

TO: West Central Staff and Community
FROM: Stacey Day, Superintendent
DATE: March 23, 2026
RE: Summary of March 18, 2026, Board of Education Regular Meeting

At the March 18, 2026, Board of Education Regular Meeting the following took place:

1. The Board of Education Regular Meeting was called to order by President Schaley at 6:01 pm. Board members present were: Mindy Clark, Brendan Schaley, Josh Higgins, Dillan Vancil, Karl Gullberg and Lauren Chockley. Board member absent was Mike Lenahan. Also present for the meeting were: Superintendent Stacey Day, District Administrators: Kathy Lafary, Jason Kirby, Stacey Kreps, Brittney DeWeese, Byron Helt, Special Education Coordinator Mallory Allen, District Technology Director Jeremy Hennings and Board Recording Secretary Jaime Shultz. Members of the public present for the meeting were: Bethany Nannen, Heather Hernandez, Brittani Olson, Madison Brokaw, Amy McGowen, Sincora H., Braelynn O., Carter S., and Matthew G.
2. President Schaley led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. The following items were presented as Good News Items:
 - a. Our third grade students participated in ag related activities provided by the Warren-Henderson Farm Bureau. We are appreciative of their continued partnership.
 - b. The West Central PTC is very appreciative of the ongoing support of our community as we collect funds for our new playground equipment. Most recently, we hosted an "Art Night with Mr. E" where our families were engaged in creating masterpieces using watercolors.
 - c. We had an incredible time hosting our Mad Scientist event. A huge shoutout to our partners at the ROE and Henderson County Public Library for helping our families experiment, learn, and - most importantly - make a mess!
 - d. Matt Goff earned a first place recognition for his ceramic piece at the Buchanan Center for the Arts High School Art Contest.
 - e. Shelby Bowman, 2024 Graduate, is participating in the 2026 Women's NCAA Division I March Madness Tournament as a member of the WIU Women's Basketball Team.
 - f. The high school baseball team held their annual trivia night fundraiser and earned over \$2000 towards their program.
 - g. We had five high school students participate in the LTC Band Festival held at Stark County.
 - h. Kadence Dieckow, 2023 Graduate, earned a full ride scholarship to Iowa State University and a \$1300 scholarship after being named to the 2026 Coca-Cola Academic Team!
 - i. Our District. Our Legacy. Recognitions - Austin Bigger, Chad Ellison, Dalton Chenault, EJ Santos, Emily Schaley, Jackie Biggs, Jackie Olson, Jackie Spence, Jenny Ford, Julie Colwell, Kathy Lafary, Krystal Busch, Hallie Eisnnicher, Lene

Lox, Lisa Miller, Logan Avery, Mary Casey, Michelle Carnes, Molly Inghram, Nikkie Mills, Sara Dittner, Stacey Day, Teresa Stevenson, Wade Alexander.

4. The agenda was approved as presented.
5. The following members of the public addressed the Board in regards to the employment of Ms. Nannen, District music teacher: Sincora H, Bethany Nannen, Madison Brokaw, Brittani Olson, Carter S. and Matthew G.
6. The following items were approved by a 6-0 roll call vote as part of the Consent Agenda:
 - a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting, February 18, 2026
 - b. Minutes of the Closed Session, February 18, 2026
 - c. Minutes of the Special Meeting, February 25, 2026
 - d. Minutes of the Closed Session, February 25, 2026
 - e. Payment of Bills
 - f. Approval of Activity Accounts
 - g. Approval of Treasurer's Report
 - h. Approval to Direct the Superintendent to Begin Work on the FY27 District Budget
 - i. Approval of IHSA Continued Participation
 - j. Approval of IESA Continued Participation
7. The 2026-2027 School District Calendar was tabled until the April Board meeting for further information regarding spring parent-teacher conferences.
8. There were no FOIA requests since the last meeting.
9. Superintendent Day presented her recommendation on the 2026-2027 Registration and meal fees. There are no recommended changes to the registration or technology fee for next school year. Meal costs are recommended to increase by \$0.10. Our meal prices are below the recommended cost from the USDA and therefore we are required to raise them at least \$.10 to move towards the recommended charge. To get to the recommended price, we would need to raise them over \$0.25, but Superintendent Day recommends sticking with the \$0.10 as we have done in the past so as not to overly burden our families.
10. Board Member Vancil requested that the Board discuss an additional baseball field at this meeting, but he was unable to get a price quote back for part of the project. This item will be placed back on the agenda for the next Board meeting.
11. Superintendent Day presented an infographic from IASA discussing school transportation funding and the impact on West Central due to the State not fully funding transportation (one of the Mandated Categorys or MCATS). Transportation costs are rising exponentially, but the State is not keeping up with those rising costs when they build the state budget to reimburse school districts. For last school year alone, the reimbursement was \$272,000 short of what the District should receive at the full reimbursement rate. EBF funding has been steady and helpful for school districts, but if the MCAT reimbursement does not keep up, we will have to use some of the EBF funds to cover the cost of transportation, which in turn may impact staffing and programming in the district.
12. The Board discussed Building and Grounds and the Elementary Playground as part of the action items later in the meeting.

13. The building principals, District Technology Director and Special Education Coordinators all represented their monthly reports.
14. The Board approved a bid for the elementary playground surface project. The winning bid is with Trotter Inc for \$761,350. The project includes roughly 30,100 square feet of playground surface. The current tire chip areas in both the main playground and the PreK playground will be replaced with turf and the remaining area of the main playground will be a larger concrete surface. There will be a sidewalk around the entire main playground area. The bid includes the drainage and substrate work as well as extending the storm drain on the south side of the playground, west to be able to handle the additional water that will come off the new surface. The PTC is continuing to fundraise to cover the cost of the new playground equipment. The ground portion of the project is part of the 10-year Health Life Safety Survey and the District has received funds through the FY26 ISBE Maintenance Grant (\$50,000) and the FY26 IDEA Grant (\$64,000).
15. The Board also approved the sole bid for the next phase of the window replacement in the District. This bid is for the HS Courtyard windows and the MS single-story windows, in order to improve energy efficiency and functionality of the windows in the buildings. The District received one bid from Laverdiere Construction for a total of \$831,855. This project will be completed during the summer of 2026 and is part of the 10-year Health Life Safety Work.
16. The Board entered Closed Session to discuss Personnel, Negotiations and Student Issues as allowed by law. They returned to Open Session and took the following action:
 - a. The following Personnel Agenda was approved by a 6-0 roll call vote:
 - i. Employment - Natalie Ensminger - Long-Term Substitute (Maternity Leave)
 - ii. Volunteer - Mike Lenahan - WCHS Baseball Coach
 - iii. Volunteer - Jena Goff - WCMS Track Coach
 - iv. Volunteer - Erin Von Kannon - WCMS Track Coach
 - v. Maternity Leave - Molly Inghram (Maternity Leave)
 - vi. Resignation - Erin Von Kannon - Elementary Teacher
 - vii. Resignation - Amy McGowen - High School Teacher
 - b. The Board tabled any action on the dismissal of PEL Employee, Ms. Nannen by a 6-0 roll call vote.
 - c. The Board approved a 3-year contract renewal for Stacey Kreps as the WCHS Assistant Principal, effective July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2029, on a 6-0 roll call vote.
17. The Board was notified that there is a Special Meeting on Monday, March 23 at 6:00 pm to start the Superintendent Search process. The Board was reminded that the next Regular Board of Education meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 15 at 6:00 pm in the Elementary Cafeteria.
18. The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 pm.