Wesclin Board of Education
Minutes of the Public Board Meeting
Monday, October 20 , 2025

I. General Business

A. Roll Call

The Board of Education of Wesclin Community School District # 3, Clinton and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, met in a regular session on Monday, the 20th day of October 2025, at the hour of 6:00 p.m., at the Wesclin High School in said district.

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

	Members Present	Members Absent
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 September 15, 2025 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 _Zach Peters_ to approve The Treasurer's Report and payment of payroll in the amount of _$1,048,546.59_ and bills in the amount of _$852,527.82_.

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 _Zach Peters_, seconded by _Jared Poettker_ 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

S&P Global Credit Rating Report and Score
Mrs. Filyaw provided the districts Credit Rating Presentation and the S&P credit rating report.

Beacon Alert Example and Update
Mrs. Filyaw shared an example of an alert that the district received, along with the timestamps.

F. Principals' Report

The Principals' were not in attendance as they were attending the IPA Conference.

II. Reception of Visitors

Jeremy Rakers was in attendance at the meeting and stated that the people of the community/tax payers should be the deciding factor on the working cash resolution bond that could potentially cause the taxes to increase.

Brian Draper stated that the tax payers should decide on if the taxes are going to be increased. He also stated that the hearing should have been published to the community, along with the list of intent of things the money will be spent on. He finished by saying that the Athletic Boosters paid for some things throughout the years, and asked why they cannot be a part of raising the funds for the things needed.

Nick Bridges stated that a public vote is needed for the working cash resolution to potentially be approved. He stated that the bathrooms outside at the field house are definitely needed, but is concerned with the astroturf as there have been injuries and accidents. He finished by stating he hopes that the board does their research on the different kinds of turf, to ensure safety to the athletes.

Jerry Gravitt with Robotics attended the board meeting and stated that on behalf of the Robotics program, that part of the facility funds received go toward the Robotics STEM facility. He finished by stating that the STEM facility will provide space for learning for the students involved.

Ethan Bolanger stated he has since graduated from Wesclin, but wanted to inform the board of the importance of the Robotics program and how the STEM facility would benefit the students. He stated that he now has a career in Computer Science at Boeing Company due to his knowledge from the Robotics program in High School.

Doug Gruenke, the High School Soccer Coach, attended the meeting and expressed the need for the turf field for Soccer. He stated there are many divots and clumps in the Soccer field and that it very badly needs to be repaired. He finished by saying that most every field Soccer plays on is turf and it has been needed to be added to the district for a very long time.

Brian Horstmann stated that due diligence was incomplete for the working cash resolution hearing that could potentially raise taxes for the community. He stated that the improvement plan should have been published before this hearing, and also should have been placed on the 2026 ballot.

Paul Josias stated that the Athletic Boosters have been discussing ways to help fund certain things from an equipment standpoint. He said that he hopes the board pushes thru this bond that can assist the district to improve the facilities and items that are needed.

Tom Venhaus was in attendance and said that people have been calling to inquire about this hearing and he had zero idea that this meeting was taking place as it was not published to the community properly. He stated that he is not against or for this bond to go through, but this amount of money should allow this hearing to be placed on the ballot. He finished by saying that this is Taxation without Representation, and the people of the community should decide on this matter and it will raise the taxes in the community.

Michelle Washburn wanted to state that last month's presentation was very much appreciated and feels that the meetings could possibly be live streamed so the community knows what is going on at the board meetings.

Jason Berkemann stated that more information regarding the amount of money and bonds needs to be made more clear and shared with the community.

Marcy Buckles shared that 2 years ago she attended a board meeting and requested running water at the field house for the kitchen and restrooms. She stated that she wanted the building codes and standards to be effective.

Richard Boein said that there are people in the community who do not have the extra money to pay for increased taxes. He stated that no information was given to the community at all, and that he would like a vote/voice in deciding what will happen with his money.

Scott Meinhardt stated that the board members who are currently on the board were voted in by the community , to support the people and to do what is right for the district. He stated that a lot of the taxes come to the district, and he would like the board to do the right thing and allow the community to decide on what the future holds regarding the taxes.

Lisa Brede a teacher in the district, along with being the Athletic Director for the High School spoke about how she strongly believes in doing what is right for the students in the district. She spoke about how the soccer fields are in rough shape and a lot of the games have had to be canceled due to rain/ flooding on the fields. Last year, the soccer team played 6 home games out of 19, due to the conditions and lighting at the soccer fields. She stated not only would soccer benefit from the turf being installed, but so would softball, baseball, band, and PE. She added that the field house would be a great addition to the district too, as there are many days the gym is very busy and practices are very squished. Mrs. Brede finished by stating out of 340 students, 311 of those students are in sports, and adding these new facility options would support and benefit those athletes to new opportunities.

Lexi Kanteres spoke regarding the 2nd grade class size at New Baden Elementary. She stated she has a son who is in the 2nd grade, and it is very hard. She said that education is not 1 size fits all, and that smaller class sizes are important for the education of the students. She wonders why behavioral issues were not considered when deciding not to replace Mrs. Beer? She finished by saying that the addition of another teacher should have been considered in the summer when Mrs. Beer was leaving.

Angie Evans stated that she is a substitute teacher in the district and she agrees on adding another teacher in the 2nd grade class at New Baden Elementary. She stated that there are currently too many students in one class, and that adds to the behavioral/disruptions for the students in the classroom. She is also unsure why Mrs. Beer did not get a replacement.

Kayla Gentz said that she has a child in 2nd grade at New Baden Elementary.
She stated that Kindergarten was hard due to behavioral issues in the classroom, but that the Teachers were outstanding at handling the situation. She stated that when Mrs. Beer left to go to the Middle School, she was very shocked to learn that the other 2nd Grade teachers were not asked if they needed any assistance or what their opinion was on a replacement. She finished by saying that the 2nd grade needs support at New Baden Elementary, and the teachers need to be valued.

Christy Josias shared that she believes the board does research and truly wants what is best for the students. She stated that she has been a teacher for 15 years, and that there are good teachers at New Baden Elementary but they do need help on adding another teacher.

Brent Brede a 20 year teacher, and the High School Basketball coach spoke at the meeting regarding the facility additions. He stated that adding turf would benefit the district and would help eliminate the practices being squished all together. Adding restrooms at the field house would benefit the district. He stated these facility additions affect the 70% of students who are involved in sports in the district and will help them succeed. He finished by stating that adding turf was mentioned 10-12 years ago, but now is the chance to follow through with it.

Justin Dunning spoke about how much the facility additions would benefit the community. He said that currently, if you want to use a turf practice field you have to go to O'Fallon to rent it. He shared it isn't just about sports, but a full opportunity for students. He finished by thanking the board and said they are elected to make the choices for the district, and that the community should trust their opinion.

Jackie VanGorkom spoke about how she wants the 2nd grade teachers to get more support at New Baden Elementary. She also said she trusts the board to make the right choices for the district regarding the working cash resolution.

III. Discussion

Facility Improvement Plan
Mrs. Filyaw provided the board with the Facilities Improvement Project Plan. She said that the Building and Grounds Committee recently met with Geo Surfaces, the company the district anticipates utilizing for the turf installation.

She stated that should the working cash resolution be approved, the committee anticipates presenting the turf proposal to the board at the November meeting, with possible approval at the December meeting. Installation would then be scheduled to begin in mid to late May.

Mr. Biggs stated that he only is receiving bits and pieces of information and believes it should be well documented to inform the public, and allow public participation by putting it on the ballot.

Mr. Biggs discussed a 2025 NCAA article that stated some schools were returning to grass fields due to injuries. He stated the district should look at the cost of improving the grass fields.

Second Grade Class Size
Mrs. Filyaw shared the current second grade class sizes at New Baden Elementary at the meeting. She shared the times and period when an assistant is in the classrooms during the school day. She then compared Trenton and New Baden class sizes.

Zach Peters inquired about how many students in the class have an IEP and/or behavioral disorder.

Mrs. Filyaw referenced the chart provided.

Samantha Mohme asked what interventions are being done about behavior in the classroom. She also said there currently is no data showing all the behavioral incidents that are occurring, and that the board is hearing from the parents but not the teachers.

Zach Peters suggested opening the job posting now, and waiting until November or December there may not be any candidates.

Mrs. Filyaw suggested we wait until November to revisit the possible opening.

Dustin Biggs questioned whether this addition of a 2nd grade teacher would be a band-aid to go onto 3rd Grade.

III. Celebration of Success

A. Sugar Creek Fire Department-Thank you to the Sugar Creek Fire Department for working with the schools during Fire Safety Week by presenting in our classrooms, donating activity books, and assisting with our fire drills.

B. New Baden Fire Department-Thanks to the New Baden Fire Department for another successful Fire Prevention Day. Students were excited to see the ladder truck and learn about fire safety measures.

C. Third Grade Class Donations -Thanks to Mrs. Boulangers 3rd grade class for raising $260 for Camp Rainbow during the first Dollar Day of the year. Thanks to Mrs. Barton's 3rd grade class for raising $251 for the Green Bean Food Pantry during the first Dollar Day of the year.

D. High School Homecoming Week- Kudos to Mrs. Kunz and Student Council for a wonderful Homecoming Week! Thanks to Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Johnson for coordinating and organizing the Homecoming Parade. Congratulations to King Cael Madden and Queen Myleigh Jones!

E. Wesclin Middle School Softball Team- Attached is an email from Aviston School District praising our softball team for a kind gesture displayed towards an Aviston student.

V. Items Requiring Board of Education Action

A. District Door Replacement Project

Mrs. Filyaw shared that bids were received for the district's door replacement project, with three companies submitting proposals. WWCS, INC. was the lowest responsible bidder, and Mrs. Filyaw provided the bid form to the board.

Mrs. Filyaw stated the base bid came in approximately $60,000 higher than anticipated, but she provided the breakdown of which exterior doors are included in the base bid- Alternate 1, and Alternate 2.

The district received a $50,000 matching maintenance grant from ISBE to assist with this project, and district funds will be used to cover the remaining cost.

Motion by _Jared Poettker__, seconded by _Tina Litteken_ to approve the Base Bid and Alternate 1 with WWCS, INC. for the district door replacement project in the amount of $284,926.

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

B. Consideration of a Resolution Providing for the Issue and Sale of Not to Exceed $7,800,000 of Working Cash Fund Bonds and Not to Exceed $3,500,000 of Refunding Bonds and Providing for the Levy of Taxes to Pay the Bonds

Whereupon President Stroot presented and read by title a resolution as follows, a copy of which was provided to each member of the Board of Education prior to said meeting and to everyone in attendance who requested a copy.

Mrs. Filyaw stated there are different options the board may consider.

- Option 1- Not to sell any working cash bonds. We would also not sell any refunding bonds. (A resolution would not be necessary.)

- Option 2- The total sale of bonds can be any amount up to $11,300,000. This would include $3,500,000 of refunding bonds, and any amount up to $7,800,000 in working cash bonds.
- Option 3- The total sale of bonds will not exceed $11,300,00, which includes $7,800,000 in working cash bonds and $3,500,000 in refunding bonds from the district's outstanding debt.

The board raised questions regarding the interest.

Mr. Biggs questioned whether there is an option to split the bond- and if there is a fee. He also questioned when these projects would begin as the site plan has not been seen. He stated some of the community wants to be able to vote on it.

Mr. Biggs suggested to strike a balance between projects the board can improve and the public can approve.

Motion by_Dustin Biggs_, seconded by _______ to approve the resolution providing the issue and sale of not to exceed 3,500,000 of working cash fund bonds and not to exceed $3,500,000 of refunding bonds and providing the levy of taxes to pay the bonds.

Motion failed due to lack of second.

Motion by _Tina Litteken_, seconded by _Zach Peters_ to approve the resolution providing the issue and sale of not to exceed $7,800,000 of working cash fund bonds and not to exceed $3,500,000 of refunding bonds and providing the levy of taxes to pay the bonds.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-no, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Samantha Mohme, Jared Poettker-aye. Motion passes 6–1

H. Consent Agenda

A. Hire:

i. Madison Stevens- We are recommending Ms. Stevens as a 5/6 boys' basketball coach

ii. Amanda Oakley- We are recommending Ms. Oakley as a substitute playground supervisor.

B. FMLA:

i. Katie Wilke- Mrs. Wilke is on Family Medical Leave for the birth of her third child.

C. Resignation:

i. Destiny Wuebbels- Ms. Wuebbels has resigned her position as a color guard at the end of the season.

ii. Joseph Tropeano- Mr. Tropeano has resigned his position as the bus mechanic effective mid February.

Motion by _Jared Poettker_, seconded by _Dustin Biggs_ to approve the consent 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

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.

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Motion by _Jared Poettker_ seconded by _Zach Peters_ to move into closed session for the purposes of discussing personnel and student discipline. _7:51_ p.m.)

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

Motion by _Zach Peters_, seconded by _Dustin Biggs_ to return from closed session into the regular meeting. (8:27 PM)

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

VI. Adjournment:

It was moved by _Jared Poettker_, seconded by _Stephen Brown_ that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

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