

APPROVED



# White River School District

## Minutes

### Regular Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

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#### **Date and Time**

Wednesday January 14, 2026 at 5:30 PM

#### **Location**

District Board/Conference Room  
310 River Avenue North, Buckley, WA 98321

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#### **Directors Present**

Cassie Pearson, Denise Vogel, James Johnson, Karen Bunker, Matt Scheer

#### **Directors Absent**

*None*

#### **Guests Present**

Heather McMullen, Maiden Greene, Scott Harrison

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### **I. Opening Items**

#### **A. Call the Meeting to Order**

Denise Vogel called a meeting of the board of directors of White River School District to order on Wednesday Jan 14, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

#### **B.**

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

### **C. Record Attendance/Roll Call**

President Vogel shared that Assistant Superintendent Heather McMullen was sitting in for Superintendent Harrison, who was present at the meeting, but sitting in the audience due to an eye issue.

### **D. Approve Agenda**

Cassie Pearson made a motion to approve the agenda.

Karen Bunker seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### **E. Approve the Minutes of the December 16, 2025 Special Session Regular Board Meeting**

Matt Scheer made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Session Board Regular Meeting on 12-16-25.

James Johnson seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

## **II. Announcements and Recognition**

### **A. Board and Superintendent Highlights**

President Vogel shared that she visited Elk Ridge Elementary school and the Rangers did an awesome job welcoming her and guiding her around the school. Assistant Superintendent McMullen shared that tonight was a night of celebrations- our music students are going to state, our Transportation department will be mentioned at the National PBIS conference, and the success of the backpack program. A lot of recognitions this evening as well. Director Johnson shared that he attended the girls' Flag Football game, and it was fun to watch.

### **B. No School- January 19, 2026- Martin Luther King Jr Day**

### **C. No School-January 26 & 27, 2026- Semester Break and Professional Development Day**

### **D. Next Study Session Meeting January 28, 2026, 5:30 p.m. at DDC Board Conference Room**

### **E. Next Regular Meeting February 11, 2026, 5:30 p.m. at DDC Board Conference Room**

### **F. 2025 Washington State Elementary Art Educator of the Year- May Morgan**

Elk Ridge Elementary Art Teacher, Mrs. Morgan, was recognized for being selected as the 2025 Washington State Elementary Art Educator of the Year by the Washington Art Education Association. Principal Markey shared a few details about the work Mrs. Morgan does and about her passion for the arts, not only in the classroom but also within the community.

**G. 2025 VFW Middle School Teacher of the Year- Becky LaMont**

Glacier Middle School Leadership Teacher, Mrs. LaMont, was recognized for being the recipient of the 2025-2026 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award for Middle Level Educator- State of Washington. Mr. John Griffin, from Quartermaster, VFW Post 1414, presented her with the award. Principal Hedman shared a few details about Mrs. LaMont and shared that her name will now be advanced to the national-level selection process.

**H. Board and Superintendent's Star Award Presentations**

Board and Superintendents' Star Award Presentation- Students were honored as follows: Wilkeson December- Chloe Zevenbergen; Wilkeson January- Elizabeth Rohm; White River Early Learning Center December- Haven Ortega; White River Early Learning Center January- Hanks Heins Smith; Elk Ridge December- Luis Garfia-Saucedo; Elk Ridge January- Ayden Plumlee; Foothills December- Lincoln Ramsey; Foothills January- Maxson Doyle; Mountain Meadow December- Trey Martello; Mountain Meadow January- Parker Waldman; Glacier Middle December- Carter Hutcheson; Glacier Middle January- Ethan Sutherland; White River High December- Heavyn Hoke; White River High January- Samantha Murphy.

**III. Highlight**

**A. Glacier Middle School Leadership Report**

Glacier Middle School leadership students gave an update on activities and events at the School. They shared information about Season 2 Sports, a choir performance, the Robotics team competition, and the door-decorating competition. They also shared the work of the Social, Assembly, Student Management, and Service Committees. The Social Committee started a Tell Us Something Good initiative, and a video clip of students sharing something good that happened to them recently was played. They exceeded their Socktober goal, had a successful Veterans Day assembly, had a successful stocking stuffer drive, and had awesome posters for Native American Heritage month.

**B. WRHS ASB Activities Report**

White River High School leadership students presented information on events that have

been occurring at the high school. They gave an update on winter sports, clubs, the Variety show, the music department, the Office Holiday party, and winter wishes. Some events they have coming up:

- MLK Assembly Jan. 16th
- No School - Jan. 19th
- Swarm the Stands Jan. 20th @6:00  
NHS Food Drive  
(Comp. against Enumclaw NHS)
- Last day of Semester Jan. 23rd
- No School - Jan. 26th and Jan. 27th
- Winter Formal Feb. 7th  
Hosted by Sophomore Class Officers
- Kindness Week Feb. 9th - 13th
- Winter Sports Assembly Feb. 12th
- Future Hornet Night Feb. 12th

### **C. Fall Sports Update**

Athletic Director Chris Gibson gave an update on fall sports. He shared an appreciation of coaches for giving their time and dedication to athletes. Coaches and students shared how their respective seasons went and shared their favorite memories. Seniors shared what their plans were for after graduation.

## **IV. Break**

### **A. Break**

President Vogel called for a quick 3-minute break.

## **V. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approve Actual Vouchers Issued December, 2025**
- B. Approve Payroll Issued December 31, 2025**
- C. Approve Revised Personnel Report**
- D. Acceptance of Final Completion**
- E. Approve Highly Capable District Plan 25-26**
- F. Approve Updated Interdistrict Agreement Bethel SD, Pierce County Skills Center**
- G.**

### **Vote on Consent Agenda Items**

James Johnson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items.

Matt Scheer seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

## **VI. Business Services**

### **A. Financial Report for November, 2025**

Under Business Services, Donna Morey provided the information for the monthly financial report in the board members' agenda packets. There were no questions. Items of note were:

#### **GENERAL FUND**

Local property collections remain strong. This is typical for the fall collection cycle. Local non-tax revenue remains soft consistent with reduced meal sales under universal feeding at two sites. The Fund Balance has declined as was expected after the artificial inflation in October.

In November, \$41,587 was transferred to the Debt Service Fund for the interest payment on the 2022 LGO.

#### **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Expenditures in November were for technology, the timber harvest at the Easton property, and tree farm management services. Revenues consisted of tax collections, interest, and the sale of timber.

In November, \$900,000 was transferred to the Debt Service Fund out of capital levy collections for the principal payment on the 2022 LGO.

#### **DEBT SERVICE FUND**

As noted above, funds were transferred in from both the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund for the December debt service payment on the 2022 LGO.

#### **TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE FUND**

There was no significant activity in the Transportation Vehicle Fund in November.

### **B. Bond Refunding Update**

Cory Plager from D.A. Davidson shared a Bond Refunding Update. They recently analyzed the refunding opportunities for White River SD to achieve savings for the school district's taxpayers:

- Updated to reflect current market conditions.
- The District may refund bonds 90 days before the call date and take advantage of tax-exempt interest rates (current refunding).

- We are monitoring changes at the legislative level that would once again allow schools to advance refund bonds using tax-exempt financings.

For any questions, the board can follow up with CFO Donna Morey.

## VII. Action and Reports

### A. **Approve overnight travel for the WRHS Chamber Choir to attend the Seattle Heritage Festival Competition, March 26-29, 2026**

Cassie Pearson made a motion to approve overnight travel for the WRHS Chamber Choir to attend the Seattle Heritage Festival Competition, March 26-29, 2026.

Karen Bunker seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### B. **Approve Data Sharing Agreement between Washington Student Achievement Council and White River School District**

Matt Scheer made a motion to approve the Data Sharing Agreement between the Washington Student Achievement Council and White River School District.

James Johnson seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### C. **Approve Pierce County Careers Connection - Memorandum of Agreement**

Cassie Pearson made a motion to approve the Pierce County Careers Connection - Memorandum of Agreement.

Karen Bunker seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### D. **Approve Donation of \$25,000 from the Community Presbyterian Church to the WRSD Backpack Program**

James Johnson made a motion to approve the donation of \$25,000 from the Community Presbyterian Church to the WRSD Backpack Program.

Matt Scheer seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### E. **Approve Overnight Travel for White River High School DECA Members to attend the State Competition in Bellevue, WA from February 26-28, 2026.**

Cassie Pearson made a motion to approve overnight travel for White River High School DECA Members to attend the State Competition in Bellevue, WA from February 26-28, 2026.

Karen Bunker seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

## **VIII. Board Policy Considerations**

### **A. Second Reading and Approval of the following Board Policy:**

Policy 6220- Bid Requirements (updates/revisions to)

Cassie Pearson made a motion to approve Policy 6220- Bid Requirements (updates/revisions to).

James Johnson seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

## **IX. Closing Items**

### **A. Board/Superintendent Comments**

President Vogel expressed that there was really great stuff happening.

### **B. Adjourn Meeting**

It moved by Director Johnson and seconded by Director Scheer to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Maiden Greene