

West Salem School District

March 2014



Newsletter

April 1, Election Day 2014

Troy M. Gunderson, Superintendent

The upcoming spring election offers the opportunity for a great deal of public decision-making on school district issues. The ballot will contain the annual school board election along with two referendum questions regarding construction projects.

This year there are two school board seats up for election to serve three-year terms. The two seats up for election are those held by Tom Ward and Syl Clements. Three candidates will appear on the ballot. Syl Clements is seeking re-election. Ralph Thorn and Catherine Griffin are each seeking their first term on the school board. Tom Ward is not seeking re-election. Voters will be allowed to cast a vote for two people.

The ballot will also include two referendum questions. The first question seeks permission to borrow \$32 million for the construction of a new intermediate/middle school to serve students in grades 4-8. The second question seeks non-recurring or "one-time" permission for the school district to exceed the state-imposed revenue cap by up to \$500,000 for the purpose of providing security upgrades to the elementary school. The two official ballot questions can be viewed on page 3 of this newsletter.

Briefly, approval of the first question will allow the school board to borrow money for the purchase of constructing a new school building just to the north of the current district soccer complex. The new building will contain 160,000 square feet of educational space designed to provide a dynamic 21st century learning experience. The building will serve children in grades 4 through 8 allowing our elementary school to serve grades 4k through 3 and allowing for the repurposing of our current middle school.

The second question will afford the school board "one-time" permission to levy up to \$500,000 over the state imposed revenue limit for the purpose of security upgrades at the elementary school. The project

will include the construction of a new front entry to the elementary school along with upgrades to the exterior doors and security camera system. In regards to property taxes, approval of this question will not raise taxes as the amount will simply replace the final "mortgage" payment on the elementary school.

I encourage all residents to visit the school district web site at www.wsalem.k12.wi.us. The site contains a link entitled "School Referendum Information" which includes a number of articles, newsletters and drawings related to the project.



As stated earlier, the results of the election on April 1st affords each one of us the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. Please do your part to become informed of the issues and take the time to cast your vote.

**Serve with Passion...
Vote April 1, 2014**

Please note the following round of new questions and answers discussed since the February newsletter.

ARE THERE ANY UPDATES REGARDING WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE CURRENT MIDDLE SCHOOL IF THE REFERENDUM PASSES?
Yes, the Boys' and Girls' Club will publicly offer a "letter of intent" to pursue development in the current middle school. The school district continues to work with the West Salem Hockey Association and with other interested organizations.

WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE DISTRICT ENROLLMENT STUDIES?
The school district contracted with the Applied Population Laboratory in Madison to provide a number of enrollment prediction studies. The most recent of these was completed in February of 2014 and can be viewed on our website. Unlike the two previous reports which indicated continued growth across our district, this most recent report predicts

a more stable population. While it appears the crowding in our elementary school will persist, this most recent report suggests it will not worsen as fast as previously thought. As with all such reports, the cautionary “wild cards” are housing starts, migration trends and open-enrollment numbers.

IF THE REFERENDA PASS, WHAT ARE THE TIMELINES FOR THE PROJECTS? With voter approval on April 1st, our architect firm will begin the 6-8 month process of creating a final design for the building with construction expected to begin in the spring of 2015. The anticipated opening of the new school is September of 2016. The security upgrades to our elementary school will be completed in 2015.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE REFERENDA FAIL? If voters reject the referenda, the district will gather information from the public as to the reasons for the failure, reassemble district planning committees, and chart a course for moving forward. In the short term nothing will be different. Over the long term, the district will eventually need to address the traffic problems along Mark Street and necessary updates to our middle school, along with space and security issues at our elementary school.

WHAT HAPPENS IF ONE REFERENDUM QUESTIONS PASSES AND THE OTHER FAILS? The school board will be bound by the outcome and will proceed as directed. For example, if question number one fails while question number two passes, the school board will stop the process of preparing to construct a new school building but move forward with the prescribed safety upgrades to our elementary school. It is important to remember the two projects are separate.

CAN YOU REPEAT THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS? The school district currently makes an annual long term debt payment of \$2 million per year. This payment roughly breaks down to \$1.3 million for our high school and \$.7 million for our elementary school. The final payment on the elementary school will be made in October of 2014 while the final payment for the high school is scheduled for 2021.

With this in mind, passage of question number 1 will raise the annual bond payment from the current \$2 million to \$2.7 million and therefore result in an approximate seventy-five cents per thousand increase in property taxes or \$225 on \$300,000 worth of property. Passage of the second question will

not have an immediate tax impact as the “one-time” additional \$500,000 of levy can be worked around the bond schedule.

Should the referenda fail, the school board will have the option of reducing the tax levy by the \$.7 million identified as final the elementary school payment or maintaining the current tax levy amount of \$2 million for the purpose of accelerating the debt payment on our high school and becoming debt free by 2019.

HOW ARE THE REFERENDA CONNECTED TO THE PURCHASE OF COUNTY LAND? The referenda are not connected to the recent land purchase. The district has pursued the purchase of additional land from La Crosse County for many years. The fact the county has agreed to sell 25 acres at the same time as the current referenda is coincidental. That said, the recent land purchase allows the district to access the proposed new school building from the east and will therefore greatly improve traffic flow on and around our campus.

WHY THESE PROJECTS AT THIS TIME? In their attempts to address the space issues at our elementary school and the impending upgrades to our middle school the school board and long range facility planning groups considered a number of options. From smaller, more temporary fixes to larger long-term solutions. Each option came with both positive and negative attributes. In the final analysis the community provided our school board with a clear thought, “if we are going to do something, then do it right and do it once.”

The school board responded by offering a concept that addresses current and future space needs, improves upon traffic congestion, and provides a 21st century learning facility for grades 4 through 8 without re-investing in the current middle school. A critical factor in the board’s decision to offer up a larger long-term solution is near-record low interest rates and ever-increasing construction costs will result in future projects either costing more or providing less. This long-term solution also allows the school district to remain a three building district and therefore keep annual operational costs from escalating.

The safety and security project at our elementary school results from the building being constructed prior to the more recent concerns over school security. The current structure allows visitors to easily enter our facility and roam about without detection. It is simply time to construct a safer front entry and security system.



**NOTICE OF ELECTION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEST SALEM
APRIL 1, 2014**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the School District of West Salem on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 the following questions will be submitted to a vote of the people:

QUESTION NUMBER I

“Shall the School District of West Salem, La Crosse County, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$32,000,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of constructing a new middle school for grades 4-8 and related site work; undertaking infrastructure and capital improvements on the District’s campus, including constructing an access road; and acquiring furnishings, fixtures and equipment?”

QUESTION NUMBER II

“Shall the School District of West Salem, La Crosse County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$500,000 for the 2014-2015 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of security improvements at the Elementary School?”

A copy of the entire text of the resolution directing submission of the questions set forth above to the electorate and information concerning District boundaries can be obtained at the School District offices located at 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, Wisconsin 54669.

Persons with questions regarding the referendum election should contact Troy M. Gunderson, Superintendent.

NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

§120.06(8)(C), Wis. Stats.

Notice is hereby given to the qualified electors of the West Salem School District that on Tuesday, April 1, 2014, Spring election of school board members will be held. Candidates for the school board are as follows:

Catherine Griffin
Sylvester Clements
Ralph N. Thorn

Electors will vote in their regular polling places. Polls will be open and time may be obtained by contacting appropriate town and village clerks. Or by visiting the following website.

<http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/countyclerk/docs/PollingPlaces.pdf>

Heider Center 10th Anniversary Concert

Saturday, March 15, 2:00 p.m.

Performances by the high school band and choir members, alumni and community members.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR AN AFTERNOON OF GREAT MUSIC TO CELEBRATE THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARIE W. HEIDER CENTER FOR THE ARTS!

Come One, Come All Band and Choir Folks!

This March marks the 10th year we have been blessed with the Heider Center as our performance facility. To celebrate, we are organizing 3 pieces to be performed by a combined band and choir incorporating all HS choir members, the HS Wind Symphony, and any alumni/community members who wish to join us. There will be a rehearsal from 9:00-Noon the day of the concert, which is Saturday, March 15 at 2:00. If you would like to be involved as a choir or band member please email Dave Kies at kies.dave@wsalem.k12.wi.us along with your instrument or voice range.



2014 Relay for Life
April 5 & 6
West Salem High School 6:00 p.m.

Get your team together and get registered.

We are looking for Cancer survivors to participate in our Opening Ceremony.

Please contact Jane Macdonald at the elementary school or macdonal@gmail.com.



Youth Art Month Regional Exhibit

March is Youth Art Month...what better way to celebrate than recognizing the talent of students in our district! Each year teachers who are members of the Wisconsin Art Education Association are invited to submit 3 pieces of exceptional artwork to hang in a regional Youth Art Month exhibit. This year the show is at Lincoln Elementary School in Merrilan, WI. The exhibit showcases the artwork of students from the West Central region of Wisconsin. Some pieces from the regional exhibit are selected to hang in the Rotunda of the state capital building in Madison.

Congratulations to the following students who are representing West Salem:

Elementary Students:

Sam S., Damien D., Abby L, Addie H., Ethan C. and Connor B.

Middle School Students:

Melanie W., Brynn H., and Ian M.

High School Students:

Shelby C., Elaura C. and Erica R.

Their work will be on display from Monday, March 3 through Friday, March 7 with a closing reception on Friday the 7 from 5-8 p.m. at Merrilan Elementary School. If their artwork is selected to hang in the state capital, there will be a celebration there on April 4.

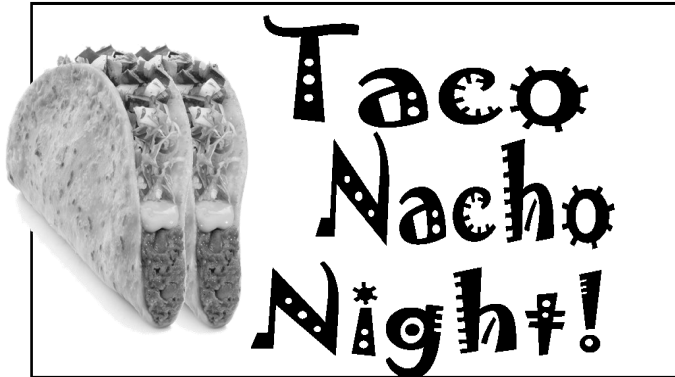
West Salem Art Department
Angie Hemker, Courtney Vesperman,
Krista Beron and Quenten Brown

**** Please Note ****

School will be in session on April 17
June 5 - full day of school

June 6 - classes will be dismissed at 12:20

Check out the school district's Facebook page,
listed as, "SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEST SALEM"



Saturday, April 5

4:00 p.m.— 7:00 p.m.

W.S.H.S. Commons

Adults— \$6.00

5-10 years \$3.00

4 & Under Free –

Donations welcome!

- Door Prizes
- Silent Auction
- Chinese Raffle

Fun! Children's Corner!

Please join the West Salem
Village People in supporting the



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
WEST SALEM AREA

School Board Members

- Scott Scafe ~~~~~ 786-0969
- Jason Falck ~~~~~ 786-0935
- Thomas Helgeson ~~~~~ 612-0018
- Syl Clements ~~~~~ 786-1491
- Jane Halverson ~~~~~ 786-1067
- Ken Schlimgen ~~~~~ 786-4382

Board meetings are held the second and fourth
Monday of each month.

Centralized Registration. All students NEW
to the West Salem School District will need to
register at the District Office prior to attending
the elementary, middle or the high school. The
District Office is located at 405 Hamlin Street
East. Additional information is posted on our
website. www.wsalem.k12.wi.us
and click on New Student Registration

The WSES Jump Rope for Heart Event

Students in kindergarten through 5th grade took part
in this event on Wednesday, February 12.



Thank you to all of the students and
staff for participating.

Lindy Meyers, Jake Merrill, Erin Ellerbach
WSES Physical Education Department

The West Salem Area Aquatic Center
Committee is looking for new members. If
you are interested, or for more information
contact Becky Auna at 608-786-0097.

Heider Center Events

Marie W. Heider Center for the Arts

The Manhattan Dolls "Sentimental Journey"

Celebrate the timeless classic of the 30's and 40's with The Manhattan Dolls' blend of beautiful ballads, boogie woogie, blues, and a tribute to our brave men and women in the military.

Saturday, March 8, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$20/\$18

9th Annual Mayfair Arts Fair

Sunday, May 4, 2014

West Salem High School

Announcing the 2014-2015 Heider Center Season

The 9th annual Mayfair Arts Fair, one of the major Heider Center Arts Board fundraisers, will take place on Sunday, May 4, at the West Salem High School.

Activities will include:

- Art Fair from 10:00-3:00 p.m. with artwork for sale.
- Free kids' art activities from 10:00-2:00 p.m.
- Silent auction items to bid on from 10:00-2:00 p.m.
- Door prizes from Heider Center.
- Entertainment by local youth (instrumental, vocal and dance)
- Pulled pork sandwich dinner by Big Boar Catering from 11:00-1:00 p.m. Please get your dinner tickets from any Heider Center Arts Board Member or call the Heider Center Box Office at 786-2550.
- Other concessions will be available.
- Plants and flowers will be sold by the high school FFA.

Come and join the Arts Board for great Family Fun! The perfect place to shop for that special Mother's Day gift. All events take place in the high school gym and commons area.

Open Enrollment

February 3-April 30, 2014

Apply on-line:

http://sms.dpi.wi.gov/sms_psctoc

Who may participate in open enrollment?

- Students in 5-year-old kindergarten to grade 12 may apply to participate in open enrollment.
- Open enrollment for prekindergarten, 4-year-old kindergarten and early childhood education is limited. Parents should call their resident school districts to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify for open enrollment.

How and when may parents apply?

The open enrollment application period for the 2014-15 school year is from February 3-April 30, 2014. The application period closes at 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2014. Late applications will not be accepted for any reason.

Parents may apply in one of two ways:

- On-line (recommended) at http://sms.dpi.wi.gov/sms_psctoc.
- Although on-line application is recommended, paper applications may be obtained from the Department of Public Instruction and must be delivered (hand-delivery is recommended) to the nonresident school district.

For More Information

Public School Open Enrollment Program
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841
Toll-free: 888-245-2732

Email: openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov

Web site: http://sms.dpi.wi.gov/sms_psctoc

Important open enrollment dates

February 3 – April 30, 2014 – Parents must submit applications online or directly to the nonresident school district.

June 6, 2014 – Nonresident school districts must mail notices of approval or denial. If the application is approved, the school district must notify the parents of the specific school or program to which the student is assigned. If the application is denied, parents have 30 days to file an appeal.

June 13, 2014 – Resident districts must notify applicants if the application is denied. If the application is denied, parents have 30 days to file an appeal.

June 27, 2014 – Parents of accepted applicants must notify the nonresident district if the student will attend the nonresident district in the 2014-15 school year. If the parent fails to make this notification, the nonresident district may refuse to allow the student to attend the district.



Box Office
(608)786-2550

Monday: Noon to 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Friday: Noon to 4:00 p.m.

www.heidercenter.org

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!

Saturday, May 3, 2014—9-3:30 pm

**ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES for
CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES:**

Conference for Parents & Professionals
Hotel Mead & Conference Center
Grand Ballroom A&B
451 E. Grand Avenue, WI Rapids

Conference is FREE.

Register required. Space is limited.

Call: WI FACETS, 877-374-0511 Sandra McFarland,

Or Email: smcfarland@wifacets.org

**For a complete flyer, check Announcements on
the district's website.**

Robotics Team 1st Competition

The West Salem Robotics Team is in the final stages of preparation for their first competition in Minneapolis on March 27-29.



Students have learned many skills like electronics, programming, fabrication, problem solving, troubleshooting, marketing, teamwork, time management, and other skills through the long hours to complete the robot. Good luck in the competition!

**Keep up with the West Salem PTO. Like us on
Facebook. www.facebook.com/wsespto**

Reading Ideas...

The American Library Association announced their book awards on Monday. Here are just a few:

The Newbery Award Winner

Flora and Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo
The Newbery Honor Winners
Doll Bones by Holly Black
The Year of Billy Miller by Kevin Henkes
One Came Home by Amy Timberlake
Paperboy by Vance Vawter

The Caldecott Award Winner

Locomotive by Brian Floca
The Caldecott Honor Winners
Journey by Aaron Becker
Flora and the Flamingo by Molly Idle
Mr. Wuffles! by David Wiesner

The Theodore Seuss Giesel Award Winner

The Watermelon Seed by Greg Pizzoli
The Theodore Seuss Giesel Honor Winners
Penny and Her Marble by Kevin Henkes
Ball by Mary Sullivan
A Big Guy Took my Ball by Mo Williams

A full listing of all the Youth Media Awards can be found at the ALA website <http://goo.gl/cJdbjt>

Looking for other book suggestions? Check out this "Best of 2013" list!

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/issue/best-of-2013/section/children/lists/>

Mary Hundt
Library Media Specialist
West Salem Elementary

**B-A-O-AB?
Donate Blood
It takes all blood types,
all generations...Especially Yours**

West Salem Blood Drive
Monday, June 9, 2014
12:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Presbyterian Church

625 West Franklin Street, West Salem, WI

Blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of ID required at check-in.

American Red Cross



Appointments call 786-0684. Walk-ins are Welcome.



On Friday, January 31, the **middle school show choir**, as well as the high school's **Salem Singations**, were the opening acts for a fantastic performance by the **Wisconsin Singers**. Earlier in the afternoon, the middle school students participated in a dance workshop and hosted a dinner with the Singers.

WSHS Spring Sports Meeting

The West Salem High School pre-season sports' meeting for all spring sports will be held on Monday, **March 3, 2014** in the **Second Floor Conference Room** of the high school beginning at **7:00 p.m.** This meeting is for those athletes interested in participating in boys' or girls' track, girls' soccer, softball, golf and baseball, and their parents/guardians. The 7:00–8:00 p.m. general session is only for those parents and athletes who did not fulfill this obligation at the fall or winter pre-season meetings. At 8:00 p.m. **all athletes and parents** are expected to attend the break-out session with the coach(es) of their respective sport. From 6:30–9:00 p.m., there will be a station set up in the high school commons to check the necessary paperwork requirements of each athlete. All paperwork must be completed before beginning practice. If there are any questions, contact athletic director LeRoy Krall at 786-1220, Ext. 2353 or by email at Krall.Leroy@wsalem.k12.wi.us

ALUMINUM FOR ATHLETICS

When cleaning up around the garage, etc., you are encouraged to bring all aluminum cans to the can pen in the southwest corner of the Heider Center parking lot for recycling. West Salem Athletics will gain full benefit of this collection project. Also, if you have any car or truck batteries for recycling, please drop them off at West Salem Auto Repair at 513 Brickl Road, West Salem. Dave Eckelberg and the guys there have graciously offered their services to be our collection point for those recyclable batteries.

Celebrate West Salem Business EXPO

Sunday, March 23, 2014

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

West Salem High School



- Free Admission
- Musical Entertainment
- Food

Over 70 Booths
--Businesses
--Civic Organizations
--Churches

Over \$1000 in
Door Prizes
& West Salem
Gift Certificates

For more information go to westsalemwi.org
or contact Eric Bauer at 786-0890 or
Dr. Dan Eoriatti at 786-3304.

Check out our Activities by Outside Agencies page for a list of activities and events available for your children.

Visit www.wsalem.k12.wi.us, under Other Links, then click Activities Outside Agencies. Flyers are no longer being sent home with students. Announcements for non-school activities/events will be posted on the Activities by Outside Agencies page.


Looking For Used Cell Phones

The Knights of Columbus is collecting used cell phones. There is a box located in the District office to drop off any used cell phones. Proceeds from the collection of the phones will be used for Special Olympics.
Thank You.

For a full-color version of this and past newsletters, check out the School District of West Salem Website at www.wsalem.k12.wi.us

The legal drinking age is 21.

Thanks for **NOT providing alcohol to teens.**



Here are the facts:

- Parents who give alcohol to their teen’s friends under any circumstances, even in their own homes, are breaking the law.
- Parents who knowingly allow a person under 21 to remain in their home or on their property while consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages can be prosecuted and everything associated with such a violation can be confiscated, including personal property.
- Parents can be sued if they give alcohol to anyone under 21 and they in turn hurt someone, hurt themselves or damage property.
- Underage drinking can cause serious health and safety consequences.

Tips for Parents:

- Host safe, alcohol-free activities for youth during prom and graduation season
- Refuse to supply alcohol to anyone under 21
- Be at home when your teen has a party
- Make sure your teenager’s friends do not bring alcohol into your home
- Talk to other parents about not providing alcohol at youth events
- Report underage drinking to law enforcement

Changing the Culture
of RISKY DRINKING BEHAVIOR COALITION
www.lacrosseconsortium.org



La Crosse County
Prevention Network
www.lacrossepn.org

CESA #4 Regional Spelling Bee

There were 37 local school finalists from 19 different schools participating in the 2014 CESA #4 Regional Spelling Bee. Competing for WSMS were Megan Schauf and Sara Ziegler. After 22 Rounds a Regional Championship Speller was determined: Aditya Ailiani, an 8th grade student from Onalaska Middle School.

The top 5 Spellers to represent our region at the 2014 Badger State Spelling Bee scheduled for Saturday, March 29 in the Mitby Theater, Madison Area Technical College:

Regional Champion: Aditya Ailiani, 8th grade from Onalaska Middle School

Runner-Ups

- Kaleb Krzysztos, 8th grade from Cochrane-Fountain City School;
- Emily Strom, 6th grade from Providence Academy;
- Lauren Jarrett, 4th grade from Providence Academy;
- Sara Ziegler, 6th grade from West Salem Middle School.



Congratulations to our Spellers and Good Luck!!

With spring right around the corner, please review this recently revised board policy.

West Salem Board of Education Policy 384
Animals on School Grounds

Animals are not allowed on school grounds. Exceptions include licensed service dogs for individuals with an appropriate disability and certified search dogs accompanied by law enforcement. Other exceptions may be granted for curricular reasons following approval of a written request to the building principal.

This policy does not preclude pet owners from walking their leashed animal on the public sidewalks bordering Mark Street, Hamlin Street and East Avenue. Owners must pick up and properly dispose of any and all animal waste left by such animal on District property and are subject to local laws and ordinances pertaining to animal control.

Revised: January 28, 2013

West Salem Community Fitness Center

Kelly Kalinowski, Director

Current fitness center hours are Monday–Friday mornings 5:00–7:30 AM, Monday–Thursday evenings 3:00–9:00 PM, Fridays 3:00–7:00 PM, Sundays 4:00–7:00 PM. Yogalates is held on Sundays and Wednesdays from 6:30–7:15 PM. Here is the most up to date list of dates when there will be NO Yogalates class:

Wednesdays: March 19 & May 21

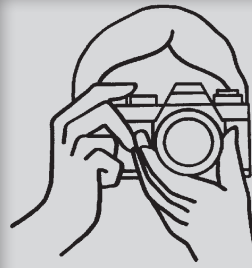
Sundays: March 9, April 20 (Easter), May 4, 11, 25, and June 15

All West Salem students and fitness center guests with a year membership may attend FREE of charge. For more information on current fitness center hours, class schedules, and prices go to the school website www.wsalem.k12.wi.us. Click on the fitness center link. You may also call 786-1220 extension 2275.

According to Groundhog Phil, the world's most famous furry forecaster, there are six more weeks of winter ahead this year. With that comes more snow, ice, salt, and blistery cold weather. Because of this, it is still important to bring extra shoes to keep the fitness center clean and the hardwood floor of the walking track clean and free of defects. A lot of funding was provided for these areas. We all need to do our part to keep this state-of-the-art facility looking great. Hardwood floors are expensive and difficult to replace.

Six more weeks of winter may mean cold and snow outside, but the West Salem Community Fitness Center is here to help. Get a jump start on achieving a healthier you! Just 30 minutes of exercise a day can help you achieve that. We here at the fitness center can help you stick to the fitness goals you set back in January. Use the next 6 weeks to get ready for shorts, tank tops, and swim suits. Spring and summer are just around the corner! The fitness center is one of the only fitness facilities where you can pay daily (only \$2!). And remember, the walking track is FREE!

The fitness center has so much to offer at affordable prices. Stop in and take a tour of our facility and walking track. Staff are available to assist you with any questions you may have. We hope to see you soon!



District Photo Contest

The School District of West Salem will be holding a photo contest for the 2013-2014 school year. The district is looking for photos to be displayed in the district office for the 2014-15 school year. **Photos should highlight the best the district has to offer.** Contest information can be found under “Announcements” on the district’s web site. www.wsalem.k12.wi.us

The West Salem Art Department would like to announce that March is YOUTH ART MONTH!

In celebration of this, the Marie W. Heider Gallery for the Arts is holding the annual K-12 Honors Show. This show is a celebration of our young artists and features a variety of art from the kindergartners to the seniors in our school district. **There will be a reception on Thursday, March 20, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Families, friends, and the public are all invited!



Youth Art Month - **ART SHAPES THE WORLD**
Capitol Rotunda Celebration/Exhibit

March 22-April 4

Exhibit Closing Ceremony, April 4, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2014
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Thomas Helgeson. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee News, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on January 23, 2014.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Jane Halverson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Thomas Helgeson recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Syl Clements, Jane Halverson, Thomas Helgeson, Jason Falck, Ken Schlimgen, and Scott Scafe. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Dean Buchanan and Michael St. Pierre; Student representative: Kaitlin Brueggen. Finance Director: Davita Molling, Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Eric Jensen, Mark Carlson, Mike Malott, John Smalley, Zachary Lang, and Lisa Gerke.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

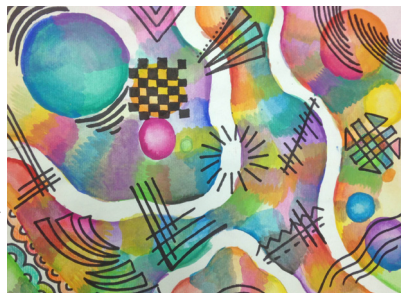
Kaitlin Brueggen reported on:

1. High school students took semester finals last week.
2. On January 20, the Link Crew sponsored Cocoa and Cram event.
3. Kaitlin plans on doing some research into the keyboarding skills for middle and high school students.
4. This week is Winter Homecoming, sponsored by the Pep Club, highlighted by a Sadie Hawkins Dance.

Correspondence

A thank you note from the family of Marlin Tauscher was read.

Public comments – None.



Written and Oral Reports

Mrs. Halverson, Mr. Clements, Mr. Falck, Mr. Helgeson, Mr. Scafe, Mrs. Molling, and Mr. Gunderson reported on some of the sessions they attended at the State Education Convention last week.

Department reports from Scott Johnson, Bill Solsrud, Davita Molling, Kerri Feyen, and Rick Kline were reviewed.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2014; the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2014; and the invoices to be paid. Mrs. Halverson and Mr. Scafe agreed to a friendly amendment to their motion to approve the Special Board Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2014. Motion carried. (5 Aye, Mr. Falck Abstained)

Mr. Clements moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2014, and the invoices to be paid. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Falck seconded to continue with a six (6) member board until new members are seated in April. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Falck moved to nominate Mr. Scafe for the office of Vice President. Mr. Falck withdrew his nomination. Mr. Schlimgen moved to nominate Mr. Helgeson for the office of president. Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Helgeson as President of the West Salem School Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Falck moved to nominate Mr. Scafe for the office of Vice President. Mr. Schlimgen moved to nominate Mr. Clements for the office of Vice President. Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Clements seconded to close nominations and cast a vote. The first vote was tied 3-3. Mr. Scafe and Mr. Clements each spoke as to why they want to serve as the Vice President. The second vote was tied 3-3. Mr. Clements and Mr. Scafe mutually agreed to a coin flip to select the Vice President. Mr. Clements picked heads. Wayne Sacket from the audience did the coin flip. Heads was the winner. Mr. Clements will serve as the Vice President of the West Salem School Board.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed a recent meeting he and Mr. Clements attended with parties that are interested in the current middle school. John Hammes from the Hockey association was also present and participated in the discussion for a plan for the current middle school.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to approve the Open Enrollment limits as presented with the addition of adding four-year-old kindergarten to be limited to 130. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed the draft of an enrollment study that is being completed.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed a draft of a calendar for the 2015-2016 school year which would be used by many area school districts as part of a consortium.

Mrs. Molling presented a 2013-14 budget review.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Falck seconded to accept the administration's recommendation for athletic cooperatives for girls' hockey with Onalaska and boys' hockey with Bangor. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve a contract for Brenna McGuire as the swimming pool director as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Helgeson welcomed the motion for closed session: The Board will discuss, consider and, if appropriate, take action pursuant to Wis. Stats §19.85(1) (c) "Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility" regarding nonrenewal/renewal, nonextension/extension, and employment of administrators.

Mr. Falck moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:44 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Helgeson Aye, Mr. Clements Aye, Mrs. Halverson Aye, and Mr. Schlimgen Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to adjourn at 9:26 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Falck, Clerk

*The following minutes have not been approved
by the school board.*

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2014
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Thomas Helgeson. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee News, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on February 6, 2014.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Ken Schlimgen led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Syl Clements recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Syl Clements, Jane Halverson, Thomas Helgeson, Jason Falck, and Ken Schlimgen. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Dean Buchanan (8:25), Mark Carlson, Mike Malott, John Smalley, Michael St. Pierre, and Lisa Gerke; Student representatives: Kaitlin Brueggen and Zachary Lang (8:17). Finance Director: Davita Molling (7:25), Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Scott Scafe, Eric Jensen, and John Smalley

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Clements seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Kaitlin Brueggen reported on:

1. As part of Carley Davis' Senior Exit Project, a Community Awareness Symposium was held tonight in the Heider Center.
2. The high school National Honor Society is holding a Clothing Drive this week.
3. The high school will be hosting the Regional Honor Band concert this Friday.
4. As part of Mariah Nichols' Senior Exit Project, the high school Student Council will be hosting Multiple Sclerosis benefit on Saturday, February 15 at the elementary school.

Correspondence – None.

Public comments

Melissa Wendler from the Coulee Region Driving School expressed their school's interest in contracting with the district for drivers' education.

Written and Oral Reports

CESA #4 Board of Control – Mrs. Halverson reported that a new member was welcomed, the new catalog of services is available, Johnson and Block were selected as the

auditors, preliminary notices of non-renewal to be handed out, and held a discussion regarding the State Education Convention.

District Performance Initiatives reports by Dean Buchanan, Eric Jensen, John Smalley and Lisa Gerke, Mark Carlson and Mike Malott, Michael St. Pierre, and Troy Gunderson were reviewed.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Clements seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2014; and the invoices to be paid. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Clements seconded to approve the Open Enrollment request for the 2013-2014 school year as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

The Robotics Team advisors Trenton Harger and Ryan Tracy, and team members Nick Oldenburg, Janna Seeger, Jeff Severeid and Tyler Riemer gave a demonstration of their robot; the team will have its first competition in March.

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to accept the donations from the West Salem PTO for the elementary school and Outdoor Education Center. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gunderson gave a review of the Heider Fund: balance update and future planning.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed the status of the teacher salary model. The Staff Relations Committee will meet as part of the process in creating the model.

Mrs. Molling reviewed and explained a summary of the district's budget.

Mr. Gunderson provided suggestions for changes to the parameters for the Other Post Employment Benefits for employees.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed the status of making up the days missed due to the weather.

Mr. Lang arrived at 8:17 p.m. Mr. Buchanan arrived at 8:25 p.m.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Clements seconded to have school on April 17, 2014 and done on June 6, 2014; if no additional days off, manage the days with the employees and forgive two student days; if more days are missed, all

days will be made-up, up to five and not to go past June 13, 2014. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Nay, Mr. Helgeson Aye, Mr. Clements Aye, Mrs. Halverson Aye, and Mr. Schlimgen Aye. Motion carried. (4 Aye, 1 Nay)

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendation for high school coaches: Jim Klug, assistant track; Marc Anderson, head girls' track; Ammar Sabar, JV girls' soccer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to accept the resignation of part-time high school counselor Cathy Tyink, effective at the end of the 2013-2014 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed the recently completed enrollment study completed by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Applied Population Lab.

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to adjourn at 9:01 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jason Falck, Clerk



School District of West Salem
Special Board Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2014
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 6:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Thomas Helgeson. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee News, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on February 10, 2014.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Thomas Helgeson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Scott Scafe recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Syl Clements, Jane Halverson, Thomas Helgeson, Ken Schlimgen, and Scott Scafe. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Mark Carlson, and Mike Malott; Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Jason Falck.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Clements seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Helgeson welcomed the motion for closed session: Closed session, under exemption provided for in WI Statutes 19.85(1)(a) Deliberating concerning a case which was the subject of any judicial or quasi-judicial trial or hearing before that governmental body; and pursuant to WI Statutes 19.85(1)(f) Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations; and pursuant to Wis. Stat. S. 120.13(1)(c) to discuss, consider and take action, if appropriate, regarding recommendation for pupil(s) expulsion and to review and discuss confidential pupil(s) records under 118.125.

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 6:10 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Helgeson Aye, Mr. Clements Aye, Mrs. Halverson Aye, and Mr. Schlimgen Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Adjournment

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Clements seconded to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.



Respectfully submitted,
Jason Falck, Clerk Patrick Bahr, Deputy Clerk

The West Salem School District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the Pupil Services Director at (608)786-0700. To file a complaint of discrimination write to: Pupil Services Director at 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI 54669 or call 608-786-0700. The West Salem School District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2014 REGIONAL MATHCOUNTS NEWS!

The regional Mathcounts competition was held on Friday, February 7, in La Crosse. There were 24 competitors representing three different schools.



The team results were as follows: 3rd place – Viroqua Middle School, 2nd place – West Salem Middle School, and 1st place – Holmen Middle School. West Salem's team consisted of Ben Black, Drew Peterson, Ian Knudson and Luke Kelsey.

The individual results were as follows: 10th place – Connor Hefti (Holmen), 9th place – Ian Knudson (West Salem), 8th place – Zeke Fredricks (Holmen), 7th place – Valerie Buroker (Viroqua), 6th place – Cooper Kulmaczewski (Holmen), 5th place – Logan Harris (West Salem), 4th place – Drew Peterson (West Salem), 3rd place – Zeke Wettstein (Holmen), 2nd place – Ben Black (West Salem), and 1st place – Jacob Fredricks (Holmen). Luke Kelsey finished in 23rd place. Also competing for West Salem was Rebecca Michael in 11th place, Andrew Murphy, Ryan Berger, Kendra Ames and Melanie Weigel all tied for 17th place.

Mathcounts is a national program designed to promote excellence in math and science in grades 6-8. Mathcounts allows students to improve their problem solving skills as individuals, as well as, in teams of four. West Salem's coaches are Tammy Bentzen and Jon Jones.

West Salem's Black, Peterson, and Harris now advance to the State competition in Madison on Saturday, March 1.

The 2014-2015 School Year Student Calendar
is available on the District's website.
www.wsaalem.k12.wi.us

Calendar of Events

Welcome to Summer School 2014!

MARCH

- 6 Kindergarten Concert - 6:15 - A Night on Sesame Street
- 2nd Grade Concert - 7:15 - Welcome to the Jungle
- Boys Basketball Sectional Semi-Finals
- 6-8 Boys Hockey State at Madison
- 7 *DARE Graduation*
- Girls Basketball Regional Semi-Finals
- 7 Wrestling Team State at madison
- 7-8 Gymnastics State at WI Rapids
- 8 Boys Basketball Sectional Finals
- Girls Basketball Regional Finals
- 12 Piano Solo/Ensemble
- 13 Girls Basketball Sectional Semi-Finals
- 13-15 Boys Basketball State at Madison
- 15 Girls Basketball Sectional Finals
- Heider Center 10th Anniversary Concert**
- 17 *St. Patrick's Day*
- Middle School Band Concert - 7:00
- 19 **Early Release - Students dismissed at 12:20,**
Buses leave at 12:30
- 20-22 Girls Basketball State at Green Bay
- 29 District Solo/Ensemble

APRIL

- 1 Election Day - Vote!
- 5 Panther Film Festival
- 10-11 Theatre Class Production
- 14 Middle School Show Choir & Jazz Concert - 7:00
- 17 **School In Session**
- 18 **No School**
- 21 **No School**

MAY

- 3 State Solo/Ensemble - UWL Prom
- 4 WSHS Jazz Bands - May Fair
- 5 NHS Induction Ceremony
- 7 **Early Release - Students dismissed at 12:20,**
Buses leave at 12:30
- WSHS SEP Presentation Day (no school for grades 9-11)
- 12 6th Grade Band/Choir Concert - 6:00
- 7th Grade Band/Choir Concert - 7:30
- 14 WSHS Senior Scholarship Night
- 16 Neshonoc Yearbook Dedication
- 17 WSHS Choir Farewell Concert - 7:00
- 18 WSHS Farewell Concert - 3:00
- WSHS Farewell/Awards Picnic - 5:00
- 19 8th Grade Band/Choir Concert - 7:00

Summer school will be held July 21-August 8, 2014 for incoming kindergartners through eighth graders. Classes will be held at the Elementary School and at the Middle School. Students will be able to choose THREE classes to attend, however, some classes may be scheduled for all three periods. Class choices will include both enrichment and intervention. Parents will be notified if students are invited to attend a reading or math intervention class.

The daily schedule is as follows:

8:30	Student Drop Off
8:40	Bell
8:45-9:35	Class 1
9:35-10:05	Student Break/Snack
10:10-11:00	Class 2
11:05-11:55	Class 3
12:05	Buses Dismissed

Incoming Kindergarten students will attend ONE of the three weeks and will remain with the same teacher throughout the entire morning.

Buses for summer school run on main roads only.

Summer school packets will be coming home in early March.

NEW THIS YEAR: Swimming lessons will be offered for all levels during June and July. Swimming Lessons will be separate from the three week summer school session but will continue to be free of charge for district residents. Busing will not be provided for swimming lessons. The Sessions for Swimming Lessons are as follows:

- Session 1 - June 9-20
- Session 2 - June 23-July 3
- Session 3 - July 7-18

If you have any questions regarding summer school please contact Lisa Gerke, Summer School Administrator at 786-1662 or gerke.lisa@wsalem.k12.wi.us



Check
It
Out

From the Superintendent
Referendum Information
School Board Election - 4/1/14
Summer School
Mathcounts
Relay For Life - 4/5-6/14
Celebrate West Salem - 3/23/14
Mayfair - 5/4/14
Taco Nacho Night - 4/5/14
Heider Center Events & Gallery Display
Calendar of Events
School Board Minutes
Community Fitness Center
School Board Election Notice
Heider Center 10th Anniversary Concert
March is Youth Art Month!
Open Enrollment
Engagement Liaison Project
Robotics Team
Reading Ideas
Regional Spelling Bee
Photo Contest

Celebrate *YOUTH ART MONTH*
with the West Salem Art Department's



**K-12
DISTRICT
HONORS
ART
SHOW**

Heider Center
Art Gallery

March 1-31, 2014

There will be a reception on
Thursday, March 20, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Refreshments will be provided!
Public is welcome!

COME AND CHECK OUT THE SHOW!

****Open House - March 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m.****
Regarding the April 1 referenda
with Superintendent Troy Gunderson
Stop by the Heider Meeting Room in the District Office
to learn more about the April 1 referenda

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WEST SALEM, WI
PERMIT NO. 38

School District of West Salem
405 East Hamlin Street
West Salem, WI 54669