



Minutes - January 20, 2026

Call to Order: Chair Peer called the hybrid Education & Veterans Committee meeting to order at 5:10 PM at the Veteran Service building, due to technical issues the meeting was held in Paul Crawford's office.

Committee Members Present: Supervisor Peer, Bobzien, Sutter.

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Schneider, Fugelseth.

Staff Members Present: Paul Crawford, Veterans Service Officer.

Others Present:

Approve Agenda: Supervisor Bobzien moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Sutter. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Approval of Minutes: No minutes were attached to approve.

Review of Payments:

December Payments: The committee discussed the attached payments.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action:

Veterans Resources Update: Paul provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the number of veterans and clients assisted in 2025, which was 3,134, an increase from 2,700 in 2024. The presentation also covered the rise in disability claims and appeals. Paul noted a significant jump in new veterans who have never used their services before, attributed to improved outreach and changing perceptions of veteran services. The meeting discussed the VA healthcare system's benefits and accessibility, highlighting the high-quality care provided to veterans without cost. The committee discussed the importance of outreach to increase enrollment, with Paul noting that most veterans qualify for some form of benefits. Paul also addressed challenges that the National Guard and Reserve members face in obtaining veteran status under Wisconsin law.

Veterans Service Office Update: Paul explained that interviews for the receptionist position were complete, and they were awaiting HR's approval of the selected candidate, with a potential start date in mid-February. The committee also discussed the potential for expanding the reception position to full-

time, noting that it would require a supermajority vote from the county board and proper justification through numbers. Paul discussed plans for the Vet's Role, including offering their building a potential alternative staging location due to the potential closure of the Eclipse Center.

Discussion of What Other Counties' Role in Education Is: Topic was not discussed.

Research on Title of Committee Name: The committee talked to Rich Greenlee in Corp. Counsel and he suggested having a business meeting to discuss.

Youth in Governance Update and Discussion: Topic was not discussed.

Committee Requests: None.

Next meeting date and time: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

Adjournment: Supervisor Bobzien moved adjournment at 5:51 PM, second by Supervisor Sutter. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wolf
Executive Assistant

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.