

West Central School Corporation

1850 S. US 421, P.O. Box 578

Francesville, IN 47946

Phone 219-567-9161

Fax 219-567-9761

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

WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Session

Thursday, February 5, 2026 7:30PM

The Board of Education of the West Central School Corporation met in a regular session on Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 7:30PM. The following members were present: Jake Tanner, Jonathan Gutwein, Todd Miller, Dennis Gutwein, Heather Reese, Jeff Lowry, and Darin Gudeman.

Also present were: Superintendent Cathy Rowe, West Central Middle/High School Principal Mike Carlson and Corporation Secretary Erica Kerns.

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

STUDENT OF THE MONTH: Jake Tanner was pleased to present Dawson Danford as the West Central Elementary School Student of the Month. Darin Gudeman was pleased to present Maddox Gutwein as the West Central Middle/High School Student of the Month.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment was offered and taken. The following individuals spoke during public comment: Brandon Williams, Natalie Wenzel, Zack Dix and Kathy Minnick

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Darin Gudeman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the agenda was approved. 7-0

MINUTES: Jake Tanner made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Finance meeting held on January 8, 2026, the Regular session held on January 8, 2026 and the executive session held immediately after the Regular Session on January 8, 2026. Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the minutes were approved. 7-0

REQUISITIONS: Todd Miller made a motion to approve requisitions 26029 through 26058 for the corporation. Darin Gudeman seconded the motion and the requisitions were approved 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: PERSONNEL REPORT: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the personnel report as presented. Heather Reese seconded the motion and the personnel report was approved 6-0-1 Todd Miller recusal for family relation reasons.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES: Todd Miller made a motion to approve the schedule of school board meets as the first Thursday of each month as presented. Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the dates were approved 7-0.

TURBINE MAINTENANCE FUND RESOLUTION: Jake Tanner made a motion to approve the Turbine Maintenance Fund Resolution as presented to fund the current Turbine Maintenance fund. Darin Gudeman seconded the motion and the resolution was approved 6-1 Jeff Lowry voting nay.

NET RESULTS VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE SUNDAY PRACTICES-RECONSIDERATION: Darin Gudeman made a motion to approve the facilities usage rental as presented. Jonathan Gutwein seconded the motion. After discussion, Darin Gudeman adjusted his motion to move that the event start no earlier than 1:00pm. The practices were approved 6-1 Todd Miller voting nay.

NET RESULTS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT-SUNDAY: Darin Gudeman made a motion to approve the facilities rental as presented. Jonathan Gutwein seconded the motion and the Sunday tournament was approved 7-0.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE NORTHERN INDIANA CORRIDOR MOU: Jake Tanner made a motion to approve the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Indiana Corridor MOU as presented. Darin Gudeman seconded the motion and the MOU was approved 7-0.

4TH GRADE OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIP TO CHICAGO WOLVES HOCKEY GAME FEBRUARY 19, 2026: Todd Miller made a motion to approve the out of state field trip as presented. Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the field trip was approved 7-0.

FCCLA OVERNIGHT TRIP TO FCCLA STATE CONVENTION: Jake Tanner made a motion to approve the overnight FCCLA trip to Muncie, IN for the FCCLA State Convention. Todd Miller seconded the motion and the overnight trip was approved 7-0.

2026-2027 PAY DATES: Dennis Gutwein made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 pay dates as presented. Jake Tanner seconded the motion and the pay dates were approved 7-0.

ZAYO INTERNET SERVICES AGREEMENT: Todd Miller made a motion to approve the Zayo Internet Services Agreement as presented. Darin Gudeman seconded the motion and the agreement was approved 7-0.

WEST CENTRAL BAND TRIP TO INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY ALL-STAR HONOR BAND OVERNIGHT TRIP JAN. 30-FEB. 1, 2026: Darin Gudeman made a motion to approve the West Central Band trip to Indiana State University for the All-Star Honor Band Overnight trip on January 30-February 1, 2026. Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the trip was approved 7-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Mr. Walsh provided an update that Dr. Rowe read noting that the Kids Heart Challenge with the American Heart Association has started. He also noted that the Sensory path was up and running and the students seem to enjoy the Trojan Trail located in the hallway next to the pool area. CoGAT testing starts

next week, February 17th is National Random Acts of Kindness and we will be doing a Kindness Bingo for that day. ILEARN checkpoint 3 is March 9-13.

Mr. Carlson reported the extended E Learning went well. Overall attendance was just slightly lower than a regular day, but there were significantly more that missed an individual class period. During the synchronous days, that gave us time to start on next year's schedule. Beginning next year, we must offer interventions to any student not on grade level in math. Also, students scoring above proficiency on ILEARN and earning at least a C in their current math class, will be auto-enrolled in an advanced math class. At seventh grade, it will consist of both seventh grade and pre-algebra standards. Eighth grade students will be in Algebra 1 earning credit. Parents can opt out and have their child attend their grade level math class. Our Early College portfolio was submitted for consideration. Thank you to our leadership team of Marc Hall, Marci Kennedy, Brian Pilarski and Becky Reed for all their time and work. The site visit is scheduled for March 12th. College banners have been hung in the halls. These were created by a Digital Design class. The Early College lounge has come together and just needs final decorating. Seniors on track for the ICC may use this room for Distance Learning, Study Hall, or lunch. A huge thank you to Jamie and Nate for getting this set up. Freshman were taken to Ivy Tech in Logansport for their first college visit. Each grade level is set up on a schedule to visit different colleges. A group of 8th grade High Ability students attended an event at Kankakee Valley sponsored by Ball State. High School students enjoyed the Snowball dance. NWEA has completed. Middle School saw an increase of 8.7% of students reading on grade level, HS increased 5%, and math went up 3% performing on grade level. ILEARN Checkpoint 2 and WIDA testing are wrapping up.

Dr. Rowe shared that the school would have a make-up day tomorrow for a cancelled day in January. A request for proposals has been sent out and available on our website, for a 401a vendor as noted in our most recently ratified collective bargaining agreement. The Elementary recently celebrated the Great Kindness Challenge last week, and we have been reinforcing the Trojan Traits focusing on Integrity. Dr. Rowe talked briefly about the Teacher Appreciation Grant whereby 6 teachers will be awarded \$3500 out of 8 teachers who applied. Elementary awards took place on January 9th and the next 9 weeks awards program will be March 19th. IREAD will take place March 2-6 and progress reports will go home tomorrow. She additionally shared the NIPSCO bills that have been paid over the past six years and talked briefly about the turbine maintenance.

PAYROLL AND CLAIMS: Todd Miller made a motion to approve payroll and claims for the corporation. Dennis Gutwein seconded the motion and the payroll and claims were approved 7-0.

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

APPROVED:

_____, President

_____, Secretary