

West Salem School District

November 2010



Newsletter

October is Finance Season

Troy M. Gunderson, Superintendent

On Monday, October 18, the School District of West Salem held its Annual District Meeting in the Heider Meeting Room. The meeting began with the annual Budget Hearing which provided a review of the treasurer's report for the 2009-2010 school year, a presentation of the proposed budget and levy for the 2010-2011 school year, and a discussion of future financial goals.

In final preparation for the 2010-2011 school year, the electors gave approval for an estimated tax levy of \$6,760,376 including \$4,622,173 for the general fund, \$2,028,703 for long-term debt, and \$109,500 for the community service fund. The levy amount represents a 9% increase over last year's total of \$6,197,176. The new levy amount combined with a 1% increase in district property values results in a new school district levy rate of \$9.70 per thousand. This new rate represents an 8% increase over the previous levy rate of \$8.98 per thousand.

The increase in the levy rate for the upcoming year is primarily the result of staff and budget increases that are connected to enrollment growth and to a relative reduction in state equalization aid.

As we look to the future in regards to funding our school system and managing our tax levy, I think it wise to discuss the factors that have the greatest impact on revenues and expenses.

Enrollment & Revenue Limit: Student enrollment factors directly into the calculation to determine the amount of revenue the district is legally allowed to collect. The Revenue Limit is determined by multiplying the district's three-year average of student enrollment times a pre-set revenue per student. The West Salem School District has experienced healthy

and steady growth with enrollment climbing steadily over the past 10 years from 1,575 in 2001 to 1,803 in 2010. The other critical factor in the revenue limit calculation is the pre-determined revenue amount per student. The dollar amount is pre-set each year by the legislature. This pre-set amount and the accompanying debate on the annual increase is how the legislature limits school district revenues. The current revenue limit number for West Salem is \$9,326.50 per student.

State Equalization Aid: Each year the school district receives state equalization aid to assist in the funding of our schools. The fundamental purpose of equalization aid is to ensure that all children throughout our state receive relatively equal educational opportunities and tax rates remain relatively consistent from district to district. The amount of aid each school district receives is determined by a complex formula primarily based upon the amount of property value in the district from which to generate local tax levy, and the expenses from the previous school year. The formula results in wide disparities of equalized aid levels across school districts in Wisconsin. Some districts receive little, if any, aid because they have enormous property wealth and very few students. While others receive extensive support because they have very little property value from which to fund programming for many students.

In the case of West Salem, our property value per student has remained relatively consistent in comparison with other school districts because our enrollment growth has been matched by property growth. We are slightly below the state average in property values per

(continued on page 2)

Look for this icon on the right side of the school's web page to read Mr. Gunderson's Blog.
<www.wsalem.k12.wi.us>



October Is Finance Season *(continued from page 1)*

student and therefore receive a higher than average amount of state aid. As a result of enrollment growth and the accompanying budget growth, West Salem has not experienced the sharp declines in equalized aid felt by a majority of Wisconsin school districts. In 2010-2011 we anticipate receiving approximately \$12,000,000 in equalization aid. This amount represents a 2% increase from the previous school year.

District Property Values: As noted in the discussion about equalization aid, district property values have been steadily increasing. The increases in value are the result of new construction and re-assessment of existing property. On October 1st, we received the official evaluation for our school district from the state of Wisconsin. This year's total evaluation is \$696,853,206 and represents a 1% increase over the amount from last year. As a point of reference, the total property value of our school district has nearly doubled from \$354 million in 2000 to \$696 million in 2010.

Long-Term Debt Service for Buildings: The long-term debt service portion of the tax levy is related to voter-approved referendums for the construction of school buildings. Much like a home mortgage, the school district repays the debt created by borrowing money to construct school buildings. The payment for 2010-2011 is \$2,028,703. This includes payments for the elementary school and the renovations the high school. The elementary school debt will be paid off in 2014 and the high school debt in 2021. Both of these projects have been "re-financed" since their initial inception. In fact, the elementary school was refinanced a number of times during the past 10 years in order to benefit from declining interest rates. As a result of the lower interest rates, both of these projects will cost taxpayers considerably less than was predicted at the time of referendum.

Tax Levy Rate: The tax levy rate is calculated by dividing the levy amount by the total district property value. Using the data for 2010, the calculation is as follows: \$6,760,376 (total levy amount) / \$696,853,206 (total property values) = .00970 (levy rate) or \$9.70 per thousand.



West Salem Sophomores ride on the float they created in honor of the 2010 "Toy Story" theme.

Photo courtesy of Mrs. Loomis.

A Look Back: During the past decade, the levy rate has remained relatively consistent. The levy rate was \$10.02 per thousand in 2000, reached a high of \$12.06 per thousand in 2002 when the district passed the referendum for the remodeling of our high school, and continued to decline until reaching a low point of \$8.43 per thousand in 2007. Since 2007 the levy rate has risen each year as state aid has failed to keep pace with district growth. As noted above, the levy rate for 2010 will be \$9.70 per thousand. In terms of actual levy dollars, the amount has risen from \$3.54 million in 2000 to \$6.96 million in 2010. The levy growth has mirrored the growth in property values resulting in a relatively consistent levy rate.

A Look Ahead: Like all government operations in 2010, the financial future for our school district is both complex and uncertain. It appears we will continue to experience student growth allowing for a higher revenue limit. While growth is good for our revenue limit, it also causes increased expenditures for the staffing and supplies needed to serve more children. It also appears that our community will remain on a path of consistent and organized growth in our tax base to share in the cost of educating our children. The uncertainty lies in the dire financial situation in Madison. If our state continues to struggle, we will be forced to further confront the issues of reduction in services and the shifting of costs from the state budget to local property taxes.

Thank you for taking the time to read through my "primer" on school funding. I hope you found it both interesting and informative. I urge you to call me with any questions you might have regarding any of the information offered here or regarding any other issue in our school district. Offering the service of quality education for our children is both a serious and expensive business. We all need to be on the same page.

Mathcounts is Underway at the Middle School

We have 25 seventh graders and 26 eighth graders participating. In-school competition takes place in December and January during classtime. The top 8 scorers continue on to practice after school once or twice a week. The Regional Competition is in La Crosse in February, 2011, with State Competition on March 5 in Madison. Mathcounts is a national coaching program designed to promote excellence in math and science in grades 6-8.

Tammy Bentzen & Rick Dobbs, Coaches

West Salem Community Fitness Center

Brad Frahm, Fitness Director

Current fitness center hours are Monday–Friday mornings 5:00–8:00 a.m., Monday–Thursday evenings 3:00–9:00 p.m., Fridays 3:00–7:00 p.m., Sunday 4:00–7:00 p.m. Yogalates is held on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. All West Salem students and fitness center guests with a year membership may attend our yogalates FREE of charge. Zumba® is held Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

The Zumba® program combines Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow steps to create a fun and fulfilling program. Zumba® fitness classes are for everyone, not just fitness fanatics and experienced dancers. The class includes interval training sessions where fast and slow rhythms are combined with resistance training to tone and sculpt your body. A variety of fitness levels are offered so all can be successful. Shannon Leis is a certified Group Fitness Instructor through the American Council on Exercise and has extensive training in the Zumba Fitness® program. She has been teaching Zumba® classes since August 2009.

New students start weekly and no experience is necessary. Classes are held in the dance studio in the basement of the West Salem High School on Mondays from 6:00–6:45 pm and Wednesdays from 6:15–7:00 pm. Cost is \$2 per class for Fitness Center members and West Salem School District staff and \$4 per class for all others. Please contact Shannon with any questions you may have regarding the Zumba® classes held in West Salem by calling 608-461-0091 or email at SLeis09@yahoo.com.

Clean shoes are required to enter the fitness center and indoor track. It's important to bring an extra pair of shoes to keep our facilities clean. Current fitness center hours and class schedules are specified on the school website www.wsalem.k12.wi.us. Click on the fitness center icon or call 786-1220 extension 2275 to get the latest information about your community fitness center. The winter athletics seasons will begin soon so take advantage of our exceptional facility to maintain and improve your conditioning during the season or to prepare for the upcoming winter athletic season.

Falling temperatures and fewer daylight hours don't mean that you can't continue your exercise routine. Exercising during the cold weather months can help shake those winter blues, improve your energy level, and get you into great shape for the spring bathing suit season. Dress in layers and start with a thin layer of synthetic material such as polypropylene, which wicks sweat away from your body. Cotton is not a good material because it holds in moisture and will keep you wet. An outer breathable material such as nylon or Gore-Tex will help protect you against wind and precipitation.

As much as 30% of your body heat escapes through your hands and feet. Wear gloves and socks that wick moisture away for best results. About 40% of your body heat is lost through your head so wear a hat to prevent heat loss. If you get wet, change into dry clothes and move to a warm shelter immediately to avoid possible hypothermia, a lowering of body temperature that can be a medical emergency characterized by intense shivering, loss of coordination, slurred speech and fatigue. Stay hydrated throughout your workouts. Despite the cold weather, you'll still produce heat and lose fluids through sweat. Hydrate with water or sports drink before, during, and after exercising outdoors regardless of the temperature.

As the temperatures continue to cool, be sure to utilize the West Salem Community Fitness Center to satisfy your fitness needs. Our facility has plenty of cardiovascular machines in addition to machines and free weights to strengthen and tone your entire body. Don't wait any longer to get in the best shape of your life. Your West Salem Community Fitness Center will set you up with workouts to help you accomplish your fitness goals. Hurry in today, your friends are waiting for you to begin!

Destination Imagination Is Looking for People

Are you a creative thinker?

Then this might be for you...

In Destination ImagiNation, participants of all ages apply their creative and critical thinking skills to engaging Challenges while learning the value of teamwork.

Teams of two to seven members come together to build their skills and share their talents in the context of two separate types of Challenges: the Team Challenge and the Instant Challenge. By working together, participants push the limits of their imagination to best their competition and themselves.

Groups are forming now. **WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARTICIPANTS K-12 AS WELL AS 3 MORE VOLUNTEERS TO LEAD GROUPS.** We will only be able to form groups when we have enough volunteer leaders.

Please email Angie Hemker at hemker.angie@wsalem.k12.wi.us for more information and/or an application.

**West Salem
1st Responders
Annual Chili Supper
Fund-Raiser**

**Thursday, November 11, 2010
4:00-7:00 p.m.
WSHS Commons**

The West Salem 1st Responders will be holding their annual chili Supper on Thursday, November 12, 2009 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the West Salem High School Commons. The menu includes chili, cheese, crackers, bread, milk or coffee, and ice cream. Please attend this worthwhile fundraiser to help the 1st Responders raise money for needed supplies and equipment for the team. All members on the West Salem Emergency Medical Team are volunteers and we are now, more than ever, looking for more members, especially day time volunteers. If you might be interested in the team and would like more information about our Observer Program, please come to a No-Commitment Informational Meeting to be held on Sunday, November 14 at 1:00 p.m. at the West Salem 1st Responder building, 567 Brickl Road. As always, we sincerely thank you for your continued support.

Your survival may some day depend on us, but our survival does depend on you!

Thank You

Bill White, on behalf of the Knights of Columbus, donated \$464.87 to the district's special education programs. The donation will be used to purchase evacuation chairs that will be used to assist in evacuating handicapped students in the event of a fire or other disaster.

School Board Members

Tom Ward ~~~~~ 397-9873
Ken Spraetz ~~~~~ 786-0017
Scott Scafe ~~~~~ 786-0969
Errol Kindschy ~~~~~ 786-1675
Thomas Helgeson ~~~~~ 612-0018
Jason Falck ~~~~~ 397-3972
Linda Brown ~~~~~ 786-3027

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

Open Enrollment

You may apply for open enrollment from February 7-25, 2011, on-line at <https://www2.dpi.state.wi.us/OpenEnrollApp>

For more information, visit the DPI website:
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html>

FAQ: *Can an open enrolled student participate in sports and other extra-curricular activities in the nonresident school district?*

Open enrolled students have the same rights and responsibilities as resident students. Inter-scholastic athletics are governed by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), which has recently adopted new rules concerning transfer students. Parents should check with the WIAA or the school district's athletic director about eligibility.

Check Wise

Check Recovery Services

A Division of Credit Bureau Data, Inc.

115 N 6th St, La Crosse, WI • 608-785-2222

Checks returned for nonpayment are subject to a service charge of \$30.

The check writer is liable for all reasonable costs and expenses in connection with the collection of the check or draft. (WI Statute 403.414 & 943.425)

Have you ever thought about being a School Board member for the district?
 If so, contact any current Board Member. For a current list and
 contact information, visit <www.wsalem.k12.wi.us/board/members.cfm>

Notes from the Pupil Services Department

A few notes from Eric Jensen for parents of students who receive Special Education programming. If you have any questions concerning this information please give Mr. Jensen a call at 786-1064.

- Our students in the Cognitive Disabilities programs in all three schools have started to go to swimming lessons on Fridays. These students go to the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse for these lessons where college students learning to be Specially Designed Physical Education (SDPE) teachers help our SDPE teacher Brad Skaer and the Cognitive Disabilities staff in this every other week activity. After they swim our students are given chances to interact in the community to meet their daily living skills requirements.

- We have now received the final rules from the Department of Public Instruction concerning the new criteria for Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD). According to the new rules, students will qualify for SLD programming based on resistance to intervention instead of being significantly below what would be expected given their IQ score. This is a significant change and school districts in the state will be given a three year window for implementation. The reason for this long window is the need to have a uniform plan of intervention that has fidelity across an entire school. We have been working hard toward this requirement with our Response to Instruction (RtI) efforts and should be ready to change our system of identification prior to the three year window. Administration and staff are meeting to review these new requirements and start to plan our RtI efforts in the elementary building to fit with the requirements for SLD identification.

- This year we have changed our programming for CDS and Emotional Behavioral Disabilities (EBD) students at the middle school level. We are trying a team approach with these two programs in which the needs of students throughout the day are covered by sharing the paraprofessionals assigned to both programs. This has allowed for more flexible programming throughout the day and allowed us to share activities such as lifting and positioning. Most importantly, it has allowed our students to adjust to having more than one staff member assigned to them throughout the day, which allows these students to have much better days if a staff member is sick or unavailable for some reason. Heather Jehn and Stacy Rel (the teachers in these programs) have done a lot of work to make this adjustment to programming and it has proven to be a very positive change for both students and staff.



“La Tertulia” (which means a group that gets together to speak Spanish) had its first club meeting. All high school Spanish students are welcome to attend. Pictured: Spanish Club members use their Spanish to play Spanish Monopoly.

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

West Salem Blood Drive
 Monday, November 22, 2010
 12:30 - 5:30 p.m.
 Presbyterian Church
 625 West Franklin Street, West Salem, WI

Sponsored by: LaScher's Uptown Bistro
 Linda's Salem Bakery

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.

*Model Notification of Rights under FERPA
for Elementary and Secondary Schools*

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the School to amend a record should write the School principal [or appropriate school official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to privacy of personally identifiable information in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has outsourced services or functions it would otherwise use its own employees to perform (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer. [NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.]

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

*Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-8520*

You may also contact Superintendent Troy Gunderson at the district office by calling 608-786-0700.



**W
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The following new staff were introduced to the school board at their regular meeting on October 11, 2010, by their building principals:



Jennifer Wheeler
Jennifer Mick
Ruby Kerkman
Becky Tower
Erika Olson
Stephanie Zais
Stacy Rel

On June 1, 2010, West Salem High School became a Nationally Certified Senior Project High School. This honor is held by a small group of elite schools across the nation. Mr. Gunderson and Mr. Carlson pose with the certificate after informing the Board of Education about this accomplishment on October 11.



Heider Center Events

Marie W. Heider Center for the Arts

Todd Werner, Children's Musician

Friday, November 19, 2010 7:00 p.m.

Dallas Brass

Friday, December 17, 2010 7:30 p.m.

Sleeping Beauty

Call the box office for audition information.

Saturday, January 22, 2011 2:00 & 7:00 p.m.

A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline

Saturday, February 19, 2011 7:30 p.m.

Paul Halter "The Juggling Poet"

Saturday, February 12, 2011 2:00 p.m.

Barrage - Animado!

Thursday, April 7, 2011 7:30 p.m.

Bottom Line Duo

Friday, April 15, 2011 7:30 p.m.



BOX OFFICE

405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI

(608) 786-1220 ext. 4

Monday ~ Noon - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Friday - Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Hours will vary during the summer

www.heidercenter.org

Visual Arts Series

"Representational Art & Traditional Subjects"

Emily Jarrett

November 1 - November 30

Reception: Thursday, November 18, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

"Community Art Exhibit"

December 1 - December 31

Reception: Thursday, December 16, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

"The Magic of Oils: Painted Illusions"

Jim Romskog

January 1 - January 31

Reception: Wednesday, January 19, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

"The Strands of Life"

Becky Herlitzke & Deloras Vind

February 1 - February 28

No Reception

K-12 District Honors Show

March 1 - March 31

Reception: Thursday, March 24, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

"Bon Appetite"

Marti Schwem & Martina Scobic

April 1 - April 30

Reception: Thursday, April 14, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

W.S.H.S Senior Art Show

May 1 - May 31

Reception: Thursday, May 19, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Calling All Community Artists

All community artists are invited to show their art work in a Community Art Show at the Marie W. Heider Center Art Gallery during the month of December 2010. We are asking for up to 3 works of art per artist that has never been displayed at the Heider Gallery before. If you are interested in exhibiting please call Judy Thelen at 786-0233 or Jane Bangsberg at 786-2388 for more information.



A gorgeous day in the middle of October to be on the playground.



West Salem Winter Sports' Parent Meeting

The winter pre-season sports' meeting will be held on Monday, November 1, 2010, in the Heider Auditorium beginning at 7:00 p.m. All paperwork must be completed before beginning practice. If there are any questions, call athletic director LeRoy Krall at 786-1220, ext. 2353.



Pictured are the West Salem staff who performed *Alice In Wonderland* in October at the Heider Center. Back: Carrie Johnson, Laura Skemp-Deal, Mardeana Glasel, Mike Lang, Carrie Andres, Amy Reedy, Toni Key, Lisa Lajiness. Front: Sara Jeranek, Elle Nimm, Ellen Bice.

The WSHS Manufacturing class is selling some great items! The class is making some larger items, and some cheaper items. The larger items: Coat racks, console tables, and plant table/shelf. The smaller items: welcome plaques, hunting plaques, and holiday plaques. They will make great holiday gifts or just a nice addition for inside your home. Many of the items can include custom computer controlled engravings. Stop into the high school to get more information or contact Mr. Huenink.





WSHS Homecoming 2010



PTO Celebrity Story Night

Tuesday, November 16th at 6:30 p.m.
West Salem Elementary School

The event is for all 4K-5th grade students and their families. Parents must attend with their children. Reading begins at 6:30, please arrive by 6:15 for your room assignments.

Celebrity readers include: Superintendent Troy Gunderson, WSHS Senior Drum Major Spencer Lewison, teacher/puppeteer Lisa Lajiness, race car driver Jimmy Gilster, ice cream man Nick Miller, and Capt. Jeff Hanson (firefighter).

In addition to hearing stories read by our local celebrities, we'll have more than 100 books to give away due to a generous donation from the elementary LMC. Books were purchased from Barnes and Noble at a discount.



“Famous Friday Walking School Bus”

West Salem Police Chief Ashbeck had a great walk on Friday morning, October 15. He had approximately 20 kids, which was fantastic for the first ever “Famous Friday Walking School Bus.” The Elementary School Safe Routes Coordinator, P.E. teacher Erin Ellerbach, is planning

on having it every Friday morning, starting at the corner of Hamlin and Youlon



Streets, with a start time of 7:30 a.m., depending on weather of course.

Sharon Fuller from the Village’s Safe Routes to School Committee was also part of the walk. She is also part of the bike safety committee.

Area fire fighters, high school athletes and even a therapy dog will be leading the walks to school. Join in and take a *Safe Route* to school.

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2010
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Tom Ward. 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 September 9, 2010.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

Roll Call

Present: Ken Spraetz, Tom Ward, Errol Kindschy, Scott Scafe, Linda Brown, and Thomas Helgeson. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Dean Buchanan, Eric Jensen, Mark Carlson, Barb Buswell, John Smalley, Michael St. Pierre, and Lisa Gerke; Student representative: Kolton Christenson. Accounts Manager: Davita Molling, Recording secretary: Monica Quinn. Excused: Jason Falck and Christina Locante.

Approval of Agenda

Errol Kindschy moved, Scott Scafe seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Kolton Christenson reported on:

1. A review of Homecoming activities for next week at the high school was given.
2. The upcoming sporting events include: cross country at Wausau, volleyball vs. Westby, football vs. Black River Falls, Soccer vs. Lodi, and tennis at Viroqua.
3. The high school marching band will perform during the Oktoberfest Parade.
4. Link Crew has already been busy this year with orientation and the school forest.

Correspondence

A thank you note from the middle school librarian Gwen Treu and the Meyer family was read.

A Proclamation by Tony Evers, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was read, proclaiming national School Lunch Week, October 11-15, 2010.

Public comments on non-agenda items – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Kindschy reported on the status of the 2009-10 budget, the Federal Education Jobs Fund that were received by the district, four-year-old kindergarten costs, and the additional costs for the additional section of kindergarten.

School Forest Advisory Committee – Mr. Scafe reported that the committee was planning for the Open Forest event on September 18, 2010.

The four-year-old kindergarten report and Administrator reports were reviewed by the Board.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Helgeson seconded to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting of August 19, 2010, and the invoices to be paid. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to accept the following donations:

1. The middle school received a check from Target's Take Charge of Education.
2. The elementary school LMC received books from Bob Arceo, Teresa Newton & family, and Dawn Crow.
3. The OEC received monetary donations from Chad and Lisa Waldenberger, and Waldenberger Poured Walls.
4. The high school Link Crew received a donation from Mount'n Scenery.
5. The Union State Bank donated to the elementary school Back to School Supply Fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Brown moved and Mr. Scafe seconded to name Mr. Ward as the temporary member and chairperson of the Policy Committee in Mr. Spraetz's absence. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Carlson gave an update on the high school schedule and the activities that will be happening during September.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to accept the resignations for JV boys' basketball coach Justin Running and gymnastics coach Amy Dupont Zwicker. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve the co-curricular recommendations: elementary school unit leaders--Gayle Lassen, Mary Hundt, Jan Mattson, Laura Wagner, Cheryl Kammel, Jacki Hickey, Rita Schwartz, Melissa Olson, Kathy Stachowski, and Teri Lassig/Heidi

Schiefelbein (shared position); 5th grade choir, Lisa Jones; Council of Kids, Mary Czajka and Martha Burdick; After School Art, Angie Hemker and Danielle Tsukano; Destination Imagination, Angie Hemker and Heidi Ebert; high school fall cheerleading volunteer coaches Kayla Wegner and Brittney Ammerman. Motion carried unanimously.

The District Employee Handbook will be discussed at the next meeting.

Strategic Planning:

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mrs. Brown seconded to create a survey to gather input. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to meet after the Annual Meeting to gather data for the survey. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on the Middle School Special Education Facility. The administration was seeking input on how to proceed with the process of addressing the facility concerns.

Discussion was held on Long Range Facilities Planning. The administration was seeking input on how to proceed with the process of addressing the facility concerns. The process will begin upon receipt of the enrollment study.

Kolton Christenson agreed to serve as the student representative on the Reconsideration Committee. Mr. Gunderson will check with the current community members to see if they wish to continue to serve.

Discussion was had, by request of Rich Berghefer of Creative Screen Print, regarding a utility easement on the bus garage property.

Adjournment

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda A. Brown, Clerk

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2010
Marie Heider Meeting Room –7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Tom Ward. 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 September 23, 2010.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Errol Kindschy led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and John Smalley recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Jason Falck, Tom Ward, Errol Kindschy, and Thomas Helgeson. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Dean Buchanan, Eric Jensen, Mark Carlson, Barb Buswell, John Smalley, Michael St. Pierre, and Lisa Gerke; Student representative: Christina Locante. Accounts Manager: Davita Molling, Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Linda Brown, Scott Scafe, Ken Spraez, and Kolton Christenson.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Helgeson moved, Mr. Kindschy seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Christina Locante reported on:

1. The high school link crew was at the OEC (outdoor education center) with the freshmen on September 9 and 10.
2. Homecoming was last week and was a successful one. The seniors were the overall winners. Kolton Christenson was Homecoming King and Brook Wall was Homecoming Queen.
3. There will be an SEP forum for seniors and parents at 7:00 p.m. this Thursday.
4. There was a school-wide assembly to announce and inform the beginning of the ARC (Achievement Responsibility Collaboration) Program.

Correspondence – None.

Public comments on non-agenda items – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Kindschy reported that the committee had two meetings since the last board meeting. The committee reviewed the budget and will be discussed later in the meeting.

School Forest Advisory Committee – Mr. Scafe was not present to give a report.

Supervisor reports were reviewed by the Board.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Falck seconded to approve the minutes of the Regular Board meetings of August 23, 2010, and September 13, 2020; and the invoices to be paid. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

High school teacher Antoinette Key and elementary teachers Martha Burdick and Carrie Johnson gave a Smart Board presentation using lessons collected from other teachers at the elementary and high schools.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed the proposed budget for all funds, the revenue calculations and tax levy limits, and the tax levy credit. Mr. Helgeson moved, Mr. Kindschy seconded to recommend the proposed budget be adopted at the annual meeting based on proposal #4. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Falck moved, Mr. Helgeson seconded to approve the District Employee Handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Helgeson moved, Mr. Falck seconded to recommend to the electorate at the annual meeting an easement for Xcel Energy for the sum of \$1.00. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mr. Helgeson Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Nay. Motion carried.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Falck seconded to accept the resignation of Carrie O’Hearn as the varsity assistant gymnastics coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Falck seconded to accept the recommendations for co-curricular positions: varsity gymnastics coach, Carrie O’Hearn; senior high marching band, Dave Kies; senior high color guard, Kelli Martin; senior high jazz band, Dave Kies; senior high pep band, Dave Kies; senior high choir, Amy Hanson; senior high swing choir, Amy Hanson; HS play director - 1st semester, Rhonda Andres; HS play director - 2nd semester, Rhonda Andres; asst. one act play - 1st semester, Patricia Hall; asst. one act play - 2nd semester, Amy Hanson; stage manager - 1st semester, Dan Heerts; tech supervisor - 2nd semester, Dan Heerts; forensics, Kim Volden; asst. forensics, Andrea Armstrong; summer theater director, Amy Hanson; summer theater instrumental, Dave Kies; summer theater vocal, Rhonda Andres; summer theater stage, Dan Heerts; student council, Laura Skemp-Deal; Neshonoc, Cindy Patza; mock trial, John Goodwin; link crew, Justin Jehn; link crew, Andrea Armstrong; visual arts, Quenten Brown; quiz bowl, Laura Skemp-Deal; ecology club, Wayne Sackett; math club, Chris Milne; FFA, Mike Larson; VICA, Paul Liethen; Pep Club, Rhonda Andres; NHS, Toni Key; Diversity

Club, Lynne Brown; and unit leader/leadership team, Lynne Brown, Mike Malott, Chris Ruud, and Mike Larson. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Helgeson moved, Mr. Falck seconded to approve the addition of .04 FTE to an elementary school physical education teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gunderson, Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Smalley led the discussion for the need for a 2.5 hour middle school supervisory paraprofessional position and a 3 hour elementary school supervisory paraprofessional position. No action was taken at this time.

Mr. Ward welcomes the motion for closed session: The Board will discuss, consider and, if appropriate, take action regarding superintendent expectations 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.”

Also, regarding litigation it is or is likely to be involved, pursuant to Wis. Stats. § 19.85(1)(g) for conferring with legal counsel for the District who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the Board with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Falck seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:32 p.m.

A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mr. Helgeson Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Helgeson seconded to reconvene into open session at 9:09 p.m.

Open Session

Adjournment

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Helgeson seconded to adjourn at 9:09 p.m. p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Errol Kindschy, Acting Clerk

The West Salem School District does not discriminate against pupils on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, religion, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disabilities or handicap in its education programs or activities. Federal law prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap.

Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

- 1 FFA Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- 2 OEC - Grade 5 Rain Date
FFA Parliamentary Procedure Workshop-Holmen
- 5 Volleyball-State Semi-Final at Green Bay
- 5-6 Football-Level Three Play-Off
- 6 Volleyball-State Final at Green Bay
- 11 Veterans Day Program - 8th grade band performs
- 12-13 FFA ALD/MFE Conference-Green Bay
- 12-13 Football-Level Four Play-Off
- 15 FFA Fruit Sales Orders Due
FFA Officers' Meeting
- 18-19 Football-State Finals at Madison
- 16 PTO Celebrity Story Night - 6:30
- 23 5th grade concert - 6:30, Heider Center
- 24 **Early Release - Dismissal at 12:30**
- 25 **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**
- 25-26 **No School**
- 30 Basketball-C/JV/V Girls (H) Sparta - 6:00/7:30

DECEMBER

- 8 **Early Release - Dismissal at 12:30**
- 9 HS Parent/Teacher Conferences

Board Policy #384

Animals on School Grounds

Animals are not allowed on school grounds during normal school hours including student drop off and pick up times. Exceptions may be granted by making a written request to the building principal and for licensed service dogs for individuals with an appropriate disability.

Animals other than service animals are not allowed at school activities.

Any animal brought onto school grounds outside of school hours and activities must be properly leashed or otherwise contained or controlled. Owners must pick up and properly dispose of any and all animal droppings left by such animal on the District property and are subject to local laws and ordinances pertaining to animal control.

LEGAL REFERENCE:

WI State Statute 106.52 (3) 5.am

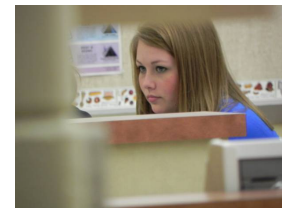
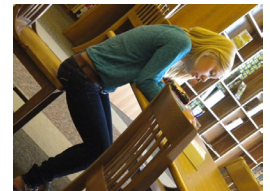
West Salem Ordinance 11:08(D)(1)&(2)

APPROVED: January 14, 2008

REVISED: January 25, 2010

All School Board Policies can be found on the district web site.

< <http://www.wsaalem.k12.wi.us/board/policies.cfm> >



Friday



American Education Week

Great public schools: a basic right and our responsibility
November 14-20, 2010

November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Get involved in AEW. Visit www.aew.org for activity ideas, downloadable tools and resources.

From the Superintendent
 Heider Center Events
 Homecoming 2010
 Mathcounts
 Community Fitness Center
 Calendar of Events
 Photo Friday
 School Board Minutes
 KC Donates
 American Education Week
 Destination Imagination
 Chili Supper
 Animals on School Grounds
 Blood Drive - 11/22/10
 New Staff Attend Board Meeting
 SEP Certification
 Calling Community Artists
 Manufacturing Class Sale Items
 PTO Story Night
 Famous Friday Walking School Bus

IN
 THIS
 ISSUE

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



**WEST SALEM
 FIRST RESPONDERS**

West Salem 1st Responders
 Annual Chili Supper Fund-Raiser
 Thursday, November 11, 2010
 4:00-7:00 p.m.
 WSHS Commons

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