

Wesclin Board of Education
 Minutes of the Public Board Meeting
 Tuesday, February 17, 2026

The Board of Education of Wesclin Community School District # 3, Clinton and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, met in a public hearing session on Tuesday, the 17th day of February, 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:	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 January 20, 2026 were approved on a motion by Dustin Biggs, seconded by Stephen Brown.

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 Dustin Biggs to approve The Treasurer's Report and payment of payroll in the amount of \$1,019,889.59 and bills in the amount of \$694,739.57.

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 Tina Litteken, 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

2026-2027 Calendar

Mrs. Filyaw shared the proposed calendars at the meeting, stating it will be approved next month.

Policy Meeting

Mrs. Filyaw stated that the policy committee needs to meet to review policies.

ESP Seniority List

The ESP Seniority List was presented to the board.

H. Principals' Report

Mr. Huels wanted to give a shoutout to Pete Schumaker for organizing the Knights of Columbia basketball tournament. The 7/8th grade Valentine's Dance was a great turnout thanks to Mrs. Stempel! He also wanted to give a thank you to Ameren as the 4th grade had a presentation from their Safety City Program!

Mr. Weathers wanted to give a big welcome to New Baden Elementary's new Secretary, Mrs. Wolfslau! She is a familiar face to NBE- and she is doing a great job! He also wanted to give a shout out to Tim Bruncker, the new bus mechanic, who is doing a phenomenal job at making sure the buses run smoothly each day.

Mrs. Bonsall wanted to give a special shout out to Danielle Schmitt for all of her assistance getting the 504 meetings scheduled for the Special Education Teachers!

II. Reception of Visitors

Lisa Ross attended the meeting in support of Mrs. Filyaw and her contract renewal. She stated that Mrs. Filyaw has assisted the school district in being financially stable, and her professional background in being knowledgeable has eliminated the need for a Business Manager. She also stated that Mrs. Filyaw put together the very successful PALS program in the district for the students to attend during Summer. Mrs. Ross finished by stating that Mrs. Filyaw is very communicative with the district and employees- often conducting surveys to ensure that the employees are heard, and she also attends majority of the sporting events held within the school district.

Dave Brede addressed the board and shared his support of Jennifer Filyaw's leadership of Wesclin School District. He shared many examples of how Mrs. Filyaw fully supports the students, community, and employees. Mr. Brede said that Mrs. Filyaw is a Superintendent who is a skilled and proven leader, and is able to make the difficult decisions to lead our school district with integrity and vision.

Tammy Courtney attended the meeting and stated that her daughter was currently experiencing bullying and wants to provide audio to the board during the executive session.

Christy Murphy stated that some employees are too fearful to fill out the Teacher Surveys as they are scared of repercussions that may occur, and she was upset to learn that those surveys aren't confidential.

Brian Draper said that there should be a Business Manager within the district. He shared that the roles are different, and that the Superintendent should not be in a dual role.

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III. Discussion-

Building and Grounds Meeting with FGM-

Mrs. Filyaw provided a slideshow with documents and notes from the meeting with FGM.

IV. Celebration of Success

- A. Trenton Elementary students showed DETERMINATION in January by collecting 387 boxes of cereal for the Green Bean Food Pantry!
- B. Thank you to Judge Gruenke for visiting the 1st and 2nd grade classrooms at Trenton Elementary for Judges Go to School on February 12. He came dressed in his robe and read Abe Lincoln's Hat to the Students. He donated copies of the book to the classrooms and answered a few questions from the students.
- C. A huge thank you to our ELA and Math teachers for going above and beyond to administer a Practice ACT for approximately 40 juniors who volunteered to come in on Friday, February 13th! To all involved- your time, preparation, and commitment to supporting our students' success does not go unnoticed. We truly appreciate your willingness to invest in our students and help them prepare for this important milestone!
- D. Kudos to our Horticulture I students who are right in the middle of an exciting class competition and producing some truly impressive projects! The creativity, effort, and friendly rivalry on display have been outstanding. It's great to see students so engaged, hands-on, and taking pride in their work. Keep up the fantastic momentum!
- E. Congratulations to the Wesclin Robotics for hosting over 30 teams on Feb. 7th for the State Qualifier. While our two teams came up just short, we received many compliments about our teams, our students, and our school! Congratulations to all the members and coaches on a job well done!
- F. Congratulations to Lucas Harriss, who qualified for State in Boys Bowling! Kudos to Lucas, Coach Arentsen, and Coach Weis!
- G. Thank you to New Baden Elementary students and teachers for sending more than 75 valentines to seniors. This was a project in cooperation with Senator Jason Plummer.
- H. Great job to New Baden Elementary for making signs to decorate Berkemann's Bakery for the Channel 4 story celebrating Berkemann's long standing history in New Baden.
- I. Mrs. Barton's class sponsored a Dollar Day during our January early dismissal day. Students brought stuffies to school and we donated \$217 to the Clinton County Humane Society.
- J. Congratulations to our Wesclin Middle School spelling bee winners. 3rd place Felix Davis, 2nd place William Huth, 1st place Maren Ringler. At the Clinton County Spelling Bee, Maren Ringler finished 5th and William Huth finished 4th.
- K. Congratulations to Addison Brown and our FFA sponsor, Jenna Hemker. Addison earned her state degree in FFA.

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L. Mrs. Fohne is implementing an incentive program to encourage students to work hard on passing My Path lessons. "Let's squeeze in some extra my path!" Classes are earning lemons and when they fill their pitcher, they will have a class lemonade party.

M. Congratulations to the following students that were named Illinois State Scholars:

- Rebecca Albers
- Benjamin Brown
- Madeline Brown
- Lucas Flanagan
- Damien Geiler
- Nicholas Hutcheson
- Kaiden Mavrogeorge
- Raymond Pfeffer
- Kennett Spalding
- Grace Thurman

V. Items Requiring Board of Education Action

A. Special Board Meeting

Mrs. Filyaw stated it is necessary to have a special board meeting to approve the bids on the Elementary school renovation project and the outdoor bathroom project.

Motion by Jared Poettker, seconded by Stephen Brown to set a special board meeting on Monday, March 30 at 6:00 pm.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-no, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

B. April Board Meeting

Mrs. Filyaw requested that the April Board of Education meeting be moved to Tuesday, April 21 at 6:00 pm due to her son's confirmation.

Motion by Tina Litteken, seconded by Zach Peters to move the April board meeting Tuesday, April 21 at 6 pm.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

C. Reception of Visitors Time at Meetings

Mrs. Filyaw asked the board if they would like to move the time visitors are able to address the board to after discussion, or after board action.

Motion by Dustin Biggs, seconded by Jared Poettker to move the time the board welcomes members of the community to address the board to after discussion on the agenda.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

D. Overnight Field Trip

Mrs. Filyaw shared that four Wesclin students will be attending the Murray State honor festival in Kentucky on February 26 and 27.

Motion by Tina Litteken, seconded by Samantha Mohme to approve the overnight trip request for members of the band to attend Murray State Honor Festival.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

E. Residence Policy 7:60

As discussed in January, Mrs. Filyaw shared the updated 7:60 policy allowing certified employees to send their child to Wesclin schools free of charge.

Motion by Tina Litteken, seconded by Zach Peters to approve the residency policy 7:60 permitting certified employees to send their child to wesclin schools free of charge as outlined in the policy.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

F. Administrator Retirement Contracts

Mrs. Filyaw presented three retirement contracts for Administrators.

The retirement contract for James Rahm at the conclusion of the 2028-2029 school year was presented to the board.

Motion by Zach Peters, seconded by Samantha Mohme to approve the retirement contract for James Rahm, with retirement to occur at the conclusion of the 2028-2029 school year.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

The retirement contract for Angela Woll at the conclusion of the 2028-2029 school year was presented to the board.

Motion by Dustin Biggs, seconded by Zach Peters to approve the retirement contract for Angela Woll, with retirement to occur at the conclusion of the 2028-2029 school year.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

The retirement contract for Jennifer Filyaw was presented to the board.

Motion by Dustin Biggs, seconded by Zach Peters to table the retirement contract for Jennifer Filyaw, to allow for additional investigation.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-no, Tina Litteken-no, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-no, Jeff Stroot-no, Samantha Mohme-no Motion fails 5-2

Motion by Tina Litteken, seconded by Samantha Mohme to approve the retirement contract for Jennifer Filyaw, with retirement to occur at the conclusion of the 2028-2029 school year.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-no, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-no, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 5-2

G. Administrator Contracts

Mrs. Filyaw presented Jaime Bonsall and Zachary Huels contract renewals to the board. She shared Mr. Huels will start a new role as Assistant Superintendent next school year for 3 years, then will be named Superintendent beginning the 2029-2030 school year.

Motion by Zach Peters, seconded by Samantha Mohme to approve the contract for Jaime Bonsall.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

Motion by Zach Peters, seconded by Stephen Brown to approve the contract for Zachary Huels.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

H. Consent Agenda

a. Hire:

- i. Natalie Becker- We are recommending Ms. Becker as a high school special education teacher.
- ii. Amber Rakers- We are recommending Mrs. Rakers as a Trenton Elementary playground supervisor.

b. Leave Without Pay:

- i. Krystal Huelsmann- Mrs. Huelsmann is requesting a leave of absence during her health battle.
- ii. Sean Cox- Mr. Cox is requesting three days without pay for a family trip.
- iii. Katherine Billhartz- Mrs. Billhartz is requesting a day without pay.

c. Retirement:

- i. Lesley Timmermann- Mrs. Timmermann is requesting retirement at the conclusion of 2027-2028.

Motion by Jared Poettker, seconded by Tina Litteken to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-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 20(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

Motion by Zach Peters seconded by Samantha Mohme to move into closed session for the purposes of discussing personnel and student discipline. (6:52 pm.)

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0

Motion by Zach Peters, seconded by Jared Poettker to return from closed session into the regular meeting. (8:11 PM)

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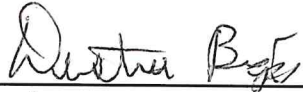
VI. Adjournment:

It was moved by Zach Peters, seconded by Jared Poettker that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Vote: Dustin Biggs-aye, Stephen Brown-aye, Tina Litteken-aye, Zach Peters-aye, Jared Poettker-aye, Jeff Stroot-aye, Samantha Mohme-aye Motion passes 7-0



President



Secretary