

February 2019



Newsletter

School District of West Salem

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Letter from Superintendent Troy Gunderson

Referendum 2019-If You Ask Me?

Following a narrow election defeat in November of 2018, the school board voted 7-0 to host a referendum on April 2, 2019. Similar to last November, the school board is seeking permission to exceed the state-imposed revenue limit beginning with the 2019–2020 school year and the 2020 tax year. Specifically, the board is seeking permission to exceed the revenue limit by \$1,600,000 in 2019-2020, by \$1,800,000 in 2020-2021 and \$1,900,000 in 2021-2022.

While each district resident will soon receive additional referendum-related information from the district, I thought I would use this month’s newsletter column to address the questions most often asked of me.

Why does the district need to host a referendum to ask for money? The state funding formula includes a revenue limit originally designed to moderate spending and property tax rates. The formula has been frozen for the last eight years essentially capping

annual district revenues at the same amount over that time. The only legal way to exceed the limit is to pass a referendum seeking voter approval. Nearly every school district in our area has already passed such a referendum.

What will the district do with the money? The money will be used to maintain the wonderful programming the district offers its students and families. The School District of West Salem is a premier school district in both the Coulee Region and the State of Wisconsin. The district is not proposing anything new, the money will simply allow the great work to continue.

Does the district need this money because of the recently updated facilities? No. The added costs of our updated facilities includes additional utilities and custodial time in our middle school and utility costs at the new Panther Den Events Center. An agreement by the Boys and Girls Club to fund 7% of the middle school utility costs and a similar agreement with the local Hockey Association to fund 50% of the Panther Den utility costs limits the additional operational costs to the district for these facilities at approximately

Letter continues on next page...

\$100,000. For reference, the current school district budget exceeds \$20 million and includes an \$800,000 deficit.

If you project the need to cut \$1,000,000 if the referendum fails, why are you asking for \$1,600,000 during the first year? Using round number estimates, the current budget includes an \$800,000 deficit so the first \$800,000 is needed to fill this gap. The district anticipates employee costs to rise by \$400,000 including salary and benefits and plans to restore \$100,000 in funding for a bus that was removed last year bringing the total to \$1,300,000. In addition, the district plans to restore \$50,000 in funding for maintenance that was removed last year and plans to set aside \$250,000 for a future roof replacement project on the 1964 portion of our high school for a grand total of \$1,600,000. If the referendum fails, the district will not restore previously cut items, will not save for a future roofing project, and plans to reduce the budget by an estimated \$1,000,000. Using the round number estimates, this may still leave the district short by \$200,000 for 2019–2020 requiring additional cuts the following year.

Speaking of cuts, what will be cut if the referendum fails? The school board has determined the cuts will include further reductions in district budgets for equipment, supplies, training, vendor contracts, and leadership positions. In addition, the school board will increase class size across the district and eliminate, or reduce elective programs in the middle and high schools to reduce approximately ten teaching positions. Finally, the district will institute fees and limit participation numbers in all co-curricular activities.

Why can't the school district just be more efficient? According to data published by the Department of Public Instruction, the School District of West Salem spends less per student than 395 of the 420 school districts in Wisconsin. While every organization can be more efficient, the data indicates the district is past the point of solving the budget deficit with efficiency and is now facing the need to reduce services as detailed in the previous question.

Are increased wages included in referendum calculations? Yes. The school district uses a cohort of Black River Falls, Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau, Holmen, Onalaska, Sparta, and Tomah as comparison districts

for wages. The data indicates the School District of West Salem ranks last in nearly every school employment category as compared to this cohort. In other words, nearly every district employee would receive a pay raise if they transferred to any one of the cohort districts. The long term district goal is to rank near the middle of this cohort with respect to wages. Like any industry, the ability of the district to offer a competitive wage is critical to recruiting and retaining skilled employees.

Why didn't the district solve the budget issues before updating the facilities? During the process of developing a strategy to address these issues, it was determined to tackle the facility issues first due to rising construction costs and historically low interest rates. In hindsight this was the correct decision. The many recent upgrades to district facilities were completed at competitive pricing and financed at very low rates. All totaled, the campus was updated, old debt was refinanced or paid off, new debt was assumed at lower rates, and annual payments are now lower. Well done!

What about property taxes? Approval of the referendum is projected to raise the mil rate to approximately \$9.55 per thousand up from the current rate of \$8.89 per thousand. This will increase property taxes by an estimated \$65 for every \$100,000 worth of property. Please note, if voters reject the referendum, the mil rate will likely decrease to an estimated \$8.00 per thousand saving tax payers approximately \$89 per \$100,000 worth of property. For reference, the average mil rate in the School District of West Salem during the past twenty years is \$9.74, the average mil rate for the previously mentioned cohort is \$9.44, and the average mil rate for the state of Wisconsin is \$9.77.

What is the bottom line? The bottom line is this: The School District of West Salem offers a premier product at a comparably low cost. The state-imposed revenue limit has essentially frozen district revenues for the past eight years. Without additional revenue, the district cannot continue to provide the same quality of service and programming in the future. The only way for the district to receive additional revenue is for district voters to approve of a referendum.

Calendar of Events February

Athletic Events

Friday, February 1, 2019

- 6:00pm Basketball: Girls JV Game vs. Black River Falls @ West Salem High School
- 7:15pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Black River Falls @ West Salem High School

Saturday, February 2, 2019

- 10:00am Wrestling: Boys Varsity Conference Tournament vs. Black River Falls, G-E-T/Mel-Min, Viroqua, Westby Area High School, & Arcadia @ Arcadia High School
- 10:15am Gymnastics: Girls JV/Varsity Invitational vs. Madison West, Middleton, Mukwonago, Platteville, Verona, Waukesha West & Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln @ Middleton High School

Monday, February 4, 2019

- 5:00pm Wrestling: Boys JV Conference Tournament vs. Arcadia, G-E-T, Tomah, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ Tomah HS

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

- 5:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys JV Game vs. Reedsburg @ West Salem High School
- 6:00pm Basketball: Boys C-Team/JV Game vs. Black River Falls @ Black River Falls High School
- 6:30pm Gymnastics: Girls JV/Varsity Meet vs. Arcadia @ West Salem High School
- 7:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Reedsburg @ West Salem High School
- 7:15pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Black River Falls @ Black River Falls High School

Thursday, February 7, 2019

- 6:00pm Basketball: Girls JV Game vs. G-E-T @ Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau High School
- 7:15pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. G-E-T @ Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau High School

Friday, February 8, 2019

- 6:00pm Basketball: Boys C-Team Game vs. G-E-T @ West Salem Middle School

- 6:00pm Basketball: Boys JV Game vs. G-E-T @ West Salem High School
- 7:15pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. G-E-T @ West Salem High School

Saturday, February 9, 2019

- 10:00am Ice Hockey: Boys JV Tournament vs. Monona Grove, New Richmond, & Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln @ SWCRC
- 10:30am Wrestling: Boys Varsity Regional vs. Adams-Friendship, Arcadia, G-E-T, Mauston, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ Mauston High School
- 2:30pm Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Tournament vs. Monona Grove, New Richmond, Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln @ SWCRC

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

- 6:00pm Basketball: Girls JV Game vs. Westby Area High School @ Westby High School
- 7:15pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Westby Area High School @ Westby High School

Thursday, February 14, 2019

- 6:00pm Basketball: Boys C-Team/JV Game vs. Westby Area High School @ Westby High School
- 7:15pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Westby Area High School @ Westby High School

Friday, February 15, 2019

- 6:00pm Gymnastics: Girls JV/Varsity Conference Tournament vs. Viroqua, Westby Area High School & Arcadia @ Arcadia High School

Monday, February 18, 2019

- 6:00pm Basketball: Boys C-Team Game vs. Mauston @ West Salem Middle School
- 6:00pm Basketball: Boys JV Game vs. Mauston @ West Salem High School
- 7:15pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Mauston @ West Salem High School

Band Events

Friday, February 1, 2019

- 6:45pm Girls Basketball Game vs. Black River Falls Black Pep Band

Monday, February 18, 2019

- 6:45pm Boys Basketball Game vs. Mauston Orange Pep Band

Calendar of events continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

Elementary School Events

Monday, February 11, 2019-Friday, February 22, 2019

8:00am Book Fair Open in the Assembly Room

Thursday, February 7, 2019

6:30pm 1st Grade P.E. Night

Friday, February 8, 2019

All Day No School

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

3:30- Parent-Teacher Conferences

7:00pm

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

12:20pm Early Release

Students dismissed at 12:20pm

Buses depart at 12:30pm

Friday, February 15, 2019

All Day Jump for a Cause

Thursday, February 21, 2019

3:30- Parent-Teacher Conferences

7:00pm

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

6:30pm 4K Registration & Screening

Last Names A-L

Thursday, February 28, 2019

6:30pm 4K Registration & Screening

Last Names M-Z

Middle School Events

Monday, February 4, 2019

3:30pm- Parent-Teacher Conferences

7:00pm

Thursday, February 7, 2019

8:30am- Winter Wellness Day Field Trips

3:00pm

Friday, February 8, 2019

All Day No School

Monday, February 11, 2019

6:30pm Freshmen Registration Night

for Current 8th Graders @ Heider Center

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

12:20pm Early Release

Students dismissed at 12:20pm

Buses depart at 12:30pm

High School Events

Friday, February 8, 2019

All Day No School

Monday, February 11, 2019

7:00pm Spanish II Dinner @ HS Commons

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

12:20pm Early Release

Students dismissed at 12:20pm

Buses depart at 12:30pm

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

All Day 3rd Quarter Mid-Term

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

All Day 3rd Quarter Grades Submitted

ACT State Assessment for Juniors

Thursday, February 21, 2019

All Day ACT WorkKeys Assessment for Juniors

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Winter Play

Friday, February 22, 2019

All Day Winter Play

Monday, February 25, 2019

6:00pm Spring Sports Meeting @ Room 247

(Upstairs Conference Room)

Community Events



Thursday, February 7, 2019
7:00 pm
 Marie W. Heider Center for the Arts,
 West Salem, WI
Tickets - \$10.00

*Tickets available in the Box Office or at the Door
 Sponsored by the WSHS Show Choirs




SUMMER SCHOOL 2019

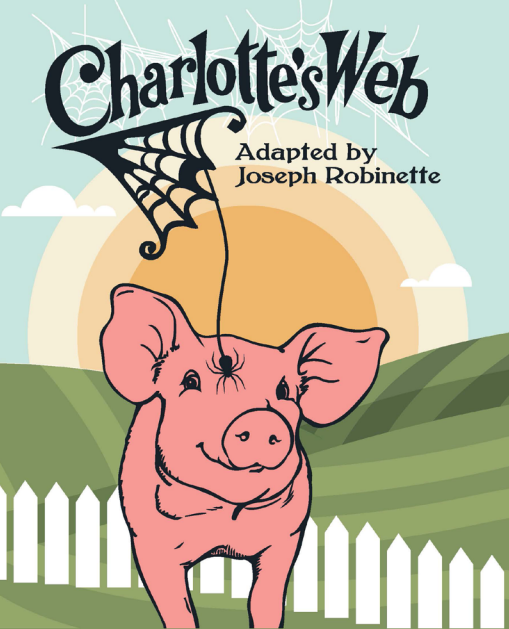
It's time to start thinking about summer school!
 Mark your calendars!
 Summer school for grades K-8 will be held
July 22-August 9
8:30-11:35 a.m.
 More Info to come home in April

The school district will again be offering swimming lessons. Please note that swimming lessons are not held during the July - August Summer School session.
 Dates and times will be announced soon.

Based on the book by E.B. White


Charlotte's Web

Adapted by Joseph Robinette



presented by the
West Salem High School Drama Department
 at the
Marie W Heider Center for the Arts
February 22, 7:00 pm
February 23, 2:00 pm

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June Dairy Days
 is looking
 for
 Volunteers!

For more information, or to offer input or suggestions on how to keep up this great tradition, please message the Facebook page, "June Dairy Days" or email info@JuneDairyDays.com

4K Registration & Screening.

If you have a student who will be four years old by September 1, 2019, please join us for 4K registration and screening! Mark your calendars for the following dates:

Tuesday, February 26th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the elementary school.

(Last names A-L)

Thursday, February 28th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the elementary school

(Last names M- Z)

Contact the elementary office at 786-1662 to pre-register.

Kindergarten Registration 2019-2020

If you have a student who will be five years old by September 1, 2019 and your child does not attend our 4K program, please contact the elementary school office at 786-1662 to pre-register.

All current WSES 4K students will automatically receive kindergarten registration information.

3 Year Old Child Development Days

If you have a child who will be three by September 1, 2019 please plan on bringing your child to one of the free developmental screening clinics at West Salem Elementary School. Early childhood staff and a speech therapist will be available to interact with your child while looking for specific developmental milestones. They will have you fill out a questionnaire regarding your child's development and take the time to discuss all of this with you. Please plan on the whole process taking approximately 45 minutes. Please call Amber Clark at 786-1662 ext 3117 to let us know which date works for you.

Thursday, March 7, from 3:30-5:30 p.m.
OR

Friday, March 8, from 9-11 a.m.

District Announcements



First Class of CNA Students Graduates

Our first class of CNA students recently finished their courses and clinical experience after a semester of learning, and we'd like to congratulate all nine of them for successfully passing the state exam! These students were able to learn and practice their skills three to four times a week in the CNA lab at West Salem High School and then spent many weekends participating in clinical experiences at Lakeview Healthcare Center. Altogether they underwent over 150 hours of training! This class is offered as part of the Health Career Pathways program at WSHS. We'd like to thank Quality CNA for partnering with us on this course, as well as Mrs. Key, Mrs. Stenberg and all other instructors. We're proud to offer programs that benefit our students both in and outside of the classroom, and we're excited to see how this course benefits them in the future. Great job ladies!

Transcript Information

Are you transferring to a different college or do you need a copy of your high school transcript?

WSHS graduates that need a transcript can request one online, or print out an official transcript request form by going to the Student Services page on the district website at www.wsalem.k12.wi.us

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: Eric Jensen, 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.

2019-2020

Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment into the School District of West Salem runs February 4-April 30, 2019. To access the application, and for more information, go to the DPI website at <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>. Students that are currently open-enrolled do not need to reapply.

School Board Members

- Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield ~~~~~799-5313
- Syl Clements ~~~~~ 786-1491
- Jane Halverson ~~~~~ 786-1067
- Ken Schlimgen ~~~~~ 786-4382
- Catherine Griffin ~~~~~ 769-1714
- Tom Grosskopf ~~~~~ 386-0168
- Robin Fitzgerald ~~~~~792-4130

Board meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of every month

District Announcements

Heider Center



The Queen's Cartoonists
"Music from Classic Cartoons"
Tuesday, February 26, 2019
7:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$24/\$22

The Queen's Cartoonists are a group of musicians from New York City that play music from cartoons and the silver screen. Their concerts include virtuosic performances, projections of cartoons with note-for-note live score recreation, multi-instrumental mayhem, singing, and comedy. TQC's concert repertoire features music from the Golden Age of animation, cult cartoon classics, and modern animation. Scott, Carl Stalling, Danny Elfman, Alf Clausen, John Williams, and adaptations from the classical repertoire.

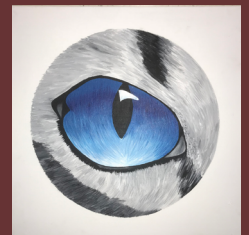
Art Gallery
 Glimpses of La Crosse County
 presented by the West Salem Historical Society



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

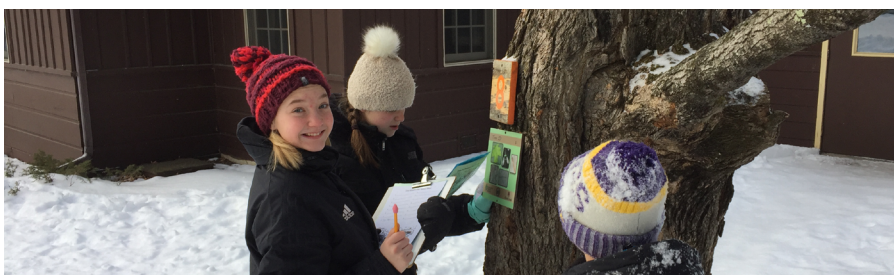
WSHS Art Student of the Month

The West Salem High School Art Department would like to announce that Senior Anna Johnson is the Art Student of the month for February. Anna has been working with oil, acrylic and watercolor paints over her last 4 years. Her work shows the unique style that she has developed, as well as her fearless attitude toward the act of creation. Anna's work will be on display at the Marie W. Hieder Center gallery throughout February.



Trees for Tomorrow

Twelve of our seventh graders, along with Mr. Baker and Mrs. Olson, recently spent a week learning about forest ecology at the annual Trees for Tomorrow trip in Eagle River, Wisconsin. They had a great time learning how to make quality observations within a forest community, how these forests change over time, and different ways to manage a forested area. They also spent time learning to cross country ski and snowshoe in the backcountry! The next step for these kids is to teach what they learned to the rest of the 7th graders while out at our own school forest in a couple of weeks.



Freshman Registration Night

All current 8th grade parents & students should attend to select courses for their Freshman year. Mrs. Arentz and Mrs. Tripp will be available to help guide students and parents through this process, as well as to answer any questions.

Mark your calendars for the following date!

Monday, February 11, 2019
 6:30 p.m. at the Heider Center

Welcome to West Salem!

Since the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, we've had some new faces join our team here at the School District of West Salem! Please join us in giving them a warm welcome, and say hello next time you see them walking around one of the buildings.



Meghan Adams
Middle School
Special Ed



Tara Allind
3rd Grade



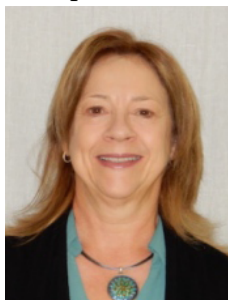
Dayna Andersen
1st Grade



Carly Anderson
District Speech &
Language



Lisa Andresen
High School
Special Ed



Rachel Aspenson
District ESL



Geoffrey Baumann
Athletic Director



Lindsay Becker
Elementary School
Counselor



Nickolas Brandt
High School
Special Ed



Katie Christianson
Kindergarten



Amber Coe
Middle School
Math



Kjerstin Dellenbach
High School
Physical Education



Nicole Finch
Elementary School
Art



Craig Halvorson
Director of
Technology



Allie Hillestad
Elementary School
Special Ed



Raena Housker
Middle School
Special Ed



Michael Johnson
Middle School
Associate Principal



Krista Mead
Elementary
School LMC



Sydney Prom
High School
English



Julie Quackenbush
Elementary
School Special Ed

Welcome to West Salem!

Since the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, we've had some new faces join our team here at the School District of West Salem! Please join us in giving them a warm welcome, and say hello next time you see them walking around one of the buildings.



Lisa Robbins
High School
Special Ed



Emily Rose
Middle School
Spanish



Amy Schmidt
Elementary School
Special Ed



Nic Schmidt
4th Grade



Allison Schullo
High School Math



Deanna Wiatt
Director of
Curriculum & Instruction



Carrie Wilson-Smith
High School Special
Ed



Amanda Bahl
Elementary School
Special Ed Para



Anne Bahr
Elementary School
Cook



Rick Carvalho
Middle School Lead
Custodian



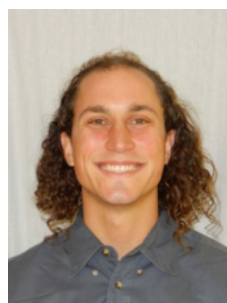
Stephanie Fronk
Elementary School
4K Para



Jessica Hendrickson
Elementary School
Custodian



John Hentges
Bus Driver



Peter Horth
Middle School Para



Morgan Hyatt
District Speech &
Language Para



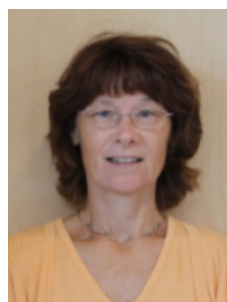
Lori Jambois
Middle School
Special Ed Para



Tiffany Janisch
Middle School
Special Ed Para



Karen Johnson
Middle School
Cook



Sherry Kneifl
Elementary School
Special Ed Para



John Laffey
Elementary School
Custodian

Welcome to West Salem!

Since the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, we've had some new faces join our team here at the School District of West Salem! Please join us in giving them a warm welcome, and say hello next time you see them walking around one of the buildings.



Cassy Lueck
Elementary School
Para



Victoria McVey
Special Ed Bus
Driver



Tricia Mulholland
District Administrative
Assistant



Chris Norman
Bus Driver



Amanda Payne
Van Driver



Adilene Rojas
Middle School
Success Center Para



Michael Schaub
High School
Custodian



Nancy Schlichenmeyer
Elementary School
Cook



Rhonda Schmidt
High School Special
Ed Para



Kristi Schmitz
Middle School
Special Ed Para



Kari Schuster
Elementary School
Para



Alexis Shaw
Elementary School
Cook



Kimberly Sullivan
Elementary School
4K Para



Kathy Wagner
Middle School Cook



Kaila Winters
Elementary
School Para



Michael Winters
High School Para



Jeremy Yachwak
Middle School
Cook

Not Pictured:

Sara Gorniak-High School Cook
Stephanie Sprehn-Elementary School Special Ed Para
George Villarreal-Middle School Custodian
Callie Zwicker-Middle School Special Ed Para

School District of West Salem Special School Board Meeting Minutes January 7, 2019

Marie Heider Meeting Room

6:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Jane Halverson. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee Courier, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe's Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, district office, and delivered to Board Member homes on January 14, 2019. This meeting was at the request of a Board Member.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Ken Schlimgen led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Syl Clements, Jane Halverson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Ben Wopat, Ryan Rieber, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Gunderson reviewed the results of the community survey that was offered to district residents following the failed November 2018 referendum. 643 surveys were completed.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed operational referendum amounts and using the revenue limit worksheets to help project.

Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to go with a 3-year referendum totaling 5,300,000: 2019-2020 - 1,600,000; 2020-2021 - 1,800,000; and 2021-2022 - 1,900,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET TO EXCEED REVENUE LIMIT FOR THREE YEARS FOR NON-RECURRING PURPOSES.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the School District of West Salem, La Crosse County, Wisconsin that the revenues included in the School District budget be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,600,000 for the 2019-2020 school year, by \$1,800,000 for the 2020-2021 school year and by \$1,900,000 for the 2021-2022 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of maintaining educational programming and facilities. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Griffin moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A REFERENDUM ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF THE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET TO EXCEED REVENUE LIMIT FOR THREE YEARS FOR NON-RECURRING PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the School Board of the School District of West Salem, La Crosse County, Wisconsin (the "District"), has heretofore duly adopted a

resolution entitled: "Resolution Authorizing the School District Budget to Exceed Revenue Limit for Three Years for Non-Recurring Purposes" (the "Revenue Limit Resolution"); and

WHEREAS, the School Board deems it to be desirable and in the best interest of the District to direct the District Clerk to submit the question approved in the Revenue Limit Resolution to the electors for approval or rejection at the regularly scheduled election to be held on April 2, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield seconded to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield, Clerk

School District of West Salem Regular School Board Meeting Minutes January 14, 2019

Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Jane Halverson. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee Courier, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe's 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 10, 2019.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Robin Fitzgerald led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Tom Grosskopf recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Syl Clements, Jane Halverson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Robin Fitzgerald, and Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Ben Wopat, Michael Johnson, Eric Jensen, Mike Malott, Ryan Rieber, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representative: Rachel Newton. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Catherine Griffin, Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield, Dagan Hemker.

Approval of Agenda

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

Connection with the Community

Rachel Newton, Student Representative, reported on:

1. A few senior students are organizing and holding a semi-formal winter dance on January 19th.
2. The Link Crew is hosting a cocoa and cram session, mostly for freshman, tomorrow after school to give students a chance to study for finals, with some cocoa.
3. The high school Pep Club held a Christmas Spirit Week before the winter break and sold "candy grams" during lunch for 25 cents.
4. Show Choir competed on January 5th and January 12th.
5. Season updates on Wrestling, girls' and boys' basketball, girls' and boys' hockey, and dance team were provided.

Correspondence

A Proclamation by Tony Evers, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Adult School Crossing Guard Recognition Week, January 14-18, 2019, was read.

Public comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Finance Committee – The committee reviewed the 19-20 budget reductions following the failed referendum, operational referendum planning and the survey results.

Buildings & Grounds Committee – Mr. Clements reported that the committee reviewed the elementary infrastructure project and updates on the building projects.

CESA #4 Board of Control – Mrs. Halverson reported on the Board of Control's meeting events.

District Strategic Initiative updates by the Superintendent Cabinet Team and Mr. Gunderson were reviewed.

Mr. Gunderson announced: the hiring of Jeremy Yackwak as a part-time middle school nutrition services employee.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2018; the Special Board Meeting of January 7, 2019; the invoices to be paid; the Open Enrollment requests as presented with one exception – to deny entrance to the ninth grade student from La Crosse; and to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendations for middle school forensics-Mary Czajka, high school volunteer DECA-Josh Maliszewski, and high school boy's tennis coach-Julie Kamla. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

High School Spanish Teacher Shelly Helland presented the request for the Spanish/Ecology Club trip for the summer of 2020. Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to approve the request by the Spanish/Ecology Club to take a trip to the Dominican Republic in the summer of 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to accept donations from the following:

From the La Crosse County Dairy Promotions for the high school family and consumer education class, from Jon and Lynette Labus for the Angela Labus Scholarship Fund, from Stephen and Deborah Kraus for the Horace Moran Memorial Fund, from Altra Federal Credit union for the Horace Moran Memorial Fund, from Our Saviour's Luthern Church for the Nutrition Services Jane Doe Fund, from Roger Fish for the Nutrition Services Jane Doe Fund, from Dave and Mary Geske for the High School FFA program, from Richard and Lorna Wehrs for the High School FFA program, from the La Crosse County Jeans Day Committee for the middle school Random Acts of Kindness Fund, and from Stella Jones, J&H Hotel Management, Wehrs Machine & Racing Products, Fox Hollow Golf Course, Altra Federal Credit Union, Dick's Pallet Works, Inc. for the Gearbox Heros 5019 Team. Motion carried unanimously.

It was recommended that individual Board members express their concerns regarding the 2019 Delegate Assembly Proposals to Robin Fitzgerald, the Board's Delegate Assembly Representative. No action was taken.

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mr. Clements seconded to approve for a second reading of Board Policy 671.2-Rule Expense Reimbursements. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gunderson and Mr. Jensen reviewed the designation or regular and special education Open Enrollment Spaces for the 2019-2020 school year. No action was taken.

2019-2020 district budget reductions. No action was taken.

Preliminary enrollment, staffing and budget information for 2019-2020. No action was taken.

Public Relations Specialist/Grant Writer Samantha Schmitz was available and shared information on the Operational Referendum communication strategy. No action was taken

Mrs. Fitzgerald moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to approve the Joint Board Agreement with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater La Crosse. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to approve the Early College Credit Alternate Request for the Spring of 2019 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Halverson 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" 1) regarding the superintendent's evaluation, 2) regarding contracts for specific administrative personnel, 3) the performance of a professional staff employee;

And disciplinary data of a student under (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.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 9:30 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Aye; Mr. Clements, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Adjournment

Mrs. Fitzgerald moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to adjourn at 10:13 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Schlimgen, Acting Clerk

NOTICE OF ELECTION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEST SALEM
APRIL 2, 2019

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the School District of West Salem on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, the following question will be submitted to a vote of the people:

“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 \$1,600,000 for the 2019-2020 school year, by \$1,800,000 for the 2020-2021 school year and by \$1,900,000 for the 2021-2022 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of maintaining educational programming and facilities?”

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

Acceptable photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

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

Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield
District Clerk

School District of West Salem
Location and Hours of Polling Place
ALL POLLS OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. AND CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M.

At the Spring Election to be held on April 2, 2019, in the County of La Crosse, the following polling place locations will be used for the Municipalities and Districts

MUNICIPALITY	LOCATION
BANGOR	Town Hall – N4400 State Rd. 162
BARRE	Town Hall – W3541 County Rd. M, La Crosse
BURNS	Town Hall – W1313 Jewett Rd., Bangor
FARMINGTON	Town Hall – N8309 County Rd. C Mindoro
GREENFIELD	Town Hall – N1800 Town Hall Rd, La Crosse (St. Joseph’s Ridge)
HAMILTON	Town Hall – N5105 N Leonard St., West Salem
MEDARY	Town Hall – N3393 Smith Valley Rd., La Crosse
SHELBY	Town Hall – Annex – 2801 Ward Ave., La Crosse
WASHINGTON	Town Hall – Newburgs Corner Hwy 33
VILLAGE OF WEST SALEM	Community Center – 175 South Leonard St., West Salem

The School District of West Salem Board of Education Candidates are Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield, Sean Gavaghan, Ken Schlimgen, and Tom Grosskopf.

ALL POLLING PLACES WILL OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. AND WILL CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M.
All polling places are accessible to elderly and disabled voters.

Go to <https://myvote.wi.gov/> to see if you are registered to vote, locate your polling place, and to find your district.

At the close of voting on Election Day, pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 19.84, the Election Inspectors at each polling place will convene as the Local Canvassing Board for the purpose of conducting the local canvass pursuant to Wis. Stat. §7.51. This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.81-89.

Team 5019 Gearbox Heroes Prepares for Competition

West Salem High School's Team 5019, known as the Gearbox Heroes, has begun preparing for the annual FIRST Robotics Competition. This year's challenge is titled "Deep Space." Each alliance has two rockets and one shuttle on their half of the field. The robots begin each match on raised platforms directly in front of the drivers' stations. The team's robot is currently being designed to fill the rockets with cargo and secure them with hatches. However, as they get into more prototyping and fabrication, that may change slightly. Although

the season has just begun, they have five dedicated teams of students working on various parts for their robot as well as promoting the team. These teams include a CAD team, Programming team, Fabrication team, Electrical team, and Marketing and Media team. The six week build season is full of excitement, frustrations and stress, but the journey is one fun ride! Be sure to check out their website at www.gearboxheroes.org, as well as their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages for updates!



Did You Know?
Sweet potatoes are commonly confused with yams!

Check out videos and photos of the innovative things happening in your student's classroom at our district Facebook page and Twitter page. Our social media features videos of student activities, teacher features, classroom selfie photos, etc...

Check out our Facebook page
@SchoolDistrictofWestSalem
and
Follow us on Twitter



@WestSalemSD



For WSHS athletic events, visit our website:
*click Calendars and then
*click Coulee Conference
You can also set yourself up to receive automatic text or e-mail notifications for any of the activities listed OR subscribe to RSS.



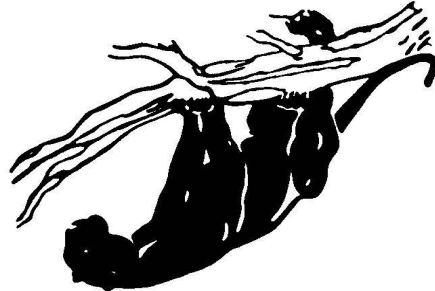
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEST SALEM



Serve With Passion To
Ignite Creativity,
Innovation, and
Excellence



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