

HUSTISFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2026

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board President Steve Weinheimer at 6:30 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Board Members in Attendance

Board members signed the attendance roster at the start of the meeting. Members present: Steve Weinheimer, Tracy Malterer, Jamie Kulkee, Kevin Muche, Jay Huncosky, Tim Simmons, Scott Firari.

IV. Verification of Public Notice

Todd Bugnacki, Interim Superintendent verified that the meeting had been posted as required by State Statute.

V. Public Comment

Citizen input is vital to the improvement of our School District. Most times your remarks may be listened to without comment from the board members or superintendent. This does not mean they are heard with any less intensity or concern. The Board retains the option of limiting public comments to three (3) minutes. Where appropriate district staff or board members will investigate your comments and report back to you and the school board. We thank you for taking the time to address the Board of Education.

Roy Stern and Randy Nehls addressed the board.

VI. Consent Agenda

The purpose of the Consent Agenda is to provide a mechanism where the Board can dispose of routine matters that must by law come before this body.

- A. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting—December 15, 2025
- B. Approval of Financial Business: Approval of Bills (#45157-45211) Funds 10, 27, 38, 41, 50, 80
- C. Approval of Student Activity Accounts
- D. Approval Personnel Report - no report
- E. Approval of Minutes from Special Board Meeting—December 1, 2025
- F. Approval of Junior High and High School Course Description Booklets for the 2026-2027 school year.

Motion made by Jay Huncosky and seconded by Tim Simmons to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion passed 7 - 0.

VII. Reports

- A. Principal's Report & Citizen of the Month Recognition - Mr. Bushey and Mr. Moe
- B. Athletic Director's Report - Mr. Falkenthal
- C. Financial Director's Report - Mrs. Feucht
- D. Superintendent's Report - Mr. Bugnacki

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Building and Grounds Committee—January 5, 2026
- B. Curriculum and Instruction Committee—January 5, 2026
- C. Policy Committee—did not meet in January
- D. Personnel and Finance Committee—did not meet in January

IX. Business

- 1. Annual Audit Presentation: Annually our auditors from Vesta conduct a financial audit, as required by State law. The audit is conducted using district financial information, along with information submitted to the DPI. (A copy of the audit report is on file in the district office)

A motion to approve the audit report as presented by Vesta for 2025 was made by Tracy Malterer and seconded by Kevin Muche.

Motion passed 7 - 0.

- 2. Open Enrollment Seats: By law each school year, the Board must decide on the number of open enrollment seats available for the following year. Per policy 5113, "during the January Board meeting, the Board shall establish the availability of space by determining the number of regular education and special education spaces in the schools, programs, classes, or grades. In setting space availability, the Board may choose to set no limitations or may set limits on availability using *stated* criteria". Given the decline in resident enrollment over the past several years, the school district is able to accommodate open enrollment requests at all levels and in all programs that are currently offered, for the 2026-2027 school year.

Motion made by Jamie Kulkee and seconded by Jay Huncosky to approve open enrollment seats at all grade levels and programs, that are currently in place, for the 2026-27 school year.

Motion passed 7 - 0.

- 3. District Insurance Renewals: Annually the district must renew our insurance coverage. The district works with R&R Insurance to secure the best coverage for the district. After several meetings with the administration, Property coverage was reduced annually from

\$28,805.00 to \$23,946. The overall premium for 2026 is \$49,764.00 down from \$52,548.00.

Motion made by Tim Simmons and seconded by Tracy Malterer to approve insurance coverage renewal from R&R Insurance in the amount of \$49,764.00 for the 2026 calendar year.

Motion passed 7 - 0.

4. Operational Referendum Resolution: To address the district's growing deficit and increasing operational expenses, which will be an estimated \$4.597 million by the end of the 2027-28 school year, and to position the district to continue to operate for the next two years, the district must proceed with an operational referendum. The goal is to afford the district time in which to confirm reorganization options. The referendum for the 2026-27 & 2027-28 school years will permit the district to exceed statutory revenue limits in its budget by \$1.875 million per year, for a total of \$3.75 million. The resolution for an operational referendum must be adopted and filed by January 27, 2026, after which the operational referendum question would appear on the April 7, 2026, election ballot.

President Steven Weinheimer read the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCLUSION IN THE
DISTRICT'S BUDGET OF AMOUNTS EXCEEDING THE
STATE REVENUE LIMITS BEGINNING WITH THE
2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR THROUGH THE 2027-2028
SCHOOL YEAR FOR NON-RECURRING PURPOSES AND
SUBMITTING THAT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS OF
THE DISTRICT IN A REFERENDUM ELECTION**

WHEREAS, the School Board of the Hustisford School District, Dodge County, Wisconsin (the "District"), has determined that a need exists for the District's budget to exceed the revenue limits for the 2026-2027 through the 2027-2028 school years as set forth in Section 121.91(2m), Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, the School Board supports inclusion in the final District budgets of the following amounts: 2026-2027 (\$1.875 million); 2027-2028 (\$1.875 million)– in excess of the revenue limits set forth in Section 121.91(2m), Wis. Stats., such excess to be used for non-recurring purposes consisting of funding operational expenses and current educational programs, addressing the structural deficit, and maintaining facilities while the District explores reorganization options; and

WHEREAS, the School Board has determined to submit the question of the inclusion of proposed excess revenue in the District's budget directly to the District's electors in a referendum election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the District as follows:

Section 1. Exceeding Statutory Revenue Limits. The School Board hereby supports the inclusion in the final District budgets of the following amounts: 2026-2027 (\$1.875 million); 2027-2028 (\$1.875 million)– in excess of the revenue limits set forth in Section 121.91(2m), Wis. Stats., such excess

to be used for non-recurring purposes consisting of funding operational expenses and current educational programs, addressing the structural deficit, and maintaining facilities while the District explores reorganization options.

Section 2. Referendum Election Date. The District Clerk is hereby directed to call a referendum election to be held in the District at the regularly scheduled election occurring on April 7, 2026, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the District the question of whether the District's annual budget may exceed revenue limits for non-recurring purposes consisting of funding operational expenses and current educational programs, addressing the structural deficit, and maintaining facilities while the District explores reorganization options, under Section 121.91(2m), Wis. Stats., by the amounts of 2026-2027 (\$1.875 million); 2027-2028 (\$1.875 million).

Section 3. Notices to Electors. The Watertown Daily Times is the official newspaper of the District with daily publication Monday through Friday. The District Clerk or designee is directed to provide notice of the referendum election as follows:

- (a) By publishing a Type A Notice of Referendum Election in the Watertown Daily Times on the 4th Tuesday prior to the referendum election. (See Exhibit 1, below.)
- (b) By publishing a Type B Notice, which includes a facsimile ballot and voting instructions to electors, in the Watertown Daily Times on the Monday immediately preceding the referendum election. (See Exhibit 2, below.)
- (c) By publishing a Type C Notice of Referendum Election in the Watertown Daily Times on the Monday immediately preceding the referendum election. This notice should be printed as close as possible to the ballot portion of the Type B Notice discussed above. (See Exhibit 2, below.)
- (d) By publishing, or collaborating with the appropriate municipal clerk(s) in publishing, a Type D Notice stating the hours the polls will be open and identifying the polling places, in the Watertown Daily Times on the Monday immediately preceding the referendum election. This notice should be printed as close as possible to the ballot portion of the Type B Notice discussed above.
- (e) By publishing, or collaborating with the appropriate municipal clerk(s) in publishing, a Type E Notice setting forth absentee voting procedures in the Watertown Daily Times on the 4th Tuesday prior to the referendum election.

If any of the municipalities within the District use an electronic voting system employing a ballot label and ballot card, the Type C Notice described above shall also include a true, actual-size copy of the ballot label and ballot card in the form in which they will appear on election day.

Section 4. Polling Places and Hours. The District electors must vote at the referendum election at the times and polling places at which they cast their ballots in regularly scheduled elections.

Section 5. Referendum Election Officials. The election officials appointed in each of the municipalities within the District shall conduct the election.

Section 6. Official Referendum Ballot Form. The ballot to be used at the referendum election shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of Sections 5.64(2) and 7.08(1)(a), Wisconsin Statutes.

The District Clerk shall cause, or shall collaborate with the appropriate municipal clerk(s) to

cause, sufficient ballots to be printed for use at said referendum election, both as actual ballots in those polling places which do not use voting machines and as absentee ballots where voting machines are used and as specimen ballots (the latter to be of a different and easily identifiable color from the actual ballot). The form of the ballot shall be filed with the official responsible for providing the ballots for the election, and the District Clerk shall file a copy of the ballot with the clerk of each county having territory within the District, as soon as possible after the date hereof but in no event later than 70 days prior to the election, as provided in Section 8.37, Wisconsin Statutes. If the District prepares the ballots, said ballots should be delivered to the municipal clerks running the election at least 52 days prior to the election, to allow the municipal clerks to comply with their obligation to provide absentee ballots under Section 7.15, Wisconsin Statutes.

The municipal clerks of the municipalities within the District shall receive applications for absentee ballots and initial the same when issued to qualified absentee voters.

Section 7. Canvass. The returns of the referendum election shall be canvassed by the Board of Canvassers of each municipality within the District. Each Board of Canvassers shall certify the returns of the referendum election to the District Clerk. The District Clerk and two other reputable citizens appointed by the District Clerk prior to the date of the referendum election shall act as the District's Board of Canvassers for this referendum election. This Board of Canvassers shall meet in open session no later than 9:00 a.m. on the Tuesday after the election to determine the result of the referendum election. The canvass shall be open to the public, and the District Clerk is directed to give proper notice of said meeting.

Section 8. DPI Notice. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 121.191(3)(a)1., Wisconsin Statutes, the District Clerk shall notify the Department of Public Instruction of the date of the referendum election and shall provide the Department with copies of the Resolution within 10 days after the adoption of the Resolution and shall further notify the Department of the results of the referendum within 10 days following the election using the method prescribed by the Department.

Adopted and recorded January __, 2026.

Steven Weinheimer
School Board President

ATTEST:

Jamie Kulkee
District Clerk

Motion made by Jay Huncosky and seconded by Kevin Muche to approve and adopt the operational referendum resolution.

Roll call vote:

Tracy Malterer: Yes, Steve Weinheimer, Yes, Jamie Kulkee, Yes, Kevin Muche, Yes, Jay Huncosky, Yes, Tim Simmons, Yes, Scott Firari, No.

Motion passed 6 - 1.

5. CESA 6 Referendum Support: As the Board plans for the referendum in April, it would be prudent to consider a well run information campaign that gives us the best chances to thoroughly educate the community. CESA 6 now offers support services for referendums. Working with the district they will work backwards from April to develop an educational campaign that includes media, web, presentation slides, animated video, fliers and other collateral. The full amount would only be paid IF the referendum passes. Many conversations have taken place with CESA 6 on this proposal, it is the right decision to ensure we are doing everything we can to educate and get the word out to our community on the referendum.

Motion made by Kevin Muche and seconded by Jay Huncosky to approve the agreement with CESA 6 for referendum support services in the amount of \$7,909.08 to only be paid in full if the district passes the referendum.

Motion passed 6 - 1; Scott Firari - No.

X. Informational/Discussion Items:

A. Tentative/Suggested Meetings/Events:

- *Building and Grounds Committee – Monday, March 2, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.*
- *Curriculum and Instruction - Monday, March 2, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.*
- *Policy – Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.*
- *Personnel and Finance — Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.*
- *Regular Board Meeting – Monday, February 16, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.*

Scott Firari announced his resignation from the Hustisford School Board.

XI. Motion to Adjourn into Closed Session

Motion made by Jay Huncosky and seconded by Tracy Malterer to adjourn into closed session at 8:43 p.m.

The Board adjourned into Closed Session to consider **employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility pursuant to 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin**

Statutes. The Board discussed: Individual principal and teacher contract(s) for the 2026-27 school year.

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Steven Weinheimer at 8:51 p.m.

XII. Return to Open Session

- A. A motion was made by Jay Huncosky and seconded by Kevin Muche to return to open session at 9:48 p.m.

Motion passed 6 - 0.

XIII. Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by Jamie Kulkee and seconded by Kevin Muche to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 p.m.

Motion passed 6 - 0.

Laura Schreier — Recorder
Jamie Kulkee — School Board Clerk
Approved — February 16, 2026