

West Salem School District

November 2011



Newsletter

Choices, Choices, Choices...

Troy M. Gunderson, Superintendent

On Wednesday, October 12th I attended the formal presentation of the USDA's Healthier School Challenge - Gold Medal of Distinction Award to our elementary school. West Salem Elementary School is the first such award winner in the entire state of Wisconsin. Along with the award, three members of our staff were invited to a reception hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama at the Whitehouse. This award is the direct result of hard work by many of our talented and dedicated employees. It is also the result of a choice – a choice to be excellent. A choice we made to provide our children with the very best nutrition, fitness and wellness opportunities possible. A big congratulations and many thanks goes out to all those who made it possible. Great choice!

The concept of choice arose earlier this month during our annual enrollment calculation. It turns out we experienced a 40-student growth in open-enrollment or “school choice” attendees. These are students and families from other districts who make the choice to enroll in the School District of West Salem. When added to the many young families who choose to live in West Salem primarily for access to our school system, it appears our past success and current excellence make us a good choice for families. Our continued growth appears to indicate we are a choice more families are choosing to make.

I also think about how the choices we make in our district offices each day results in meeting part of our new school district vision expecting “Business operations are founded upon a commitment to good stewardship of resources and transparent communication.” Last summer our school board made a choice to take advantage of lower interest rates by refinancing some of our long-term debt. We further reduced our interest rates by choosing to complete the strategic financial

planning necessary to raise our bond rating up to AA-. Finally, we made the choice to roll the \$157,457 in savings directly into energy efficiency upgrades to permanently reduce our energy use. Good stewardship of both money and energy is the right choice.

Another area of our new vision involving choice is our commitment to programming “focused on the personal growth and development of each child.” I think of our high school’s determined efforts to increase participation and performance on the ACT Test. The ACT, American College Testing, is the primary college entrance examination for schools in the Midwest. Via the concerted efforts of our staff, more of our students are choosing to take the exam. They are scoring higher and therefore having more choices after graduation. In fact, 88 students from the Class of 2011 chose to be tested and collectively the class posted our highest composite school district score in more than 10 years. Improving ACT preparation and performance is another excellent choice.

The district vision continues by valuing our teachers as “high quality, passionate, dedicated staff members who model integrity and excellence.” This vision was foremost in our minds last summer as we chose new staff members to join our team. When you think about recruiting and hiring new staff members, it is the ultimate example of choice. This past summer hundreds of applicants chose to apply to our school district. Through careful consideration and deliberation we chose to invite only the very best to serve our kids. Our 21 new employees are shining examples of making the right choice for kids.

Creating the new district mission statement of “Serve with Passion to Ignite Creativity, Innovation and Excellence” and defining success by crafting a new school district vision statement are wonderful examples of making great choices. Making our dreams a reality - its a matter of choice.

The 2011 Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting

Troy M. Gunderson, Superintendent

On Monday, October 17th, the School District of West Salem held its Budget Hearing and Annual District Meeting to review the treasurer's report from the previous (2010 – 2011) school year and to approve the budget and proposed tax levy for the current (2011 – 2012) school year. In addition, the meetings included discussion regarding the financial planning necessary to ensure a sound financial future.

The well-attended Budget Hearing included a review of the proposed budget for the 2011 – 2012 school year, a discussion about changes in state law, a review of regional comparisons, and a look into the future. The proposed general fund budget was presented to include \$17,589,645 in expenses and \$17,439,645 in revenues. Major changes from the previous budget include more than \$1,000,000 less in state equalization aid, a \$980,000 reduction in employee salary and benefit costs, the refinancing of long-term debt to create funding for energy efficiency upgrades, the rebuilding of technology infrastructure, and a larger than expected influx of open-enrollment students.

Information from the recently released report by The Wisconsin Tax Payers Alliance was shared in regards to comparisons with regional school districts located in CESA #4. The financial indicators in the report reveal West Salem to be a financially stable and fiscally responsible school district. The School District of West Salem ranks 15th out of 26 CESA#4 schools in tax levy rate, 15th in property values per student, and 3rd in average adjusted gross income. The report also indicates the district ranks 26th (or last) in education related spending at \$9,244 per student, 24th in total spending at \$11,386 per student, and 26th in staffing ratios with 8.5 students for every employee.

The Budget Hearing concluded with a discussion about the future of open-enrollment, district growth, budget planning, tax levy rates, property tax bills, and educational technology.

The Annual Meeting began with a treasurer's report indicating the 2010 – 2011 school year concluded with a general fund balance of \$2,862,866. This amount totals approximately 16% of the district's annual operating budget and fits within the guidelines of the school board regarding fund balance.

In preparation for the upcoming school year, the district electors offered their recommendation for a total property tax levy of \$6,760,376. This number represents the same dollar amount that was levied in the previous year. The recommended tax levy consists of \$4,779,630 for the general fund, \$1,871,246 in debt service and \$109,500 for community service. Combined with a slight increase in total property values, the recommended levy will result in a slight decrease in the district mill rate from \$9.70 to \$9.67 per thousand dollars of property value. The recommended levy is 3% less than outlined in the proposed budget and will require an adjustment in expenses.

The electors also approved an annual leasing option for day care services, a potential leasing option for a cell tower, and a prescribed energy efficiency revenue exemption. The energy efficiency exemption allows the school district to use the money saved from long-term debt refinancing to reinvest in energy efficiency measures. The electors approved the recommendation to apply the additional revenue towards a lighting upgrade in our middle school and a heating upgrade in our high school. The motion requires the school board to provide a performance report to the electors at the 2012 Annual Meeting set for October 15, 2012.



Mrs. Hundt assists a student in the library.

Mathcounts is Underway at the Middle School

We have 26 seventh graders and 27 eighth graders participating. In-school competition takes place in November, December and January during classtime. The top 10 scorers continue on to practice after school once or twice a week. The Regional Competition is in La Crosse in February 3, 2012, with State Competition on March 3 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

Annie Labus, Fitness Director

Current Fitness Center Hours

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.

Clean shoes are required to enter the fitness center and indoor track. Current fitness center hours and class schedules are specified on the school website www.wsalem.k12.wi.us. Click on the fitness center icon to get the latest information about your community fitness center. You may call 786-1220 extension 2275.

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.

Senior Photos

Each senior needs photos for the following publications: *The 2012 Neshonoc Yearbook*, *the Coulee News*, *the Times of Our Lives*, and *the Senior Slideshow*.

**ALL PHOTOS DUE BY NO LATER THAN:
Friday, November 9, 2011**

For more information, please see the August 2011 District Newsletter which is available on the District's website.

NESHONOC Yearbook

The 2012 NESHONOC yearbooks may be purchased at a reduced price of \$52 if ordered on or before September 30.

If you decide to pay later, the price will be \$62. Your last chance to pre-purchase a book will be no later than October 31 and very few extras will be ordered for May sales. After that time, there will be NO guarantees. Books bought in May will cost \$65. You must pay in full at the time of purchase. Order forms are available in the high school office if you wish to personalize your NESHONOC.

Substitute Bus Drivers Needed— Will Train

If interested, please stop at the District Office at 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem **OR** call 608-786-0700

OR go to [<www.wsalem.k12.wi.us>](http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us) for a substitute application.

For more information,
please call Rick Kline at 786-4356

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.

West Salem 1st Responders Annual Chili Supper Fund-Raiser Thursday, November 10, 2011 4:00-7:00 p.m. WSHS Commons

The West Salem 1st Responders will be holding their annual chili supper on Thursday, November 10, 2011 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 fund-raiser 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 contact West Salem 1st Responders, 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!

School Board Members

Tom Ward	397-9873
Linda Brown	786-3027
Ken Spraetz	786-0017
Scott Scafe	786-0969
Errol Kindschy	786-1675
Thomas Helgeson	612-0018
Jason Falck	786-0935

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

Open Enrollment

You may apply for open enrollment from February 6-24, 2012, 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 school district's athletic director about eligibility.

Thank You

Henry Althoff, on behalf of the Knights of Columbus, donated \$351.70 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.

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>

Immunization Clinic

On November 9, 2011, La Crosse County Health Department will be at the West Salem High School in the afternoon to administer the flu vaccine. The clinic is open to everyone. Every year influenza can cause some people to get very ill. While not everyone will get the virus, with the availability of the flu vaccine – no one needs to become ill with influenza. We encourage everyone (from 6 months of age) to get the vaccine. The vaccine is free for children up to age 18.

Along with the flu vaccine, the Health Department will bring immunizations that students require so if your child is behind on any immunizations they can receive them at the flu shot clinic!

If you have any questions, please call Connie Troyanek RN at 786-1662.



Great Year in the School Garden!

Thank you Mr. David Langer for educating students about the school garden and what it can provide. Sara Jeranek, 5th grade teacher said, “The students enjoyed tasting the different foods and learning new ways to grow food in our neighborhoods.”



Ads For Grads/Friendship Ads

The Neshonoc Yearbook Ads for Grads program is a wonderful way to congratulate seniors on their accomplishments. The size options include anything from a full-page to an 1/8th page ad. The larger options provide more room for multiple photos and longer messages. Remember: The longer your message, the less space available to showcase your grad's picture(s).

Friendship Ads are also an option for seniors. The ads provide an opportunity for seniors to celebrate their friendships with pictures and a message.

If interested please fill out the following form and turn it in to the yearbook staff by Monday, January 9, 2012.

ADS FOR GRADS AND FRIENDSHIP ADS

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Graduate's Name: _____

Ad size: 1/8 (\$40) 1/4 (\$65)
 1/2 (\$100) Full page (\$185)

Message: _____

If the ad includes photos, please label them clearly, and send them along with this form and payment in full. Please make checks payable to West Salem High School. (Photos will be returned shortly after our final March deadline. If you need them back earlier, please contact the yearbook staff.)

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

*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.

Kindergarten Students Get Help from Mat Man™

Mat Man™ does an important job. He helps children learn about their bodies, body functions, counting, taking turns, sequencing, placing pieces, and participating in a group. Eventually these same wood pieces used for Mat Man are used to make letters in our Handwriting Without Tears Program.

And there's something else! After building Mat Man on the floor, children want to have a picture of him. They are eager to draw Mat Man™! And guess what? By having the teacher demonstrate the steps to drawing Mat Man™, the children learn to put all of his parts in the right place. Children who know Mat Man™ begin to change him into other people—Mat Mom, Mat Dad, Mat You, Mat Me. No two Mat Men have ever looked the same. That's because children are encouraged to personalize their drawings. From this activity children learn to draw organized pictures of people on paper. They are proud of the people they make and draw. The teachers are proud of their students and pleased with the



excitement and results that this activity creates. Thank you Mr. Mat Man™! Mat Man™—A friend to all. Have your children met him?

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.

- The West Salem School District is currently in the process of conducting a Pupil Nondiscrimination self-evaluation. Every five years all districts in the state are required conduct this type of self-evaluation. The areas considered for self-evaluation are counseling, athletics and scholarships. This is a valuable tool that is used to strengthen our commitment and efforts to foster equitable and successful schools for all students. A working copy is available on the district webpage for you to view. If you have questions or input regarding this document, please provide your feedback using the link provided next to the document.

- One of the parents within our district shared a useful resource for Apple iPad and iPod applications used by students with needs in the areas of speech and language, communication, occupational therapy and other therapies. His child has been using these applications with an Apple iPad since June and he says the results have been amazing. This is the link to the webpage: <http://a4cwsn.com/> Gary James is responsible for starting the site (which is also found on Face Book). He is currently running numerous campaigns focused on raising funds to put iPads in the hands of special needs children in 50 different states. In addition to the iPad campaign he, along with numerous application developers, has given away over \$200,000, dollars in apps. Another great resource for assistive technology for parents is CESA #4. Tracy Hogden is CESA's Director of Assistive Technology and her email is thogden@cesa4.k12.wi.us

- Wisconsin Partners in Policymaking is a six-session advocacy and systems change training program designed to develop a group of seasoned leaders across the state. At the end of the program, leaders will be able to work on policies and initiatives that will support the full participation and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of life. This is a new initiative of the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD). The six-session program is designed for (A) family mem-

bers of children and youth with developmental disabilities ages birth to 21 and (B) individuals with developmental disabilities. The six sessions will be held between January and June 2012. The BPDD covers all costs associated with the program, including the training, lodging, meals, and materials. Wisconsin Partners in Policymaking will be facilitated by Lynn Breedlove, Executive Director of Disability Rights Wisconsin, and Lisa Pugh, Public Policy Coordinator with the Wisconsin Disability Policy Partnership, which includes Disability Rights Wisconsin, the Waisman Center, and the BPDD. Those interested in participating must submit an application by Dec. 1, 2011. Additional information about the program, including the application form and specific training dates, is available on the BPDD's website. If you have questions about Wisconsin Partners in Policymaking, please contact John Shaw at john1.shaw@wisconsin.gov or (608) 266-7707.



PTO Celebrity Story Night

On Thursday, October 13, local celebrities read stories at the West Salem Elementary School.

Celebrities include: WSHS Girls Soccer player-Jen Schlimgen, Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Le Coulee Cheese Castle owner-Nick Miller, Race Car Driver-Danny Gilster, WSHS Marching Band player-Michael Ebert, School Garden Coordinator-Dave Langer, Police Chief Ashbeck, Firefighter- Dave Hemker, and Chief Petty Officer Tom Schran.

Thank you to all that participated in this wonderful event.



Heider Center Events

Marie W. Heider Center for the Arts

2011-2012 Mainstage Season

Guys & Does

Wednesday

November 9, 2011

7:30 p.m.



White Ghost Shivers

Friday, February 3, 2012

7:30 p.m.



The Water Coolers

Thursday, February 16, 2012

7:30 p.m.



Ricky Nelson Remembered

Monday, April 30, 2012

7:30 p.m.



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

Visual Arts Series

“Earth Art”

Randy Christenson

November 1-30, 2011

Reception: November 10, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

“Community Art Exhibit”

December 1-31, 2011

Reception: December 13, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

“Looking Up” / “Pottery For Everyday Rituals”

Laura Sitari, Watercolors / Darrel Bowman

January 1-31, 2012

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

“Story Portraits: Time & Space” /

“Woven Expressions”

Patricia Hall / Jean Ledman

February 1-29, 2012

Reception: February 23, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

K-12 District Honors Show

March 1-31, 2012

Reception: March 20, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

“Art in Bloom”

Floral Artists - Local gardeners and floral artists will design arrangements inspired by artist's work

April 1-30, 2012

Reception: April 21, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

West Salem High School Senior Art Show

May 1-31, 2012

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

Calling All Community Artists

All community artists and West Salem School District employees 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 2011. 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.

B-A-O-AB?

Donate Blood

It takes all blood types,
all generations...Especially Yours

West Salem Blood Drive
Monday, November 21, 2011
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.

Safe Routes to School and the help of community members are making our Famous Friday Walking School Bus a success again this year! Our bus meets Friday mornings, depending on weather, at the corner of North Youlon and West Hamlin and leaves at 7:30 a.m.

Anyone interested in joining is welcome!

To start the year off we have had Mr. Smalley, West Salem Elementary Principal, West Salem Fire Department with special appearance from Smokey the Bear, West Salem Police Chief Ashbeck, and members of the high school football team, plus many more to come!



The West Salem High School Art Department is proud to announce that Julia Schomberg was the October Art Student of the month. Julia, a senior at WSHS, has been honing her skills in acrylic painting and photography over the course of her high school career. Julia has won awards for her photographs, and had her painting selected for the State Capitol Art Exhibition as part of Youth Art Month in 2011. A small showcase of Julia Schomberg's work was on display at the Marie W. Heider Gallery for the Arts in West Salem. If you see Julia, congratulate her on her selection.



The West Salem High School Art Department is proud to announce that Mandy Uebele is the November Art Student of the month. Mandy's paintings and drawings will be on display at the Marie W. Heider Gallery for the Arts from November 1 through November 31.



School Counselor Gayle Lassen works with an elementary class.

OEC Project Continues

For more pictures:

<http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us/faculty/huemat/schoolforestremodel.cfm>



HealthierUS School Challenge Recognizes Excellence in Nutrition and Physical Activity

WEST SALEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECEIVES
GOLD AWARD OF DISTINCTION HONOR DURING AN
ALL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 12, 2011



Pictured: The elementary school food service staff proudly display their Get Active t-shirts. Mr. David Langer was acknowledged for his work with the school garden. Mrs. Kloser, Mr. Smalley and Mr. Gunderson join in the festivities. The WSHS Band and directors also participate in the event. The Eat Smart Play Hard mascot entertains the students. What an honor for the students and staff at the elementary school!



School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2011
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 22, 2011.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Tom Ward led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Eric Jensen recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Ken Spraetz, Jason Falck, 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: Taylor Gile. Finance Director: Davita Molling (7:17), Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Megan Tabbert.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Helgeson seconded to approve the agenda adding a Buildings and Grounds Committee report after the finance committee report. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Taylor Gile reported on:

1. An assembly was held at the high school to inform students about the ARC (Achievement responsibility Collaboration) Program and about the new guidelines that were made.
2. Homecoming is next week. Students have been planning and begun work on their class displays. The first dress-up day will be “Class Color Day” this Friday.

Correspondence

A thank you note was read from the family of Jack Vig from Vig and Associates, the district’s auditing firm.

Public comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Finance Committee – Mr. Kindschy reported that the committee met earlier tonight and discussed the levy for the 2011-2012 school year.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Mr. Scafe reported that the committee met earlier tonight and discussed the athletic fields, the long range plan for the tennis courts and the Long Range Facilities Planning Committee.

The supervisor reports were reviewed. Mr. Gunderson reported on the reconsideration committee and the administrators’ upcoming strategic planning meeting.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Falck moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of September 12, 2011; and the invoices to be paid. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mrs. Brown seconded to accept the donation for the middle school from Target’s Take Charge of Education program and the donation for the food service department from the La Crosse Community Foundation’s Jim’s Grocery Bag Distribution program. Motion carried unanimously.

2011-2012 budget estimates - Members of the Finance Committee and Mr. Gunderson offered a report on the progress of the final budget and proposed tax levy. No action was taken.

Mr. Spraetz moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve the grievance procedure as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gunderson presented options for the board to consider in regards to driver education. The administration will return with proposals for offering some type of service.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Helgeson seconded to approve for a first reading of policy #941 Elementary Administrative Assistant, #222 Administrative Contracts, #230 Administrative Team, #251 Organization for Administrative Purposes, #252 Administrative Committees, #253 Policy Implementation, #253.1 Development of Administrative Rules, #253.2 Development of Handbooks, #260 Temporary Administrative Arrangements, and #270 School District Reports. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spraetz moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve for a second reading of policy #751.1-Rule Bus Routing and Scheduling Guidelines. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Kindschy seconded to accept the administration's recommendation and to approve the co-curricular recommendations: Amanda Beld, Athletic Director; Ellen Bice and Nicole Friell, Forensics; Tammy Bentzen and Rick Dobbs, Mathcounts; Mardeana Glasel, Assistant Band; Ryan Waldhart, Band and Jazz Band; Elle Nimm, Vocal and Drama Stage Manager, Amy Hanson, Drama Director & Drama Tech Supervisor; Jane Henricks, Student Council; Kari Schultz, Unit Leader –6th; Rick Dobbs, Unit Leader –7th; Ellen Bice, Unit Leader-8th; Elle Nimm, Unit Leader-REACH; Tina Thompson, Unit Leader-Support Service; Jenny Morgan and Nicole Friell, Yearbook; Dave Kies, Senior High Marching Band; Kelli Martin, Senior High Color Guard; Dave Kies, Senior High Jazz Band; Dave Kies, Senior High Pep Band; Amy Hanson, Senior High Choir; Amy Hanson, Senior High Swing Choir; Rhonda Andres, HS Play Director - 1st semester; Rhonda Andres, HS Play Director - 2nd semester; Amy Hanson, Assistant One Act Play – 2nd semester; Patti Hall Sprain, Assistant One Act Play – 1st semester; Dan Heerts, Stage Manager - 1st semester; Dan Heerts, Tech Supervisor - 2nd semester; Kim Volden, Forensics; Andrea Armstrong, Asst. Forensics; Amy Hanson, Summer Theater Director; Dave Kies, Summer Theater Instrumental; Rhonda Andres, Summer Theater Vocal; Dan Heerts, Summer Theater Stage; Laura Deal, Student Council; Andrea Armstrong, Neshonoc; Justin Glodowski, Mock Trial; Justin Jehn, Link Crew; Andrea Armstrong, Link Crew; Quenten Brown, Visual Arts; Laura Deal, Quiz Bowl; Wayne Sackett, Ecology Club; Chris Milne, Math Club; Mike Larson, FFA; Paul Liethen, VICA; Rhonda Andres, Pep Club; Toni Key, NHS; Lynne Brown, Diversity Club; Lynne Brown, Mike Malott, Dave Kies, Mike Larson, Loretta Zwonitzer, Eric Wiggins, Jeff Maves, and Randy Dammon, Unit Leaders; Ryan Waldhardt, 7th grade boys' basketball; Justin Running, 8th grade boys' basketball; Heather Jehn, 7th grade girls' basketball; Randy Dammon, head wrestling; Chad Hayes, head boys' basketball; Jonathan Selck, freshman boys' basketball; Mike Malott, head girls' basketball; and Rick Martinson, JV girls' basketball. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gunderson offered an update regarding contract negotiations for a cell tower on a light pole.

Adjournment

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda A. Brown, Clerk

The following minutes will be on the October 24 board agenda for approval.

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2011
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 October 6, 2011.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Taylor Gile led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Megan Tabbert recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Jason Falck, Tom Ward, Errol Kindschy (via teleconference), Scott Scafe, and Linda Brown. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Dean Buchanan, Eric Jensen, Mark Carlson (7:02), Barb Buswell (7:01), John Smalley, Michael St. Pierre, and Lisa Gerke; Student representatives: Megan Tabbert and Taylor Gile. Finance Director: Davita Molling (7:04), Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Thomas Helgeson and Ken Spraetz.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve the agenda as presented. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye.–Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Megan Tabbert on:

1. The homecoming football game was a blowout. The homecoming queen was Allison Kelsey and the king was Boston Goodenough.
2. The senior class was excited to wear their t-shirts for senior pride day.

Taylor Gile reported on:

1. The participation in the Mr. and Mrs. West Salem contest had a nice variety in the acts. Mrs. West Salem was Kathleen Thorn and Mr. West Salem was Bryar Hansen.

2. A new club was created at the high school. The Muggle Club is a group of Harry Potter enthusiasts and Mrs. Volden agreed to be the advisor.
3. The seniors met with their teacher advisors to talk about their senior exit project (SEP).

Correspondence

A Proclamation by Tony Evers, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was read, proclaiming National School Lunch Week, October 10-14, 2011.

The National Weather Service held an annual school supply drive and will donate supplies to the West Salem Middle School.

Public comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Legal Seminar – Mr. Ward reviewed the legal seminar that he, Mr. Gunderson and Mrs. Buswell attended.

Administrator reports were reviewed. Mr. Gunderson highlighted a few items on his report.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Falck seconded to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 26, 2011; and the invoices to be paid. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Falck moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to accept donations on behalf of the Friends of West Salem Baseball from Kish & Sons Electric, Zielke Fund Grant and Tim and Nancy Burns. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mrs. Brown seconded to approve an agreement with the Heider Center Arts Board. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

As part of their SEP project, West Salem High School seniors Michelle Meinking and Taylor Jenks presented their proposal for a softball dugout upgrade. Mr. Scafe moved, Mrs. Brown seconded to approve the SEP request for softball dugouts upgrade with the addition of electrical service and at no cost to the district. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed information for the need to relocate the discus cage and shot circles. Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Falck seconded to approve the relocation of the discus cage and shot put areas. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed a 2011-2012 budget plan and options for the annual meeting.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed options for a process for developing an employee handbook.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Falck seconded to continue with Lathrop & Clark LLP as the district's school attorney for legal services. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve for a second reading of policy #941 Elementary Administrative Assistant, #222 Administrative Contracts, #230 Administrative Team, #251 Organization for Administrative Purposes, #252 Administrative Committees, #253 Policy Implementation, #253.1 Development of Administrative Rules, #253.2 Development of Handbooks, #260 Temporary Administrative Arrangements, #270 School District Reports. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Falck moved, Mr. Kindschy seconded to accept the administrations recommendation to hire David Lueck as the JV boys' basketball coach. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to adjourn at 8:54 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

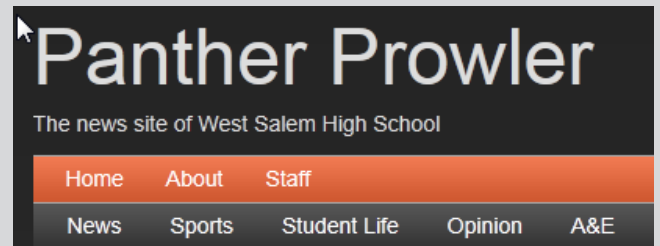
Respectfully submitted,
Linda A. Brown, Clerk



The West Salem High School Student Newspaper, The Panther Prowler, is now online.

<http://www.pantherprowler.com/>

Check it out the top stories, the latest news, a slideshow, take a poll, sports updates, and so much more.



HOMECOMING 2011



Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

- 4 Volleyball State Semi Final at Green Bay
- 4-5 Football Level Three Play Off
- 5 Volleyball State Final at Green Bay
- 7 Gymnastics - earliest date for first practice
- 8 Grade 4 Concert - "Groovin' in the 70's" - 6:15
Grade 5 Concert - "On the radio" - 7:15
- 10 4th Grade PE night - 6:30-7:30
- 11 WSHS Veterans Day Program
- 11-12 Football Level Four Play Off
- 14 Basketball-Boys - earliest date for first practice
- 15 **Early Release - Dismissal at 12:30**
- 16 Basketball-Girls - earliest date for first practice
- 17 2nd Grade & 3rd Grade Rhythms Program - 6:30-7:00
- 17-18 Football State Finals at Madison
- 22 Basketball-JV/V scrimmage at Holmen - 5:30
- 23-25 **No School**
- 25 Hockey-V Girls vs. Appleton at Viroqua tournament - 5:00
Hockey-JV Boys vs. Tomah - 3:00
- 26 Hockey-V Girls vs. Viroqua at Viroqua tournament - 9:00
Hockey-V Girls vs. Kettle Moraine at Viroqua tournament - 2:00
Hockey-JV Boys vs. Tomah - 12:00
- 29 WSMS Musical
Basketball-Girls C/JV/V at Sparta - 5:50/7:30
Hockey-JV Boys at Sparta vs. Baraboo - 5:30
Hockey-V Boys at Sparta vs. Baraboo - 7:30

DECEMBER

- 1 5th Grade PE Night - 6:30-7:30
- 2 Hockey-JV Boys at La Crescent - 7:00
- 3 Hockey-V Girls at Middleton - 3:30
Basketball-Boys C/JV/V (H) Westfield - 12:00/1:30/3:00
Wrestling-JV at Mel-Min Tourney - 10:00
Hockey-V Boys at WS vs. Sauk Prairie - 2:00
- 4 WSHS Holiday Choir Concert - 1:30
- 5 Basketball-Girl JV/V (H) Royall - 6:00/7:30
Gymnastics-JV/V (H) Onalaska - 7:00
- 6 7th grade band/choir concert - 7:00
Hockey-V Girls vs. Winona at Omni Center - 7:00
Basketball-Boys C/JV/V (H) GET - 6:00/7:30
Hockey-JV Boys at Tomah - 5:00

- 8 8th grade band/choir concert - 7:00
Hockey-V Girls vs. Eau Claire North at Omni Center - 7:00
Basketball-Girls C/JV/V (H) Central - 6:00/7:30
- 9 Basketball-Boys C/JV/V at BRF - 6:00/7:30
- 10 Hockey-V Girls vs. Grantsburg at Omni Center - 12:00
Wrestling-V at WI Dells Dual Tourney - 8:00
Hockey-V Boys at De Forest - 4:00
- 11 WSHS Holiday Concert - 4:00
- 12 Hockey-V Girls vs. BRF at Omni Center - 7:00
Basketball-Boys C/JV/V at Mauston - 5:50/7:30
- 13 Basketball-Girls C/JV/V at Westby - 6:00/7:30
Hockey-JV Boys at La Crescent - 5:30
Hockey-V Boys at Sparta vs. La Crescent - 7:30
- 15 Basketball-Boys C/JV/V (H) Viroqua - 6:00/7:30
Hockey-JV Boys at Viroqua - 5:30
Hockey-V Boys at Viroqua - 7:30
- 16 Basketball-Girls C/JV/V at GET - 6:00/7:30
Wrestling-JV at Mel-Min Tourney - 5:15
- 17 Wrestling-V at Arcadia Invite - 9:30
Hockey-JV Boys at Reedsburg - 5:00
Hockey-V Boys at Reedsburg - 7:00
- 20 Hockey-V Girls vs. New Richmond at Omni Center - 7:00
Hockey-V Boys at Omni Center vs. Aquinas - 7:00
Basketball-Boys C/JV/V at Bangor - 6:00/7:30
Wrestling-JV/V at Aquinas - 6:30/7:30
- 22 Hockey-V Girls at Chippewa Falls - 5:00
Hockey-JV Boys at Sparta vs. Central/Logan - 5:30
Basketball-Boys C/JV/V at La Crescent - 5:45/7:30
Basketball-Girls C/JV/V (H) BRF - 6:00/7:30
Hockey-V Boys at Sparta vs. Central/Logan - 7:30
- 26-30 **No School - Winter Break**
- 28-29 Basketball-Girls JV/V (H) West Salem Tourney
- 28-30 Hockey-V Girls at Rochester Rec Center - Invitational
- 29-30 Wrestling-V Bi-State at La Crosse Center - 9:30
- 30 Basketball-Boys C/JV/V (H) Tomah - 4:00/5:30/7:00
Wrestling-JV at Sparta Tourney - 9:00

JANUARY

- 2 **No School - Winter Break**
- 3 School Resumes
- 5 Basketball-Boys C/JV/V (H) Arcadia - 6:00/7:30

At the Onalaska High School website you will find a schedule for girls' hockey and for boys' hockey, visit the Sparta High School website.

From the Superintendent
 Elementary School Awarded
 Substitute Bus Drivers Needed
 Immunization Clinic
 Mat Man™ at the elementary
 Heider Center Events
 Mathcounts
 Calendar of Events
 School Board Minutes
 KC Donates
 Senior Photos
 Neshonoc Yearbook
 School Garden
 Art Students
 OEC Projects
 Aluminum for Athletics
 Chili Supper - 11/10/11
 American Education Week
 Pupil Services Information
 Calling Community Artists
 PTO Story Night
 Famous Friday Walking School Bus

IN THIS ISSUE



West Salem Blood Drive

Monday, November 21, 2011

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.



West Salem 1st Responders
Annual Chili Supper Fund-Raiser
Thursday, November 10, 2011
4:00-7:00 p.m.
WSHS Commons

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

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