

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BLACK HAWK

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 14, 2026



The meeting was called to order by President Dee Paulson at 6:00 pm in the upper commons, The following members were present Jim Baumgartner, Mindy Stauffacher, Val Dunlavey, Clayton Ruegessegger, Dee Paulson, Cali Schliem and Jason Figi. Also present was Administration of Willy Chambers, Cory Milz, Tammy Zimmerman and 8 guests.

Motion by Baumgartner and seconded by Stauffacher to consent to agenda which includes the financial report as presented, which includes checks written, ACH payments, journal entries, cash receipts, and the cash reconciliation for the prior month, posting of the agenda, minutes from the December 10, 2025, meeting. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Administration Report: Chambers-Just to make it part of the record again: The Board has forfeited its salaries for the current year. Neither the Board nor the administration will be attending the State Education Convention this month. Both efforts are part of the cost-cutting efforts this year.

I am checking into providing the Anxious Generation presentation to our community via the funds that can only be spent on student mental health. I believe Val thought this was worthwhile, and I just saw the presentation at the Business & Education Summit in Fennimore on Friday and believe it could be very beneficial to our families.

I met with the staff last week on Wednesday and discussed with them the need to be responsive to community members if questioned about the need for the referendum. I did not suggest they should get into a disagreement or address anyone who was looking for "fight". I simply believe that the staff needs to be willing to at least respond to the community, or the community will perceive that lack of responsiveness as there is no need for the money requested. I believe that to be the same for the Board. There is a talking points document attached for reference (which is a work in progress).

There is a committee meeting tomorrow at 4:30. I recommend if possible for Board members attend. I understand that some, if not all of you, cannot make it due to your work.

I will start setting up times for my presentations. My presentation will not influence the community significantly enough to change the outcome. It will need to involve staff, Board, and community members to provide insight to the voters to inform their decisions.

I forwarded you an email from the Kettle Moraine School District proposing a change to WASB membership. After I briefly reviewed the proposal, I would recommend that you do not jump on this initiative. WASB does a lot for the Board and represents all Boards in the state. At all times, they can not align perfectly with all school Boards, but generally the Board needs an organization to represent your voice at the state level.

I have attached a letter sent to Dee and me via email discussing the SWTC Board appointment committee.

Milz:

1. High School Final Exams are taking place on Thursday, January 15, and Friday, January 16. First semester grading period wraps up on Monday, January 19. All high school students are required to take final exams. High school final exams count as 15% of a student's semester grade.
3. Black Hawk HS will be presenting a musical production on March 27 - 29. The musical will be Little Women. The directors are Mr. Duff- Bowers, Mr. Dan Sniff, and assisted by Mr. Amweg.
4. Scripps Spelling Bee competition will be held on January 15 @ 9 a.m. Visitors are welcome. Congratulations to the following students who will be competing to represent Black Hawk at the regional spelling bee competition. The top two spellers from Black Hawk will travel to Fennimore on February 4, 2026, for the Regional Spelling Bee competition held at Southwest Technical College.
5. January 7. Professional collaboration time focused on grading standardization on writing conventions at the MS/HS level,

preparations for standardized test prep. Elementary teachers focused on spring screenings in math and reading, ACT 20 student reading plans and parent communication.

6. Forensics season is underway. 13 participants (1 male)

7. Thank you to the BH cheerleaders, Mrs. Buss and Mrs. Curran for sponsoring and working with our elementary students in their Halftime performance last week. We are grateful for staff members who are willing to offer activities and experiences for our students beyond the classroom.

8. February 13, the Middle School Student Council sponsored a ski trip for middle school students.

9. Six Rivers Conference Honors band performance will be held on January 28 in Barneveld?.

AD Report January 2026

- After attending the meeting with AD's from Six Rivers, SWAL, Scenic Bluffs a spattering of other southern WI conferences, most AD's were not satisfied with the product that Arbiter will be offering and sought to look at other products. Bound is the name of another product. A meeting was set to meet with them virtually and I attended that as I could around my teaching schedule. At the January meeting of Six Rivers AD's it was discussed at length and the AD's voted to ask the principals and superintendents to use Bound rather than Arbiter. This has put a strong pause on scheduling and contracting for future years. At the moment, we cannot add any games to our schedules. Potentially, we could have a significant amount of work to get things back up to speed regardless of what service we subscribe to. I will gladly give more information to anyone who wants more details.
- We honored Coach Mike Flanagan on January 5 for his induction into the WBCA Hall of Fame. It was nice to see so many from both the Black Hawk and Darlington communities as well as former players, coaches and colleagues come and recognize Coach Flanagan for his remarkable achievement. He joins Coach Murphy, Coach Mortimer, and Coach Milz as individuals who were inducted into their respective coaching association's fraternity.
- Coach Cortney Buss did a remarkable job with her cheerleading crew to have a wonderful halftime performance last Friday night. Coach Buss has been doing a great job of coaching her cheer team to be a supportive group around our winter sports teams as they cheer, make banners and remain positive in circumstances when that is tough.
- Congratulations to Dax Paquin and Maddox Hocking for their qualifying for JV Wrestling State in Waukesha later this month. This is a great opportunity for two first time high school wrestlers.
- The MS wrestling team got their first taste of competition on Monday at Belmont with some great results as well. Coach Kyle Stauffacher has been encouraging that group of young men and women to participate and we have generally good numbers.
- Coach's Flanagan and Flanagan have upcoming youth nights at our home basketball events and continue to promote their programs through the youth participation and involvement.
- I have had a couple of conversations with the WIAA about rules regarding participation limits for individuals as the current rule is not beneficial to struggling programs. I have been given assurances that the rules will be adjusted although it no longer is applicable to our girls program as we have fewer than 10 players available to play at the current time.
- Most 2026-2027 fall sports schedules are complete. (Var, JV, MS football and Var, JV volleyball)
- 2026-27 winter sports schedules are a work in progress but are 75-85% complete.
- I am planning to have a late spring meeting for all athletes and parents to gather as much documentation as I can. Collecting physicals, activity codes, concussion forms, eligibility forms... is a headache and sporadic. Anything I can do to make that more efficient will be helpful. I'm looking at streamlining the process.

- Thanks to Mr Milz for his spearheading our academic accountability for athletes and other extracurricular activities. I believe this has made a positive impact on our keeping students responsible for their grades and staying up to date with missing work and assignments.

Board of Education Report: Lower Bathroom doors being wide open at games could they be closed at the end of day and not be open during games.

The referendum was approved in December and the only information in the January newsletter was the minutes for approving it and nothing supporting it we need to be on top of getting information to the public.

Board: Question was asked about whether we are hiring our 3rd Baseball Coach. Question about Girls Basketball Program for 2026-27 with the low numbers of girls. Would girls be able to play on a JV team somewhere and they could play on a JV team for another District. Payton Calow has not submitted letter of resignation for Boys Basketball Coaching, and we have not hired a JV Boys Basketball Coach or a volunteer coach at the Board level but we have people in the position.

It was noted that the following have declared candidacy for Spring election for school board and will appear on the ballot in the following order. Dustin Williams, Brenda Peterson, Clayton Ruegsegger

Referendum meeting meet before the Regular meeting. Here are some things that were taken from it- It is recommended that Board members attend the referendum meetings if they can, need to have a statement from the Board appeasement to the public to give a view of how we stand and cuts that we have made and why we are in a situation that we are in.

Please have a list of people that are working the concession stands each month along with donations.

Colony Brands	Monetary donations to the Warrior Backpack Program	December
Gratiot VFW	Monetary donations to the Warrior Backpack Program	December
Janel and MIke Marty	\$200.00 to the Warrior Care Program	12/11/2025
Caden Strunz	\$60.00 and food for the Warrior Care, Backpack Program and Nurse's snacks	December
Larry and Cali Lelle	\$3000 for STEM related course work	December
Jeff Ditzenberger - TUGS Group	\$1000 towards food insecurity	December
Dee and RJ Paulson	Stomp/Stress Board to Special Needs Program	December

Nikki Komprood for the Warrior Table Cover for the ticket takers.

Public comment was called for. - NONE

Milz went over District Report Card- Explanation and Comparisons

Milk initiative - Schliem the congress passed the whole milk initiative that food can order whole milk and flavored by milk. Put on agenda item next month as the Board has to approve it. since it has not been signed into Congress yet.

Motion by Fig seconded Baumgartner to acknowledge receipt of the Audit report prepared by Lauterbach & Amen dated December 2, 2025. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Baumgartner and seconded by Dunlavey The Board of Education approved no seat limits in regular education open enrollment, Early Childhood 3-year-old, and 4K special education programs. The Board of Education approved and granted guaranteed preference and approval to current open-enrolled students and their siblings who meet the decisional criteria for non-resident applications. Due to the caseload numbers, there are no other seats available in any other special

education programs at any grade level. to approve the open enrollment program and class limits as presented. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Dunlavey and seconded by Stauffacher to approve the 2026-2027 Course Book. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Dunlavey and seconded by Schliem to approve Graduation requirement of one-half credit for 21st Century Learning skills. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Baumgartner and seconded by Dunlavey to approve the approve splitting the Musical Director Position between Mr. Amweg and Mr. Sniff. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Dunlavey and seconded by Stauffacher to not require teachers to pay for subs for school activities when they have to take students to competitions or workshops at this time. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Baumgartner and seconded by Ruegsegger to convey to executive session at 7:52 pm president's announcement of the purpose of executive session under 19.85(1) items b, c, and f, Wisconsin State Statutes - personnel - 19.85(1)(C) Motin carried on a roll call vote Jim Baumgartner, Mindy Stauffacher, Val Dunlavey, Clayton Ruegsegger, Dee Paulson, Cali Schliem and Jason Figi.

The Board returned to open session at 9:35 pm.

Act on matter deliberated in closed session.

Motion by Baumgartner and seconded by Stauffacher to not rehire a teacher that has given notice and eliminate the Spanish Teaching position and look at offering Spanish online. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Stauffacher and seconded by Baumgartner to pay all employees overtime as it is earned and any employee that is owed overtime pay will be settled up on the January 30, 2026 payroll. The motion carried on a voice vote with Paulson abstaining.

Motion by Dunlavey and seconded by Schliem to adjourn at 9:36 pm. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Next regular meeting will be February 11, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Submitted by,

Jason Figi, Clerk