

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Mauston Board of Education**

DATE: Monday, December 15, 2025

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: District Office Community Room
510 Grayside Avenue, Mauston, WI 53948

MEMBERS PRESENT: Zilisch, Coughlin, Schumer, Gyllin, Morris, Kayhart, Leak

1. Board President Mike Zilisch called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All members were present.
2. President Zilisch led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. There were no public comments.
4. Superintendent Joel Heesch took some time to celebrate Mauston High School for being recognized in the "Best High Schools" by US News & World Report as well as Olson Middle School for earning a spot on the US News & World Report's "Best Middle Schools" list.

Reports

1. **Key Club Report** - Josiah Tully, a member of Key Club, reported to the Board what Key Club was about, what the club has achieved already this year, and the club's future plans for the school year.
2. **Board Committee Reports** – Finance (presented by Char Gyllin).
3. **Mauston Montessori Charter School Report** – Administrator Jolene Routson, the teaching staff (Peggy Winker, Myriah Coughlin, Dana LaBansky), and several Montessori students provided an overview of the program's instructional approach and student learning outcomes. The students gave demonstrations of hands-on, student-centered learning experiences and the staff reviewed how these experiences work towards student independence, critical thinking, and academic achievement.
4. **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Heesch reported that the Wisconsin Association of School Board resolutions were available for the Board to review. He had concerns with two resolutions and suggested to Board members to look over the resolutions and in January, come with direction for Jess Kayhart as the District's Delegate at the State Convention. Mr. Heesch stated that the safety drills were a statutory item that the Board approves in December. He also gave an update on the Lyndon Station building. There have been showings, but no offers yet. Heesch also mentioned receiving Mary O'Brien's retirement resignation letter. He told the Board

there will be a cake and a celebration of Mary's services to the District at a later date. Finally, Mr. Heesch mentioned the items placed in the Board members' spaces were gifts from the Leadership Team.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Coughlin/Morris to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 7/0, whereby the following items were approved:

1. Minutes of the November 17, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
2. The resignation of Jonald Miles and the retirement of Mary O'Brien.
3. Gifts and donations in the amount of \$7,000.00.
4. Payment of the Monthly Vouchers with the total expenditures totaling \$97,332.54 and revenue totaling \$633,688.18.

Recognition of Donors

Finance Chair Char Gyllin thanked Terry and Charles Rubash, the Norman G. Munson Foundation, Log Cabin Deli, Culvers, Dough Boys, Carr Valley, Wisconsin River Meats, Dunkin's Donuts, Kwik Trip, Unifying Nutrition, Jess Kayhart of Castle Rock Realty, Festival Foods, and Kelsi Priest, her family and Friends. Mr. Heesch thanked those donors who had gifts under \$300: Hatch Crafters, Friends of Hatch Library and Oakdale Credit Union.

Pending Action

1. Mr. Heesch again asked the Board to review the WASB resolutions. Resolution number 2 is about the revisions to the School District and School Report Card Process, which would eliminate the practice of weighing student proficiency based on free and reduced meal population sizes. Resolution 11 was the opposition of "decoupling" of public and private school funding. Heesch stated that the voucher program has a direct levy line, and it cost Mauston almost \$300,000 this school year alone. The resolutions will be brought back at the Regular School Board January meeting to give guidance to the District's delegate on how to vote at convention.
2. Motion by Schumer/Coughlin to approve the School Safety Drill Evaluations as presented. Motion carried 7/0.
3. Motion by Kayhart/Morris to adjourn to Executive/Closed Session pursuant to Wis. Statutes 19.85 (1)(c), "considering employment, promotion and compensation or evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility." [Discuss Superintendent's Annual Evaluation]. Motion carried 7/0.
4. Meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 6:55 p.m.

Recording by:
Jennifer Hagemann, Board Secretary