# West Central School Corporation

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*"Encourage Every Student Every Day"* ****Engage *Empower *Educate***

## WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Executive Session** **Thursday, October 1, 2026 6:30PM**

*IC 5-14-1.5-6.1 (11) to train school board members with an outside consultant about the performance of the role of the members as public officials*

The Board of Education of the West Central School Corporation met in executive session on Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 6:30pm. Those present were Heather Reese, Dennis Gutwein, Jonathan Gutwein, Jeff Lowry, Todd Miller, Jake Tanner, and Superintendent Cathy Rowe.

**Regular Session** **Thursday, October 1, 2026 7:30PM**

The Board of Education of the West Central School Corporation met in a regular session on Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 7:30PM. The following members were present: Heather Reese, Dennis Gutwein, Jonathan Gutwein, Jake Tanner, Todd Miller, and Jeff Lowry.

Regular Session also present were: Superintendent Cathy Rowe, West Central Middle/High School Principal Mike Carlson, West Central Elementary School Principal Kristie Baer and Erica Kerns, Corporation Secretary.

CALL TO ORDER: President Jonathan Gutwein called the regular meeting to order.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH: Michael Barber was chosen to be the West Central Elementary School Student of the Month. Jake Tanner was pleased to present Jia Gutwein as the West Central Middle/High School Student of the Month.

RETIREMENT: The Board was pleased to recognize Stephanie Thilges on her recent retirement from the district.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was offered and none was received.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Todd Miller seconded the motion and the agenda was approved 6-0.

MINUTES: Jake Tanner made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Session on September 3, 2026 and the executive session on September 3, 2026. Heather Reese seconded the motion and the minutes were approved 6-0.

REQUISITIONS: Todd Miller made a motion to approve requisitions for the corporation as presented. Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the requisitions were approved 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: PERSONNEL REPORT: Jake Tanner made a motion to approve the personnel report as presented. Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the personnel report was approved 6-0.

2027 BUDGET ADOPTION: Todd Miller made a motion to approve the 2027 Budget, 2027 Capital Projects Plan and 2027 Bus Replacement Plan. Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the 2027 budget, CPF and BR plans were adopted 6-0.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AUTHORITY TO LOWER APPROPRIATIONS: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing authority to lower appropriations for the 2027 budget as presented. Heather Reese seconded the motion and the resolution was approved 6-0.

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER AMOUNTS FROM THE EDUCATION FUND TO THE OPERATIONS FUND: Jake Tanner made a motion to approve the Resolution to transfer amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund as presented. Todd Miller seconded the motion and the resolution was approved 6-0.

RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO THE RAINY DAY FUND: Heather Reese made a motion to approve the Resolution to transfer funds to the Rainy Day Fund as presented. Jonathan Gutwein seconded the motion and the resolution was approved 6-0.

RESOLUTION TO BALANCE ACCOUNTS: Todd Miller made a motion to approve the Resolution to Balance Accounts as presented. Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the resolution was approved 6-0.

PULASKI COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (EMA) AND WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL CORPORATION MOU FOR MUTUAL AID AND SERVICE: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the Pulaski County Emergency Management MOU with West Central. Heather Reese seconded the motion and the MOU was approved 6-0.

FIRST READING SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES: The following policies were provided for a first reading:

3421: Retirement-School Employees
3600: Substitute Teachers
4360: Reporting Threats, Intimidation, Battery and Harassment Against School Employees
4100: Educational Records
2710: Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools Provided by Non-School Related Entities
3200: Gifts to Employees
1300: School Board Governance
4401: Searches-Students, Personal Possessions, Vehicles
4410: Restraints and Seclusion
7030: Fixed Assets and Accounting System for Fixed Assets

4425: Investigations/Interrogations by Law Enforcement Officers
4322: Habitual Truant

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Kristie Baer said September was a very busy month! Our most recent professional development day allowed staff to review 504 plans and IEPs, ensuring all new team members know how to locate each student's accommodations. Veteran teachers also had time to share strategies that have proven successful with students in the past.The book fair and Grandparents' Day are two major annual events, and we deeply appreciate all the hard work from the PTC and Ms. Marrs to make them possible. Additionally, we successfully completed our first ILEARN checkpoint for grades 3–6; teachers will use this data to plan next steps and address learning gaps. Finally, the technology department set up email accounts for our substitute teachers, which has greatly streamlined lesson plan sharing.
Custodian appreciation day is tomorrow, October 2nd. We are extremely thankful for all our custodians do to keep our school clean!

Mike Carlson commented September has flown by. We've enjoyed a week of Homecoming activities. Pulaski County Health Department was here to provide any needed vaccinations. That was a real convenience for families. ILEARN data has been released. We have definite strengths in comparing to state averages. During the early release time, this data and current baseline data was shared with staff. We also went through the new school accountability for letter grades. Congratulations to the marching band. They earned Gold at ISSMA this month. The athletic teams continue to do well. Parent-Teacher conferences are coming up. The link for parents to sign up will be sent next week.

Dr. Rowe shared with board members recent ILEARN district wide results in a compassion with area schools, exemplary behavior reports from IHSAA for our girls volleyball and boys football teams. She shared the insurance increase for health insurance for the 2027 premium year will increase 6 percent and that membership will come in around 583.71 rather than the forecasted 605, resulting in a funding loss of over $160,000 for the next calendar year. She reminded board members of the ISBA conference October 5th and 6th and of the Pulaski County Planning group survey that had been sent out. October 9th is the end of the first 9 weeks, and parent teacher conferences will be held on October 19th. A link for parents to sign up will be forthcoming. She also presented information about the recently completed construction project, showing information linked on the school's website. Another note mentioned was that the recent roof replacement at the middle/high school and outbuilding replacement was the result of hail damage sustained in February of this year. The amount of the claim ended up being $2,137,013 and insurance paid this amount less a $100,000 deductible.

PAYROLL AND CLAIMS: Todd Miller made a motion to approve payroll and claims for the corporation. Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the payroll and claims were approved 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT: President Jonathan Gutwein asked the board if there was any further business. Being none, the president adjourned the meeting.

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_____, President

APPROVED:

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_____, Secretary