Whiteside School District #115
Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 17, 2026
Whiteside Middle School

Administrators: Mark Heuring, Monica Laurent, Nathan Rakers, Kim Bossler, Jaime Cotto, Erin Connolly, Chris Stinnett

Visitors: as noted on the sign-in sheet

1.0) Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance
President Rod Euchner called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.0) Roll Call of Members
Board Members present: Jeremy Bochantin, Angela Dickerson, Rod Euchner, Derek Houston, and Christine Mitchell-Endsley.

Members absent: Hamze Fares and Nancy Sanchez

3.0) Closed Session
Motion by Mitchell-Endsley, second by Bochantin to enter into closed session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee(s), contract negotiations, and discussion of legal matters. Roll call: Euchner - yes, Bochantin - yes, Dickerson - yes, Houston - yes, Mitchell-Endsley - yes. Motion carried.

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:33 pm.

Motion by Houston, second by Bochantin to return to open session for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee(s), contract negotiations, and discussion of legal matters. Roll call: Euchner - yes, Bochantin - yes, Dickerson - yes, Houston - yes, Mitchell-Endsley - yes. Motion carried.

The Board returned to the Regular Session at 7:16 pm.

Regular Open Meeting began at 7:30 pm.

4.0) Accept / Amend Consent Agenda
Motion by Houston, second by Mitchell-Endsley to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes - 5, Nays - 0. Motion carried.

5.0) Public Comments

President Rod Euchner welcomed the visitors and members of the WFT.

Mark Heuring recognized the Shout Out winners for September. Kayla, Emma, and Allyson Nowak were selected by the Middle School. Cody Schmitz was selected by the Elementary School

There were no public comments.

6.0) Public Hearing FY 27 School Budget

6.1) Motion by Houston, second by Bochantin to open the public hearing on the FY 27 budget. Roll call: Euchner - yes, Bochantin - yes, Dickerson - yes, Houston - yes, Mitchell-Endsley - yes. Motion carried.

No Public comments.

6.2) Motion by Houston, second by Dickerson to close the public hearing on FY 27 budget. Roll call: Euchner - yes, Bochantin - yes, Dickerson - yes, Houston - yes, Mitchell-Endsley - yes. Motion carried.

7.0) Consent Items

7.1) Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting, August 20, 2026
Motion by Houston, second by Mitchell-Endsley to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on August 20, 2026. Roll call: Euchner - yes, Bochantin - yes, Dickerson - yes, Houston - yes, Mitchell-Endsley - yes. Motion carried.

7.2) Approval of Minutes from Closed Session, August 20, 2026
Motion by Houston, second by Dickerson to approve the minutes from the Closed Session on August 20, 2026. Roll call: Euchner - yes, Bochantin - yes, Dickerson - yes, Houston - yes, Mitchell-Endsley - yes. Motion carried.

7.3) Approval of Minutes from Special Open Session, September 8, 2026
Motion by Houston, second by Bochantin to approve the minutes from the Special Open Session on September 8, 2026. Roll call: Euchner - yes, Bochantin - yes, Dickerson - yes, Houston - yes, Mitchell-Endsley - yes. Motion carried.

7.4) Approval of Minutes from Special Closed Session, September 8, 2026
Motion by Houston, second by Bochantin to approve the minutes from the Special Closed Session September 8, 2026. Roll call: Euchner - yes, Bochantin - yes, Dickerson - yes, Houston - yes, Mitchell-Endsley - yes. Motion carried.

7.5) Approval of Treasurer's Report

Motion by Houston, second by Bochantin to approve the September 17, 2026 Treasurer's Report as presented. Roll call: Euchner - yes, Bochantin - yes, Dickerson - yes, Houston - yes, Mitchell-Endsley - yes. Motion carried.

7.6) Approval of Claims / Bills Payable
Motion by Houston, second by Euchner to approve the September 17, 2026 claims / bills payable as presented. Roll call: Euchner - yes, Bochantin - yes, Dickerson - yes, Houston - yes, Mitchell-Endsley - yes. Motion carried.

8.0) Board Secretary Correspondence
There was no Board Correspondence.

9.0) Administrative Reports

9.1) Elementary School Principal - Mr. Rakers reviewed his written report.

Derek Houston likes the idea of Project Read. Do we know how the company is recording, what they are using the recording for? Mr. Rakers did not have exact answers, but reassured the Board that all programs used in the schools are SOPPA compliant.

9.2) Middle School Principal - Mrs. Laurent reviewed her written report. She also gave a shout out to the 25-26 PE team. Last year there were 0 fights in PE and she feels the Mindful Minute program they started was a huge part of that. The PE teachers took some flack on social media about the Mindful Minute, but it turned out to be a success and we even started using it at the end of 6th Grade Lunch.

Mrs. Laurent also added that of the 20 Freshman on Student Council at East, 10 are former Whiteside students.

9.3) Curriculum Coordinator - Mrs. Connolly reviewed her written report.

9.4) Superintendent - Mr. Heuring reviewed his written report. In addition he shared an update on some final items for the new building: status on bringing the new cameras online, CTS working on classroom intercom systems, and double checking with teachers to make sure there is not anything else we don't know isn't working.

He also shared that he continues to have monthly sit downs with union leadership. They requested he go back to sending out a general overview of the Board Meetings to staff, which he will do.

10.0) Committee Reports

10.1) Finance

Committee meeting set for September 29, 2026 at 6:00 pm

11.0) New Business

11.1) Approval of FY 27 Budget

Motion by Houston, second by Mitchell-Endsley to approve the Fiscal Year 27 Budget as presented. Roll call: Euchner - yes, Bochantin - yes, Dickerson - yes, Houston - yes, Mitchell-Endsley - yes. Motion carried.

11.2) Discussion of a School Resource Officer (SRO)

Discussion regarding an SRO was requested by a Board member. Mr. Heuring is just looking for direction on how the Board would like to proceed.

We are seeing an increase in how parents are communicating with Administration. When officers are in the building it helps de-escalates the situation.

With private security or a retired officer the district would be responsible for making sure the employee is keeping up with their licensing.

Some questions Christine Mitchell-Endsley has:

- Do they carry fire arms
- What is their specific roll
- What would the SRO do when there isn't a situation going on
- Would they go to both buildings

She has concerns about:

- Does not feel having an SRO is a preventative measure
- Don't reduce issues
- Increase of criminal activity by arresting students
- What happens if the person is not a good fit
- What is their background / training

In order for an officer to be a SRO they are required to attend specialized training. The training would provide knowledge in what the SRO can and can not do.

Do we want to move forward with discussions with the Shiloh Police Department?

Some members feel there isn't enough evidence to show the good of an SRO outways the bad.

Derek Houston shared that his wife has experience with the SWIC police department. You have some people who have been there for years who are

good workers. Then you have some newer individuals who are not good for the team.

Some members are sceptical that Shiloh has someone in their ranks that would be a good fit for our school.

What could we put in place to support administration in these situations? Not sure that an SRO is the right person.

Mark Heuring asked if the Board would like him to reach out to Shiloh PD to answer some questions such as:

- How is the individual selected
- What control does the District have
- What type of training does the SRO receive
- How would extended school year work
- Timelines if the district decides to move forward

Derek Houston inquired if this would be a place for a Dean of Students? A Dean would have different rolls than an SRO.

Several members inquired how the teachers and staff feel about an SRO.

Mr. Heuring will put together a Google Survey and provide the Board with the results.

Everyone agreed to table the discussion until more information is available and other members are present.

12.0) Closed Session (if needed)

Second Closed Session was not needed.

13.0) Action Items Following the Closed Session

13.1) District Safety Report

Reviewed the 6 new items on the report.

13.2) Approval of Tuition Reimbursement(s)

None at this time

13.3) Accept District Resignation

13.3.1) Motion by Houston, second by Dickerson to accept the resignation of John Everett - MS Custodian. Roll call: Euchner - yes, Bochantin - yes, Dickerson - yes, Houston - yes, Mitchell-Endsley - yes. Motion carried.

13.3.2) Move the previous roll for Michael Brison. Ayes - 5, Nays - 0. Motion carried.

13.4) Approval of District Employments

Paraprofessional

13.4.1) Motion by Houston, second by Dickerson to employ Kelly Davis - ES Para. Roll call: Euchner - yes, Bochantin - yes, Dickerson - yes, Houston - yes, Mitchell-Endsley - yes. Motion carried.

ESP Personnel

13.4.2) Move the previous roll for Maria Moore - ESP. Ayes - 5, Nays - 0. Motion carried.

13.4.3) Move the previous roll for Layla Ohlen - ESP. Ayes - 5, Nays - 0. Motion carried.

Custodians

13.4.4) Move the previous roll for Kevin Holmes - Custodian. Ayes - 5, Nays - 0. Motion carried.

13.5) Approval of Stipend Positons

13.5.1) Motion by Houston, second by Bochantin to employ Timothy Adams - Drama Tech. Roll call: Euchner - yes, Bochantin - yes, Dickerson - yes, Houston - yes, Mitchell-Endsley - yes. Motion carried.

13.5.2) Move the previous roll for Javis Taylor - 7 / 8 Girls Basketball (reassignment). Ayes - 5, Nays - 0. Motion carried.

13.6) Approval of Nurse MOU

Motion by Houston, second by Bochatin to table the MOU for further discussion. Roll call: Euchner - yes, Bochantin - yes, Dickerson - yes, Houston - yes, Mitchell-Endsley - yes. Motion carried.

13.0) Adjournment

Having no further business motion by Houston, second by Euchner to adjourn. Ayes - 5, Nays - 0. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Rod Euchner, President

Karla McKee, Secretary