schools in our communities.

This year for American Education Week let's celebrate the extraordinary collaboration of so many different groups of people in the Waunakee Community School District contributing to our public education. At a time in which we all have been mightily challenged by the Covid 19 pandemic, we have seen how significantly we depend upon each other to safely give our students the best education possible.

As the WCSD Board of Education, we thank all those involved in this enterprise of educating our students.

First and foremost, we thank our students who have shown great courage, determination, and resilience as they have gone about their business of being students and making the best of the challenging realities resulting from Covid 19. Every day they do their best in learning environments far different from what they experienced pre-Covid. We appreciate and congratulate them for their hard work, mindfulness, and extraordinary efforts in a difficult time.

Likewise, we are most grateful to the parents and families in our communities who support their children's education on a daily basis, especially now. Parents, grandparents, relatives, and caregivers have all responded to the challenge of assisting our students. We appreciate and value the hard work and exemplary engagement our families have shown, during this pandemic, and for advocating for the best for their children and our community, working with our schools to provide the resources our students and staff need during these daunting times.

We are most appreciative for the extraordinary effort, leadership, and commitment to our students by our outstanding staff:

- our administrators - district and building level
- classroom teachers
- administrative support staff
- administrative assistants
- para-educators
- substitute teachers
- custodians and maintenance staff
- IT staff, food service staff, bus drivers, and crossing guards.

During this most daunting of times, your hard work and extra hours of dedicated service has been nothing short of exceptional. Thank you for selflessly sharing the gifts of your exceptional talents, positive attitudes, and commitment to excellence with our students and our community.

Finally, we are also appreciative for the tremendous community support the WCSD receives from our community partners:

- PTO organizations
- daycare and after school care providers
- booster groups
- parent leadership and advisory committees
- our business partnerships
- tax payers

We invite all of you during American Education Week and throughout the year to express your gratitude to all these special people who contribute so selflessly to public education in the WCSD. Together, we all make a difference.

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