

**WATERFORD UNION HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 18, 2026
Regular Meeting - 6:30 PM**

The regular meeting was called to order by Vice President Purtell at 6:31 p.m. Board members present at the meeting were: Ashley Bzdawka, Dennis Purtell, and Doug Schwartz. Absent: Kelly Datka.

Official notice of the meeting was made by way of publication in the *Waterford Post* on Thursday, May 14, 2026, was posted at the District Office (Door #7) and at Entrance #19, and was published on the District's website. Minutes from the regular board meeting of March 9, 2026, are posted on the District's website.

Mr. Purtell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Member Vacancy

Mr. Purtell formally recognized the resignation of Gary Beck, Sr., effective May 13, 2026. During Executive Session, the Board will discuss whether to fill the vacancy using the applicant pool from former Board President Mike Schoenfeld's recent resignation (May 7) or to post the position again.

Board Reorganization

The Board is required to elect officers at a school board meeting held on or within 30 days following the fourth Monday in April (May 27, 2026) to serve for the forthcoming year and determine committee assignments. There was a motion by Schwartz, seconded by Bzdawka, to postpone the election of officers and committee assignments until after a new board member is appointed to replace Mr. Beck. All ayes; motion carried.

No objections were noted with regard to the proposed list of board meeting dates for the 2026-27 school year.

There was motion by Schwartz, seconded by Bzdawka, to appoint Dennis Purtell as the District's delegate to the CESA 2 annual convention held in June, as well as for the 2027 WASB State Education Convention held in January. All ayes; motion carried.

There was a motion by Purtell, seconded by Bzdawka, to appoint Doug Schwartz as the alternate delegate. All ayes; motion carried.

Consent Agenda

The following items were presented to the Board for approval under the consent agenda:

- A. Review of Paid Bills
- B. Minutes - April 20, 2026
- C. Minutes - April 20, 2026 Executive Session
- D. Minutes - May 7, 2026 Special Meeting
- E. Minutes - May 13, 2026 Special Meeting
- F. Minutes - May 14, 2026 Emergency Meeting
- G. Staffing Updates (None)
- H. Vacation Carryover Request – Ehren Klebenow
- I. Open Enrollment Applications 2026-27 SY
- J. DPI Special Education Policies and Procedures Manual, and Model Forms

Moved by Schwartz, seconded by Bzdawka, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, excluding the board meeting minutes from May 7, May 13, and May 14. Approval of those minutes was postponed until the next regular monthly meeting. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Resident Comments

No residents were present who wished to address the board.

Information Items

Student Council Report

The Student Council rep was not present.

Focus on Community - Student Risk Assessment Results

Jason Meekma, Executive Director of Focus on Community, shared results from the fall assessment of 687 students in grades 9 through 12 were presented to the board. Waterford students achieved an average score of 40.7 out of 60 on the developmental asset scale, marking the highest performance in Racine County. The assessment identified several key organizational strengths, particularly in the areas of family connection, empowerment, and support/boundaries. Conversely, the data highlighted areas for growth, including commitment to learning, positive identity, and the constructive use of time. Specific concerns were raised regarding student vaping, which remains a significant issue driven by a low perception of risk among youth, as well as findings indicating that nearly half of the surveyed students spend four or more hours daily on social media. To address these challenges, proposed strategies were introduced, which include focusing on youth voice, implementing strength-based evaluations, and introducing a "social media reset" challenge.

2026-27 Budget Process Update

Preliminary numbers for the 2026–2027 budget are currently being compiled following the recent approval of administrator, staff, and teacher salaries. Staff requests are under review; three bids are required for items or services exceeding \$1,000 in cost. A full preliminary budget will be presented in June.

In response to member Schwartz's query, Dr. Francois noted that there is one year remaining on the current bus contract with Dousman.

Construction Update

Summer work is focused on the "D-wing" (formerly Maple View). Projects include HVAC upgrades, electrical work, and new flooring. A structural wall in the art lobby required shoring, which may delay the completion of the new elevator by 2–3 weeks, though the wing should be accessible by the start of school. Teachers who may be relocating to another classroom or area in the fall are boxing up their classroom contents in preparation for summer work. Superintendent Francois is working with the Village to obtain necessary permits to vacate Center Street for the construction of the loading dock slated for this summer.

Items For Board Action

Neola Policy 5330 - Administration of Medication/Emergency Care

There was a motion by Schwartz, seconded by Bzdawka, to approve revisions to Policy 5330 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Francois provided the following updates.

- Commencement is scheduled for Friday night, June 5, with approximately 230 students participating. Tickets are limited to five per student to maintain gym capacity.
- The search for an Athletic and Activities Director is ongoing. After the first series of candidate interviews, the top candidate accepted a position elsewhere. After reposting the vacancy, the District received 15 additional applications. Two candidates will be interviewed tomorrow night.
- Gateway Technical College: 43 students earned 1,895 dual credits, saving parents approximately \$381,000. Plans are underway to expand technical pathways in trades like HVAC, electrical, and IT.

President's Report

Vice President Purtell praised the service of former board member Gary Beck, Sr. who served 14 years total on the WUHS Board of Education. Newest board member Ashley Bzdawka was welcomed to the Board.

There followed a motion by Schwartz, seconded by Bzdawka to adjourn into Executive Session under State Statute 19.85 (1) (c), considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. All ayes; motion carried. This done at 7:42 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, June 15, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. Due to ongoing summer construction, the Large Group Instruction room (LGI) is inaccessible, and an alternative meeting location is yet to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Schwartz, Board Clerk