

Wesclin Board of Education
Minutes of the Public Board Meeting
Monday, December 15 , 2025

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 15th day of December 2025, 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:	<u>X</u>	<u></u>
Jared Poettker, Vice President:	<u>X</u>	<u></u>
Tina Litteken, Treasurer:	<u>X</u>	<u></u>
Dustin Biggs, Secretary:	<u>X</u>	<u></u>
Zach Peters:	<u>X</u>	<u></u>
Samantha Mohme:	<u>X</u>	<u></u>
Stephen Brown:	<u>X</u>	<u></u>

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:	<u>X</u>	<u></u>
Jamey Rahm:	<u>X</u>	<u></u>
Angela Woll:	<u>X</u>	<u></u>
Zack Huels:	<u>X</u>	<u></u>
Patrick Weathers:	<u>X</u>	<u></u>
Jaime Bonsall:	<u>X</u>	<u></u>

B. Public Hearing (Truth in Taxation)

1. Information-

Mrs. Filyaw shared the attached information during the tax levy hearing. She also stated the more EAV goes up- the lower the taxes for the community. Mrs. Filyaw stated she recommends a 10% EAV increase, as done in the past. Mr. Biggs asked if there were any budget rates for tort funds, and if they are able to take board action to possibly lower that cost. Mrs. Filyaw provided a summary of the district's tentative budget by fund that includes the balances, revenues, and expenditures.

2. Public Comments

Charles Lowder wanted to express how the tax payers in the community are already stressed. He stated that families often have to figure out their financial struggles and make financial cuts, so he believes the school should also. He shared the ISBE lowered the academic standards and he believes that the district is lacking in academics.

Harvey Davis asked how increasing the EAV is beneficial to the community/tax payers. If the increase is based on the community's assessments, how is that beneficial to tax payers?

He also stated that the goal should be to pay off bonds, not to increase taxes so that the community has to suffer those fees. Mr. Davis stated that because the bond hearing was published in the Trenton Sun- what about the New Baden residents who knew nothing of this hearing as 49% of the district resides in New Baden. He asked additional questions. Mrs Filyaw encouraged him to email her so she can provide the correct information.

Kevin Brinkmann attended the meeting and he expressed his concern of the notice of the bond last month should be up to the public. He shared that the board was elected to help the community, and they should have more input from the tax payers whos pockets the increase would come out of. He stated that the school leadership needs help, and that Mrs. Filyaw does not reside in the district which means the increase does not affect her or her family. He thinks that the district is spending too much money on sporting causes, and vocational needs more attention and money. He stated he does not think the district needs a new field house or turf, and that there needs to be cuts made rather than taking money from the community. Mr. Brinkmann shared that in the next election cycle for board members, he plans to vote against all that are current as they have not helped the communities wants/needs for this district. He finished by saying the tax increase should have been up to public votes.

Noah Marlar stated he is a 2019 graduate from Wesclin School District and is very in tune with the school and academic standings. He stated that Wesclin is behind Central in English and in Math which should be the main cause in concern. He shared that the money being spent on sports should be geared more toward academics.

C. Adjournment

Motion made by _Dustin Biggs_, seconded by _Stephen Brown_ to adjourn the Truth in Taxation meeting.

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

President

Dustin Biggs
Secretary

Tax Levy Information

Tax Year 2025

EAV Increase		
2011 EAV	\$128,216,241	
2012 EAV	\$128,747,137	0.414%
2013 EAV	\$129,708,816	0.747%
2014 EAV	\$133,935,031	3.26%
2015 EAV	\$134,182,496	0.18%
2016 EAV	\$135,873,992	1.26%
2017 EAV	\$140,312,645	3.27%
2018 EAV	\$144,616,731	3.07%
2019 EAV	\$148,364,378	2.59%
2020 EAV	\$153,999,396	3.80%
2021 EAV	\$163,358,343	6.08%
2022 EAV	\$172,008,219	5.30%
2023 EAV	\$190,076,878	10.50%
2024 EAV	\$202,853,049	6.72%

Tax Levy Information

Tax Year 2025

Tax Levy for 2025

EAV at 10% increase \$223,138,354
above 2024 EAV

Fund	2025 Actual	2025 Extension	2026 Budget	2026 Extension	Rate +/-	\$ + or -
Educational Fund	2.24000	\$4,543,908	2.24000	\$4,998,299	0.00000	\$454,391
Operations & Maintenance	0.50000	\$1,014,265	0.50000	\$1,115,692	0.00000	\$101,427
Transportation Fund	0.20000	\$405,706	0.20000	\$446,277	0.00000	\$40,571
Working Cash Fund	0.00000	\$0	0.00000	\$0	0.00000	\$0
IMRF	0.13557	\$275,007	0.14005	\$312,500	0.00448	\$37,493
Social Security	0.13557	\$275,007	0.14005	\$312,500	0.00448	\$37,493
Fire Prev./ Life Safety	0.05000	\$101,426	0.05000	\$111,569	0.00000	\$10,143
Tort Immunity	0.28346	\$575,007	0.25343	\$565,500	(0.03003)	(\$9,507)
Special Ed	0.04000	\$81,141	0.04000	\$89,255	0.00000	\$8,114
Lease	0.05000	\$101,426	0.05000	\$111,569	0.00000	\$10,143
Bond & Interest Fund	0.34946	\$708,890	0.33675	\$751,428	(0.01271)	\$42,538
TOTALS	3.98406	\$8,081,783	3.95028	\$8,814,589	(0.03378)	\$732,806

EAV				2,231,384
2024 EAV	202,853,049	2025 EAV	223,138,354	est. @ 10%

Tax Levy Information

Tax Year 2025

Tax Levy for 2025

EAV at 6% increase \$215,024,232
above 2024 EAV

Fund	2025 Actual	2025 Extension	2026 Budget	2026 Extension	Rate +/-	\$ + or -
Educational Fund	2.24000	\$4,543,908	2.24000	\$4,816,543	0.00000	\$272,635
Operations & Maintenance	0.50000	\$1,014,265	0.50000	\$1,075,121	0.00000	\$60,856
Transportation Fund	0.20000	\$405,706	0.20000	\$430,048	0.00000	\$24,342
Working Cash Fund	0.00000	\$0	0.00000	\$0	0.00000	\$0
IMRF	0.13557	\$275,007	0.14533	\$312,500	0.00976	\$37,493
Social Security	0.13557	\$275,007	0.14533	\$312,500	0.00976	\$37,493
Fire Prev./ Life Safety	0.05000	\$101,426	0.05000	\$107,512	0.00000	\$6,086
Tort Immunity	0.28346	\$575,007	0.26299	\$565,500	(0.02047)	(\$9,507)
Special Ed	0.04000	\$81,141	0.04000	\$86,010	0.00000	\$4,869
Lease	0.05000	\$101,426	0.05000	\$107,512	0.00000	\$6,086
Bond & Interest Fund	0.34946	\$708,890	0.34946	\$751,428	0.00000	\$42,538
TOTALS	3.98406	\$8,081,783	3.98312	\$8,564,674	(0.00094)	\$482,891

EAV				2,150,242
2024 EAV	202,853,049	2025 EAV	215,024,232	est. @ 6%

Tax Levy Increases Compared to Costs Increases

2026-2027

Education Fund

Increase

- 6% - \$272,635
- 10% - \$454,391

Use of Funds

- \$501,660
 - Faculty and Staff Salaries and hourly rates increase an average of 5%
- Less Support from the State
- Education fund may be required to support O&M fund, Transportation fund, and Tort fund.

Operation and Maintenance Fund

Increase

- 6% - \$60,856
- 10% - \$101,427

Use of Funds

- \$35,171
 - Staff Salaries and hourly rates increase an average of 5%.
- \$25,000-\$30,000
 - Natural Gas and Electricity increases
- Less reliance on funds from the education fund.
 - Currently use funds from the Education Fund to support the O and M fund.

Transportation Fund

Increase

- 6% - \$24,342
- 10% - \$40,571

Use of Funds

- \$164,441
 - This is the amount that school district will need to cover due to the State of Illinois not fully funding the reimbursement. Currently, regular

education transportation is being reimbursed at 75% and special education transportation is being reimbursed at 63%.

IMRF/Social Security Fund

Increase

- 6% - \$74,986
- 10% - \$74,986

Use of Funds

- For 2025-2026 we have budgeted a -\$70,230. This negative amount will almost double for the 2026-2027 school year, so the revenue will still be less than the expenditure. At this time, the fund balance will cover the difference for one more year.

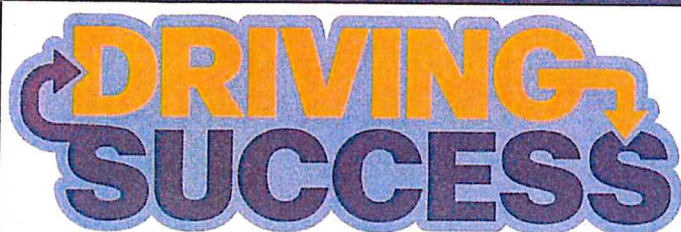
Tort Fund

Decrease

- 6% - \$9,500
- 10% - \$9,500

Use of Funds

- Increases outlined below would need to be covered by the education fund, O&M fund, or transportation fund.
 - \$10,000-\$40,000 - Increases to Liability and Workman's Compensation Insurance
 - \$5,000-\$10,000 - Increases to salaries that are covered the tort fund.
 - \$1,000-\$5,000 - Increases to medical supplies (high costs of AEDs).



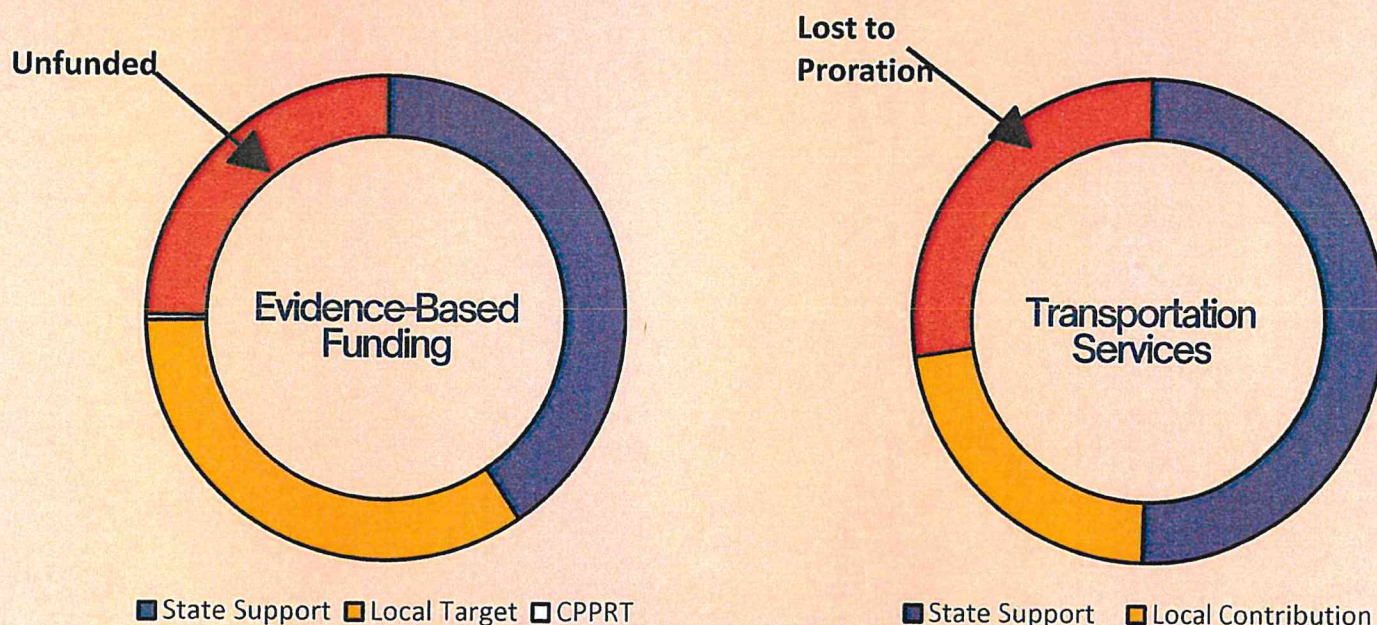
Completing the School Funding Puzzle



FY27 Budget Priority: Addressing the Funding Gap in Mandated Categorical Programs

Wesclin Unit School District is proud to provide an excellent education for our students. Our faculty, staff, and the high-quality programs and services we offer are truly exceptional. To continue delivering these opportunities, the district must receive adequate funding from the State of Illinois. This responsibility should not fall solely on our local taxpayers, and the state must fully honor the evidence-based funding formula.

In addition, more than 60% of Wesclin Unit School District #3 students rely on district transportation each day. Ensuring safe routes requires well-trained drivers, secure bus stops, and up-to-date buses. To maintain these standards, the state must fully fund the transportation mandated categorical. Currently, **regular education transportation is reimbursed at only 75%, and special education transportation at just 63%.** We cannot be expected to redirect funds intended for vital student programs and services in order to cover the state's obligation to reimburse required transportation costs.



Our Requests



Increase state funding for transportation and special education reimbursements to keep pace with actual district costs.



Protect Illinois' investment in Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) while addressing these growing shortfalls.

Unaudited Final FY 2025

Fund	Education	O and M	Debt Ser	Transport.	IMRF/Soc	Wking Cash	Tort	Fire Prev
Fund Bal 2024	\$3,586,676	\$890,394	\$3,325	\$358,205	\$202,637	\$1,664,214	\$107,632	\$217,671
Revenue	\$14,641,100	\$1,623,906	\$686,784	\$788,728	\$577,584	\$161,794	\$645,120	\$101,403
Expenditure	\$13,813,515	\$1,497,572	\$685,400	\$611,094	\$583,560	\$0	\$708,186	\$96,328
	\$827,585	\$126,334	\$1,384	\$177,634	-\$5,976	\$161,794	-\$63,066	\$5,075
Total	\$4,414,261	\$1,016,728	\$4,709	\$535,839	\$196,661	\$1,826,008	\$44,566	\$222,746

Tentative Budget FY 2026

Fund	Education	O and M	Debt Ser	Transport.	IMRF/Soc	Wking Cash	Tort	Fire Prev
Fund Bal 2025	\$4,414,261	\$1,016,728	\$4,709	\$535,839	\$196,661	\$1,826,008	\$44,566	\$222,746
Revenue	\$13,731,826	\$1,579,265	\$715,390	\$712,706	\$560,014	\$45,000	\$580,007	\$105,426
Expenditure	\$13,687,257	\$1,450,480	\$709,400	\$808,183	\$630,244	\$0	\$610,000	\$110,000
	\$44,569	\$128,785	\$5,990	-\$95,477	-\$70,230	\$45,000	-\$29,993	-\$4,574
Total	\$4,458,830	\$1,145,513	\$10,699	\$440,362	\$126,431	\$1,871,008	\$14,573	\$218,172

Levy

Fund	Education	O and M	Debt Ser	Transport.	IMRF/Soc	Wking Cash	Tort	Fire Prev
Revenue	\$13,731,826	\$1,579,265	\$715,390	\$712,706	\$560,014	\$45,000	\$580,007	\$105,426
Levy	\$4,541,703	\$1,013,773	\$708,546	\$405,509	\$549,748	\$0	\$574,728	\$101,377
% of Revenue	33%	64%	99%	57%	98%	0%	99%	96%