

Wesclin Board of Education
 Minutes of the Public Board Meeting
 Monday, March 16, 2026

The Board of Education of Wesclin Community School District # 3, Clinton and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, met in a public hearing session on Monday, the 16th day of March, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., at the Wesclin High School in said district.

I. General Business

A. Roll Call

At the above-named time and place there were present the following officers and members of the Board:

	<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>
Jeff Stroot, President:	X _____	_____
Jared Poettker, Vice President:	X _____	_____
Tina Litteken, Treasurer:	X _____	_____
Dustin Biggs, Secretary:	X _____	_____
Zach Peters:	X _____	_____
Samantha Mohme:	X _____	_____
Stephen Brown:	X _____	_____

A quorum of the Board members being present, the current president called the meeting to order and declared the Board to be in session for the transaction of business.

Administrators present:

Jennifer Filyaw, Superintendent:	X _____	_____
Jamey Rahm:	X _____	_____
Angela Woll:	X _____	_____
Zack Huels:	X _____	_____
Patrick Weathers:	X _____	_____
Jaime Bonsall:	X _____	_____

B. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the previous regular meeting and of the executive session of February 17, 2026 were approved on a motion by Tina Litteken, seconded by Jared Poettker.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Samantha Mohme, Jared Poettker-aye. Motion passes 7-0

C. District Finances

Motion made by Tina Litteken, seconded by Dustin Biggs to approve The Treasurer's Report and payment of payroll in the amount of \$1,046,195.66 and bills in the amount of \$647,370.60.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Samantha Mohme, Jared Poettker-aye. Motion passes 7-0

D. Agenda modification

Motion made by Dustin Biggs, seconded by Tina Litteken to approve agenda as presented.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Samantha Mohme, Jared Poettker-aye. Motion passes 7-0

E. Superintendent Report

Last Day of School

The last day of school is Thursday, May 21. Graduation is set for Sunday, May 17 at 2pm.

Upcoming Board Meetings

Mrs. Filyaw stated there is a special board meeting on March 30 at 6pm, and the April board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21 at 6pm.

Chromebook Usage Update

Mrs. Filyaw provided a presentation of chromebook usage by building/grade.

Summer PALS information and Registration

Mrs. Filyaw stated that Summer PALS will be held at the Middle School this year due to the construction at both elementary schools.

Retreat Follow-Up- Goal Topic Discussions

Mrs. Filyaw provided a summary of the information shared from the retreat to the board.

H. Principals' Report

Mr. Rahm wanted to give a thank you to Student Council at the High School during Teacher Appreciation Week! He also gave a shout out to Ms. Hemker and students that hosted FFA week and provided breakfast items for staff. He finished by inviting everyone to come to the High School to watch the "Little Woman" play.

Mr. Huels gave a shout-out to Wesclin Middle School Support Committee for an outstanding turn out for the Glo Bingo event! Thank you to the community for attending, the event raised \$16,000! Also, good luck is in order for the Girls/Boys bowling team as they are headed to state!

Mr. Weathers stated that New Baden Elementary had a successful Family Reading Night. Also, the kids are about to kick off their IAR testing after Spring Break.

Mrs. Woll said Trenton Elementary had an obstacle party that was put together by Mrs. Musenbrock. She finished by adding she wants to give a thank you to her for always going above and beyond for the students, and always being so creative!

Mrs. Bonsall wanted to thank everyone for their assistance with the Annual Reviews for Special Education Department.

II. Discussion

Lifewise Academy-

Mrs. Filyaw provided information regarding the Lifewise Academy and how it will be implemented within the Trenton Community.

Samantha Mohme raised concerns regarding the material that would come back into classrooms. She stated that she would like to know how teachers are told to handle these instances. She also said that more information regarding the procedure would be beneficial to staff.

Mr. Stroot asked if a background check is conducted on the staff.

Mrs. Litteken said that she has received an outpouring of phone calls from the community regarding this topic. She said that she did not have the information to give, as she has zero information about it as this is a separate program outside of Wesclin. She said that this topic was brought up last Spring but it has not been revisited since.

Residence Policy 7:60- Non-Certified Staff's Children-

Mrs. Filyaw stated that a member of the non-certified staff requested that the board consider allowing non-certified staff to be included in the policy that allows children residing outside of the district attend Wesclin schools.

Samantha Mohme inquired about nurses and secretaries that have children residing outside of the district, that want to have their children attend Wesclin.

Zach Peters said he thinks that the decision is good where it is currently. He suggested starting with certified staff and see how it goes first.

Jeff Strott mentioned that it could be an incentive for staff who are non-certified to become certified.

Policy Committee Discussion-

- Streaming of Board Meetings

The board discussed the option of live streaming the meetings.

Mr. Stroot questioned the cost that the district would have and the minutes being approved.

Mr. Peters asked about the verification factor and signing in to view the meetings.

- Develop a policy requiring the Superintendent and the Board of Education to use a multi criteria decision making model to foster objective board members input on Board Vision, major fiscal decisions and hiring practices. The board would be required to provide direct input on which criteria are more important than others that result in the Board-endorsed priorities of work on the school

Mr. Brown stated that this could possibly blur the line between the Administrators job on what needs are needed for the school. He said that the board's job is not to manage the school, and that the Administrators gather information and what the needs are and provide logic.

Mrs. Mohme stated that having a full scope of what the needs are for the district is needed. Also, more information for the live streaming is needed also.

Mr. Biggs gave an example of the turf field project. He said that decision was made before all aspects and alternatives were considered. He said the goals of the school and the bigger picture is important and this could require the board to be more involved in the district's decisions and success. He also asked if the board wanted a goal of not setting the tax levy as high next school year.

Mr. Stroot said that the Building and Grounds Committee could discuss it, but could take a significant amount of time, especially with the expectations.

Mrs. Litteken said that she believes that the responsibilities and duties of the board are getting lost. She said that normally the board retreats are where the board gets together to work on things/ go over bullet points and that the president puts together items to discuss. She said that there are workshops provided by ISBE that help the board and provide guidance and she believes a retreat would be beneficial for board vision and what roles the board plays.

Mrs. Filyaw stated that the board needs to discuss goals for the district and suggested a board retreat.

III. Reception of Visitors

Travis Santel asked when the last board retreat was held, and location. He also said that posting the agendas on the outside of the school is required and allows the public to be more informed on the meetings.

Tiffany Luis stated she would like to address the board in Executive Session.

Tiffany Haselhorst questioned why Lifewise couldn't be held after school is out. She said she does not feel safe or comfortable with this idea as more information is needed regarding the staff and the program.

IV. Celebration of Success

- A. Thank you to our elementary schools for celebrating Read Across America Week. Shout out to our teachers for organizing these great events.
 - a. Trenton Elementary- Megan Kehrler, Angie Klein, Jean Heier, Tonya Fohne
 - b. New Baden Elementary- Emily Hemann, Cristine Krausz, Teresa Hovenga
- B. Congratulations to Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Page, and the members of our WHS Band and Chorus for a wonderful Pops Concert on March 9th. Great job by all!
- C. Congratulations to the Wesclin High School Scholar Bowl team for their Regional Championship.
- D. Congratulations to the Middle School Girls' Basketball Team for their 2nd place finish at state.
- E. Thanks to Nurse Jessica for arranging our Land of Smiles Dental Assembly (along with dental gift bags for each student.) February is Dental Health Month and this assembly is always a big hit with our students.
- F. Congratulations to the following students that were honored by the Illinois Principal Association for their stellar character and academic excellence:
 - i. Trenton Elementary- Savannah Gossett
 - ii. New Baden Elementary- Logan Guthrie
 - iii. Middle School- Ezekiel Nevarez
 - iv. High School- Kayne Reed

V. Items Requiring Board of Education Action

A. Adopt 2026-2027 School Calendar

Mrs. Filyaw shared the proposed 2026-2027 school calendar to the board.

Motion by Jared Poettker, seconded by Zach Peters to approve the 2026-2027 school calendar as presented.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

B. Asbestos Abatement

Bids were accepted on February 12th for the asbestos abatement that is required at Trenton Elementary. Mrs. Filyaw stated Talbert ICS received positive references and recommended using this company.

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Motion by Tina Litteken, seconded by Dustin Biggs to approve Talbert ICS for the asbestos abatement project at Trenton Elementary in the amount of \$14,800.00.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

C. Policy Update

Mrs. Filyaw stated that the policy committee met and presented the changes to the board. She provided the PRESS update memo that outlines the changes between the districts current policy and the proposed changes.

Motion by Dustin Biggs, seconded by Samantha Mohme to approve the following policies, administrative procedures, and exhibits:

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Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

E. Overnight Field Trip

Mrs. Filyaw shared that the seniors have voted and chosen a Senior Trip to Holiday World in Indiana.

Motion by Zach Peters, seconded by Tina Litteken to approve the senior class trip to Holiday World in Indiana.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

F. IHSA Membership

This is an annual renewal and approval.

Motion by Zach Peters, seconded by Stephen Brown to approve the renewal of our IHSA Membership.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

G. Consent Agenda

a. Hire:

- i. Catherine Kohnen- We are recommending Mrs. Kohnen as a high school chemistry teacher for the 2026-2027 school year.
- ii. Kaleb Berry- We are recommending Mr. Berry as a middle school physical education teacher for the 2026-2027 school year.
- iii. Alicen Kjollien- We are recommending Ms. Kjollien as an elementary/middle school physical education teacher for the 2026-2027 school year.
- iv. Trevor Wolf- We are recommending Mr. Wolf as a full-time bus driver beginning immediately.

b. Resignation:

- i. Meg Schnoeker- Ms. Schnoeker is resigning her position as a 7th grade girls' basketball coach.
- ii. Emily Heinzman- Mrs. Heinzman is resigning her position as a kindergarten teacher.

c. Position/Location Change:

- i. Sydney Perez- we are recommending Mrs. Perez, School Counselor (Social Worker) move from Wesclin Middle School to Wesclin High School.
- ii. Courtney Fisher- We are recommending Ms. Fisher, current 7th grade math teacher, move to a School Counselor (Social Worker) at Wesclin Middle School.

d. Leave Without Pay

- i. Mackenzie Biggins- Ms. Biggins is requesting 1 day without pay.

Motion by Zach Peters, seconded by Jared Poettker to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

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I. Closed Session for the purposes of discussing appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Board or legal counsel for the Board, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the Board or against legal counsel for the Board to determine its validity pursuant to Section 2©(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

Motion by Zach Peters, seconded by Tina Litteken to move into closed session for the purposes of discussing personnel and student discipline. (7:22 pm.)

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

Motion by Stephen Brown, seconded by Jared Poettker to return from closed session into the regular meeting. (8:21 PM)

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

VI. Adjournment:

It was moved by Dustin Biggs, seconded by Zach Peters that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

President



Secretary

