

# **School District of Westfield**



## **Annual Budget Hearing & Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 20, 2025 – 6:00 pm**

**Oxford Elementary Room 106**

# 2025-2026 Board and Administration Contacts

School District of Westfield

Annual Budget Hearing & Annual Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, August 20, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

## **School Board**

Mark McCartney	President	Term Expires 2027
Nick Coenen Vice	President	Term Expires 2026
Gerand Hebert II	Clerk	Term Expires 2026
Daniel Fenske	Treasurer	Term Expires 2028
Tom Wastart	Member	Term Expires 2026
Natashia Peschel	Member	Term Expires 2027
Val Katevska	Member	Term Expires 2028

## **Administration**

Michelle Johnson, District Administrator

Veronica VanDerhyden, Business Manager

Brenda Dahlke, Curriculum and Instruction Director

District Office phone number- 608.296.2141

## **PUBLICATION**

### **School District of Westfield Notice of Annual Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting**

Notice is hereby given to qualified electors of the School District of Westfield, that the Annual Budget Hearing, (Section 65.90(4)) and the Annual Meeting, (Section 120.08 (1)) of said district for the transaction of business, will be held in the Oxford Elementary Classroom #106, at 222 South Franklin Ave, Oxford, WI 53952 on the 20th day of August at 6:00 pm. Detailed copies of the budget are available for inspection in the Administration Office at N7046 County Rd M, Westfield, WI 53964, Monday-Friday between 8:00 am -2:30 pm. Gerald Hebert II, School Board Clerk

*\*It is anticipated that a quorum of the School Board will be present but that no School Board business will be conducted.*

### **School District of Westfield Annual Budget Hearing & Annual Meeting Agenda Wednesday, August 20, 2025, 6:00 pm Oxford Elementary Classroom #106 222 South Franklin Ave Oxford, WI 53952**

- I. Call the meeting to order - Board President
- II. Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance
- III. **Budget Hearing**
  - A. Presentation of the 2025-2026 budget
- IV. **Annual Meeting**
  - A. Elect a Chairperson
  - B. Board President's report (Mark McCartney)
  - C. District Administrators report (Michelle Johnson)
  - D. Treasurer's report (Daniel Fenske)
  - E. Old Business - Review/approve the August 21, 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
  - F. New Business
  - G. Adoption of the tax levy
    - 1. General Operations Levy = \$9,617,274
    - 2. Referendum Debt Service Levy = \$1,839,550
    - 3. Unrepealable Levy for Debt Service = \$100,000
  - H. Establish salaries for school board members
  - I. Authorize the next annual meeting date and time
- V. **Adjourn** *\*It is anticipated that a quorum of the School Board will be present but that no School Board business will be conducted.*

**School District of Westfield**  
**Annual Budget Hearing & Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 20, 2025, 6:00 pm**  
**Westfield Area High School LMC**

- I. President McCartney called the Budget Hearing to order at 6:00 pm. Other Board Members Present: Daniel Fenske, Nick Coenen, Gerald Hebert II, Val Katevska, Natasha Peschel and Tom Wastart. Also present, Michelle Johnson, District Administrator and Veronica VanDerhyden, Business Manager.

Registered voters: 13

- II. Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

- III. Budget Hearing - Veronica VanDerhyden presented the 2024-2025 budget

**A. [Presentation of the 2024-2025 budget](#)**

**Budget Adoption Notes**

*These are the notes that coincide with the budget adoption presented in this booklet. The first item, 1) will explain 1) in the budget adoption.*

**Fund 10 Revenues**

- 1) There is a \$1.566 million increase in 2023-24 taxes. The low revenue ceiling was increased to \$11,000/per member in our revenue cap; a \$969/per member increase.
- 2) Interest rates fluctuated between 5%-5.5%; an increase of \$80,042 from the previous year.
- 3) During 2023-24, our equalization aid decreased \$529,075 from the prior year. This decrease contributed to the large increase in taxes in 2023-2024. Also, the state removed the high poverty aid we had been receiving of \$61,356 in 2023-24 and beyond.
- 4) We received \$37,721 for a mental health grant aid in 2023-2024. This grant has been budgeted to be spent in 2024-25.
- 5) The district received half of the high cost transportation aid from 2022-23 for a total revenue of \$120,437 in 2023-24. We will not be receiving any high cost transportation aid in 2024-25.
- 6) The balance of the ESSER III revenue was fully received in 2023-24 for \$534,936 and was removed from the revenue budget in 2024-25.
- 7) The district received less medicaid in 2023-24, which is based upon eligible students and staff that provide services to these students.

**Fund 10 Expenditures**

- 1) There is an increase in the 120000 - Regular curriculum budget in 2024-25. This is due to the 6th grade now teaching individual assignments, such as English, Math, Social Studies and Science instead of all subjects to their students. There is a decrease in the budget line above under 110000 - Undifferentiated Curriculum.
- 2) There is a \$413,000 decrease in the 2024-2025, due to the ESSER III projects and other repairs removed from the budget.

- 3) The district ended with a fund balance deficit of (\$253.102) in 2023-2024 and is projected to run a deficit budget in 2024-25 of ( \$529,143).

#### **Fund 21 Revenues & Expenditures**

- 1) During 2023-24, there is a significant increase in both revenues and expenses due to the HS band trip to Florida, the Washington DC adventure trip, Spanish study abroad trip, and the donation from Coloma Champs PTO and expense for the Coloma playground.

#### **Fund 27 Revenues & Expenditures**

- 1) The district's special education department was fully staffed during 2023-24 and had increased special education services due to student IEPs. The district will receive 33% increase in aid during 2024-25 for the increase of services.

#### **Fund 50 Fund Balance**

- 1) The food service program had a deficit in the 2023-2024 school year of (\$25,99.84). The district hired an assistant food service director for half of the school year to train with Joyce Gaulke, our retiring food service directory. It is projected that the food service program will have an estimated deficit of (\$11,176) for the 2024-25 school year.

### **IV. Annual Meeting**

- A. Hebert/Fenske nominated Mark McCartney as the Chairperson of the Annual Meeting. Voice vote, motion carried.

Mark McCartney/Daniel Fenske nominated Jerry Hebert as Clerk of the Annual Meeting. Voice vote, motion carried.

- B. Board President's report (Mark McCartney)

Mark McCartney acknowledged the work of the staff and board on Community Conversations and the survey response of 22% of district constituents noting they would support a 27 million dollar Capital Referendum.

- C. District Administrator's report (Michelle Johnson)

Michelle Johnson summarized the following:

#### **Student Well-being**

This past year, we evaluated our district-wide practices related to discipline, mental health, and student needs. Using our findings, we set a goal for 2024-2025 to enhance student well-being by creating supportive and inclusive learning environments that prioritize mental health, emotional resilience, and skills students can use beyond formal education. Our focus will be on strengthening student connectedness, encouraging engagement in extracurricular activities, and training staff to better support and respond to student needs.

#### **Teaching & Learning and Staff Well-being**

Over the past year, we updated the District's Mission Statement to establish a clear and unified purpose for all our efforts. We provided professional development on Trauma-Sensitive Practices, helping staff understand how trauma affects learning and how they can support

students in overcoming challenges through daily interactions and instructional practices. Additionally, we introduced Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), which emphasize collaboration among staff to improve student learning outcomes, and adopted the educator effectiveness growth model. These practices will support staff in the 2024-2025 school year as they collaborate, reflect, and use data to enhance instructional practices that ensure student learning and growth for all. Additionally, these practices will support our elementary staff, special education staff, and interventionists as they strengthen literacy foundations in the Science of Reading, as required by Act 20.

### **Finance Operations**

This past year, we revised our Safety Plans, aligned the school calendar to better support instruction and learning, and updated policies, handbooks, and staff training to ensure legal and policy compliance, as well as cybersecurity awareness. We also addressed facility and maintenance needs, including emergency repairs, and implemented new practices to enhance efficiency and communication, such as adopting the Facility Request Process via RSchool and the guest teacher reservation program, RedRover.

For the 2024-2025 school year, the Board of Education approved the implementation of all-day, everyday 4K programming at our elementary schools, enabled by the recent 6th-grade relocation. This initiative aims to enhance early childhood education, supporting cognitive development and school readiness while potentially easing child care concerns for parents.

Our administration team has also reconfigured its approach to supporting our three elementary buildings without adding new staff. This reconfiguration emphasizes aligning practices across schools with a unified district-wide vision, fostering collaboration and shared responsibility to ensure consistent support for all students and staff.

Finally, we successfully increased support staff wages from \$14 to \$16 per hour, the minimum wage, through collaboration with a professional staff compensation committee. This effort, coupled, nurtured by a shared understanding of the district's financial challenges, has resulted in agreed-upon wages and compensation for the 2024-2025 school year.

### **Community Engagement**

We intentionally sought ways to improve our communication and engagement with stakeholders by publishing regular newspaper articles, sending monthly newsletters, enhancing our social media presence, and holding community conversations. We actively sought community feedback to guide our decisions. For the 2024-2025 school year, the District will launch a new website platform with an app for families to receive notifications about upcoming events and district updates.

- D. Treasurer's report: Tom Wastart stated that the upcoming school year will be an active one. The district will be putting before the constituents a 27 million dollar referendum for critical building needs that we were unable to do because of inflation and the levy. He noted some projects that have been completed: replaced the fire panel, football lights, and gym floor. Repaired doors and fobs, some paving repairs, purchased a new maintenance vehicle, and school bus. He mentioned that there are both anticipated and unexpected projects, and he hopes the referendum will pass to help complete some of

the capital improvements.

Wastart also noted that donations received throughout the year reduced the need for taxpayer funding. These donations do not include funds collected for bus trips. He emphasized a commitment to fiscal responsibility, striving to spend money wisely—and continuing to do so moving forward.

- E. Old business- Motion by Wastart/Hebert to approve the 2023-2024 annual meeting minutes. Voice Vote.
- F. New business - no new business
- G. Adoption of the tax levy
  - 1. Unrepealable levy for debt service = \$100,000
  - 2. General operations levy = \$8,382,104

***Resolved that there be levied a school tax against all taxable property within the district for debt retirement and current operation of the school district for the school Year.***

**Motion by Hebert/Katevska to approve the adoption of the tax levy as presented. Voice vote, motion carried.**

- H. Establish salaries for school board members

***Resolved that the school board officers and members receive an established rate of pay for each regular monthly meeting attended as follows: President, \$83.33, Clerk, \$81.25, Treasurer, \$79.17, all other members, \$75.00. Special Board meetings paid at \$45 per meeting. Reimburse the actual and necessary expenses of a school board --member when traveling in the performance of duties at 100% of the Federal reimbursement mileage rate.***

**Motion by Fenske/Coenen to set salaries for the School Board Members as presented. Voice Vote, motion carried.**

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- I. Authorize the next annual meeting date and time.

***Resolved that the date for the next Annual Meeting be held on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 6:00 pm.***

***Motion by Deb Mockler/Mary Goldsmith to set the date and time of the annual meeting as presented. Voice vote, motion carried.***

- V. Motion by Natasha Peschel/Veronica VanDerhyden to adjourn the annual meeting. Voice vote, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

## **Budget Adoption**

- [1\) Reform Budget Adoption 25-26 - Aug .xlsx - 25-26 August Budget Adoption.pdf](#)
- [2\) Budget Adoption Notes 25-26.pdf](#)
- [3\) Charts - Fund 10.pdf](#)
- [4\) Projects & Equipment .pdf](#)
- [5\) 25-26 Transportation Fleet.pdf](#)
- [6\) Debt - Fund 38 & 39 - Sheet1.pdf](#)
- [7\) 25-26 Fund 46 & 10 yr - Sheet1.pdf](#)
- [8\) Fund 49 - Financials & Projects.pdf](#)
- [9\) Headcount Estimate 25-26.pdf](#)
- [10\) Member v Head .pdf](#)
- [11\) Rev Limit - 8-20-25.pdf](#)