

March 2019



Newsletter

School District of West Salem

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Letter from Superintendent Troy Gunderson

Referendum 2019

The School District of West Salem will host a referendum on April 2, 2018 seeking permission to exceed the state-imposed revenue limit for the purpose of funding district operating expenses. Salem. The board is seeking permission to exceed the revenue limit by \$1,600,000 in 2020, \$1,800,000 in 2021, and \$1,900,000 in 2022.

In preparation for the upcoming referendum, the school board remained focused on four key areas:

- I. Maintaining a “West Salem” quality education.**
- II. Limiting the referendum to a 3-year term.**
- III. Identifying how the money will be used.**
- IV. Keeping taxes lower than most area school districts.**

These four key areas guided the school board discussions that lead to the board’s unanimous decision to host a referendum in April. What follows is a brief discussion of each of the four key areas and a list of frequently asked questions.

We invite you to stop by the district booth during Celebrate West Salem in the high school from 11:00am until 2:00pm on Sunday March 17th. The district will also host an open house at the new Panther Den Events Center as part of Celebrate West Salem from 11:00am until 2:00pm.

Thank you for reading,
Troy M. Gunderson

Letter continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

I. Maintaining a “West Salem” Quality Education

Simply put, the school board is requesting additional revenue in order to maintain the wonderful programing 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. From a National Blue Ribbon elementary school and state-of-the-art middle school to a high school filled with opportunities such as college preparatory courses, exit projects, vocational certifications, and co-curricular activities, West Salem is literally second to none. By requesting these additional funds, the district is not proposing anything new, the money will simply allow the great work to continue.

II. Limited to a 3 - Year Term

The school board considered feedback from the recent district survey and revisited budget forecasting information to determine a three-year term to be a prudent approach. The proposal concludes with the 2021-2022 school year and 2022 tax year.

III. How Will the Additional Money be Spent?

The \$1,600,000 requested in the first year will be spent in the following manner:

- \$800,000 to cover the 2018–2019 structural budget deficit
- \$400,000 to cover the annual increase in

salaries and benefits for current staff

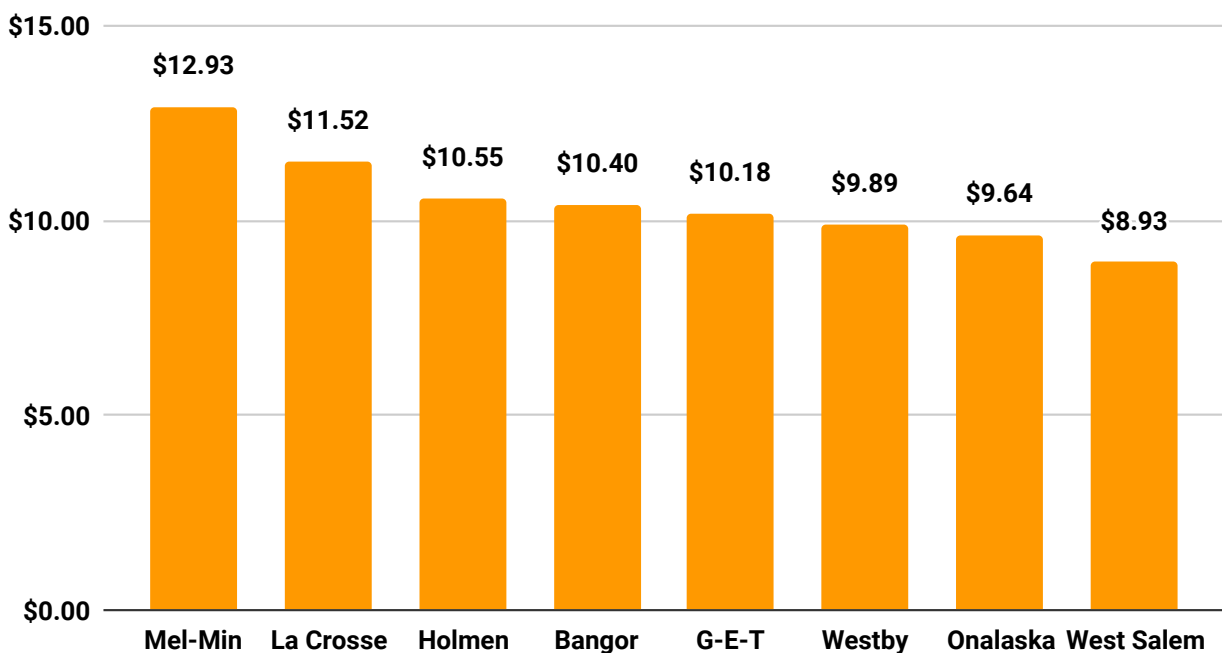
- \$100,000 to restore funding for the annual purchase of a school bus
- \$50,000 to restore funding for maintenance and operations
- \$250,000 to begin saving for a future roof replacement project at the high school estimated to cost \$1,000,000

The dollar amounts increase gradually during the second and third years to offset continued increases in wages and benefits. However, the cost to local tax payers will not increase during the second and third years because additional state aid received as a result of increased expenses will cover the difference.

IV. Keeping Taxes Lower Than the Neighbors

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 \$7.90 per thousand saving tax payers approximately \$100 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 and the average mil rate for the state of Wisconsin is \$9.77. Mill rates for the 2018 tax year for West Salem and our neighboring districts are shown below.

2018 Tax Rates



School District of West Salem

Frequently Asked Questions!

The following is an updated list of questions received as community engagement about the upcoming referendum increases.

What about simply “tightening your belt?”

The district balanced recent annual budgets with reductions to employee benefits, stagnant wages, reduced supply budgets, and delays in purchasing equipment and maintenance items. The 2018 – 2019 budget cycle marked a breaking point as enrollment demands and facility changes required additional staff along with the need to offer regionally competitive compensation packages resulted in wage increases. The resulting 2018–2019 budget includes an \$800,000 deficit. The district is now at a point where additional cuts will directly impact programming and achievement.

As evidence of the school board’s ability to “tighten their belts” during the past five years, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) offers data regarding “Education-Related Expenses.” The statewide data indicates the School District of West Salem ranks as the 25th lowest spending district out of 420 school districts in Wisconsin.

The graph below offers a similar comparison with our neighboring school districts.

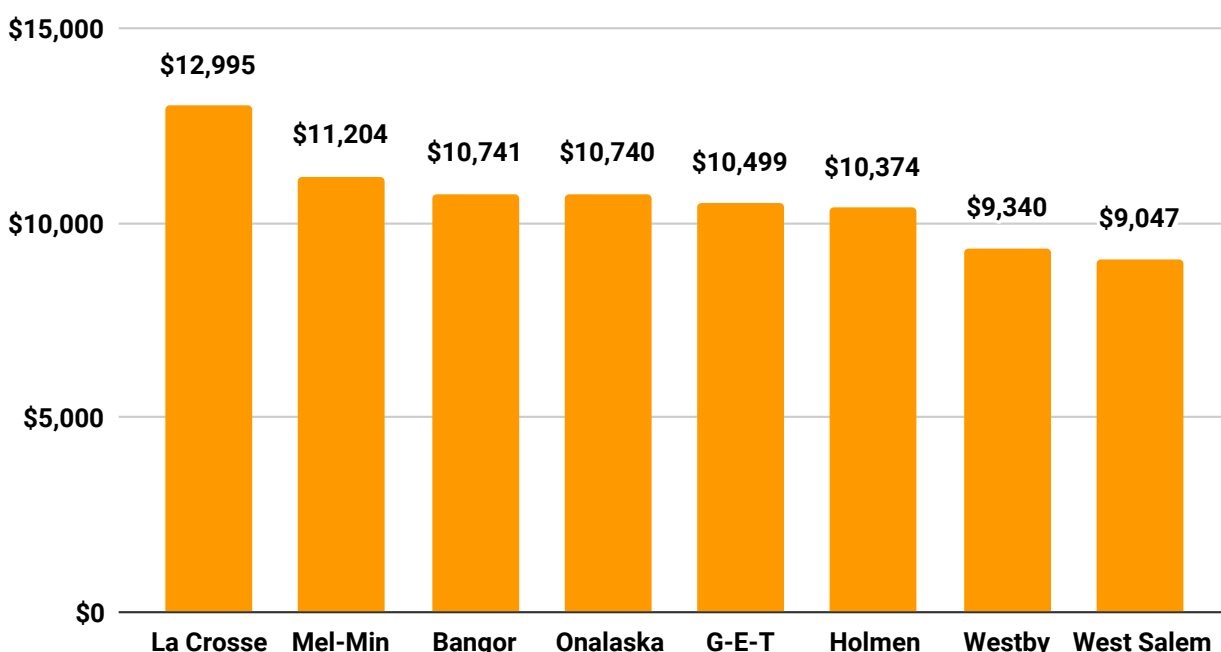
What happens if the referendum fails?

If the referendum fails, the school board will reduce approximately \$1,000,000 from the 2019–2020 school budget. Recently, the board agreed upon a general description for budget reductions. The description includes:

- Increase class sizes in the elementary school by 3–5 students per room to reduce 4–5 teaching positions.
- Eliminate and/or reduce elective programming at the middle and high schools including music lessons, foreign language, physical education, advanced science, at-risk programming, and vocational offerings to reduce 2–3 teaching positions.
- Increase class size by 7-10 students in high school required areas of English, mathematics, and physical education to reduce 2–3 teaching positions.
- Reduce the budgets for staff training and the purchase of equipment and supplies.
- Reduce the budgets and staffing for custodial, maintenance, and clerical assistants.
- Reduce the supervisor/administrative team by one position.

In the end, district students will have fewer choices, attend school in larger classes, and receive fewer services, all while needed updates and repairs to district equipment will be further delayed.

2018 Per Pupil Expenses



School District of West Salem

Frequently Asked Questions continued...

Why does the district need to ask for more money?

The state-imposed revenue limit was initially established to control spending and property tax rates. The plan includes a safe guard provision requiring school districts to host referenda seeking permission to exceed the limit. The School District of West Salem revenue limit has only increased by a cumulative total of 1.4% since 2013. The district is now faced with the dilemma of seeking voter permission to exceed the limit or begin the process of reducing district programming.

How is this different from previous referendums to renovate and expand our facilities?

School districts have two distinct budgets, or pots of money, connected to referendums. One budget is for the annual operation of the organization. The operational budget is used for costs connected to items such as employees, equipment, supplies, and utilities. This is the budget that is controlled by the state-imposed revenue limit and requires a referendum to exceed. The revenue limit for the School District of West Salem has been essentially frozen for the past six years while costs have increased. This is why the school board is now hosting a referendum seeking voter permission to exceed the limit.

The second budget is for the purpose of paying down long term debt much like a “mortgage” payment. This budget is determined by facility referendums which allow school districts to borrow money to finance construction projects. The money from this type of referendum must be spent on the project as described in the election and is paid back over time. Beginning in 2016, the School District of West Salem passed three facility referenda and completed a number of construction projects all financed at historically low rates. The money from these referenda cannot be used for operations.

Will Governor Evers make a difference in our funding?

While the new governor may differ in philosophy from the previous governor, he is still working with essentially the same legislature. Political forecasters suggest the new “divided government” will seek areas of agreement like improving our roads and confronting the opioid crisis while avoiding more divisive issues like funding for public education. Best guess is we will see very little change in funding for public schools in the next budget cycle.

Does the Boys and Girls Club pay to host their new club in our middle school?

Yes. The Boys and Girls Club (BGC) entered into an agreement with the school district regarding the hosting of a club in the district’s newly renovated middle school. First, the BGC donated \$2,500,000 towards the construction of the middle school. This money was paid in full and was spent on the construction project. Second, the BGC agreed to pay 8.5% of the utility costs for the new middle school. The percentage was based upon square footage and hours of use. So, yes, the BGC paid \$2.5 million up front and will pay their share of the utilities moving forward.

Does the WS Hockey Association pay to play in our new Panther Den Events Center?

Yes. The West Salem Hockey Association (WSHA) entered into an agreement with the school district regarding use of the Panther Den Events Center for WSHA practice and events. First, the WSHA donated a chiller, an ice resurfacing machine (Zamboni), a scoreboard, and other miscellaneous equipment along with \$150,000 in cash to assist in the initial opening of the facility. These donations represent a total value of \$350,000. Second, the WSHA agreed to pay 60% of the cost of utilities to operate the new facility during the time when the ice is installed.

Does the district truly have a problem with wages?

Yes. For a number of historical reasons, the School District of West Salem offers lower wages than surrounding school districts. As a point of information, the district uses a cohort of Black River Falls, G-E-T, Holmen, Onalaska, Sparta, and Tomah for wage comparisons. Within this cohort, West Salem’s wage scales are at, or near the bottom, for nearly every category of school district employment. In today’s more fluid and tight employment market, the district must offer more competitive wage rates or run the risk of excessive employee turnover and difficult recruitment.

Calendar of Events March

Athletic Events

Thursday, March 21, 2019

4:00pm Track: Varsity Invitational vs. Bangor, Ellsworth, G-E-T, La Crosse Central, Sparta, Tomah & Viroqua @ St. Mary

Friday, March 22, 2019

5:00pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Cochrane Fountain City @ West Salem High School

Saturday, March 23, 2019

10:00am Soccer: Girls JV Scrimmage vs. Arcadia, Holmen, Logan & Onalaska @ West Salem Elementary School

10:00am Soccer: Girls Varsity Scrimmage vs. Arcadia & Holmen @ West Salem Elementary School

3:00pm Track: Varsity Invitational vs. Adams-Friendship, Aquinas, Black River Falls, Central, Fennimore, Holmen, Logan, Mauston, Neillsville, Nekoosa, Onalaska, Reedsburg, Viroqua @ University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Monday, March 25, 2019

5:00pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua High School

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

5:00pm Baseball: C-Team Game vs. Aquinas @ Riverview Park

5:00pm Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Aquinas @ West Salem High School

7:00pm Soccer: Girls Varsity Game vs. Adams-Friendship @ West Salem High School

Thursday, March 28, 2019

4:30pm Baseball: C-Team Game vs. Holmen @ West Salem High School

4:30pm Baseball: JV Game vs. Holmen @ Viking Field

4:30pm Baseball: Varsity Game vs. Holmen @ West Salem High School

4:30pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Luther @ West Salem High School

5:00pm Soccer: Girls JV Game vs. Melrose-Mindoro @ West Salem Elementary School

7:00pm Soccer: Girls Varsity Game vs. Melrose-Mindoro @ West Salem Elementary School

Friday, March 29, 2019

4:30pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Holmen @ Viking Field

Saturday, March 30, 2019

11:00am Soccer: Girls Varsity Game vs. Edgewood/Belleville/New Glarus @ Edgewood High School

1:00pm Softball: Varsity Game vs. Iola-Scandinavia @ Iola-Scandinavia

3:00pm Soccer: Girls Varsity Game vs. Edgewood/Belleville/New Glarus @ Edgewood High School

Band Events

Sunday, March 3, 2019

7:00am Hamilton in Chicago
Buses leave promptly at 7:00 a.m.
Show begins at 2:00pm with estimated 11:00pm return to West Salem

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

8:00am Piano Solo & Ensemble @ Onalaska Luther High School

Saturday, March 23, 2019

2:00pm Spring Concert Rehearsal
Wind Symphony
6:30pm Spring Concert @ Heider Center
Concert Band and Wind Symphony

Elementary School Events

Monday, March 4, 2019

6:15pm 1st Grade Music Concert @ Heider Center
7:15pm 3rd Grade Music Concert @ Heider Center

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

6:15pm Kindergarten Music Concert @ Heider Center
7:15pm 2nd Grade Music Concert @ Heider Center

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

12:20pm Early Release
Students released at 12:20pm
Buses depart at 12:30pm

Calendar of events continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

Monday, March 18, 2019

6:30pm PTO Science Night @ ES Gym

Middle School Events

Friday, March 1, 2019

8:30am- Winter Wellness Day Field Trips

3:00pm Rescheduled from February 7

Saturday, March 2, 2019

9:30am Middle School Tri-State Honors Band
@ Decorah Middle School

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

All Day Trimester 2 Ends

12:20pm Early Release

Students released at 12:20pm

Buses depart at 12:30pm

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

All Day Trimester 2 Grades Due

7:00pm WSMS Band Extravaganza Concert
featuring Jazz Band and 6th, 7th and 8th
Grade Bands @ New MS Gym

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

8:00am Piano Solo & Ensemble @ Onalaska
Luther High School

Friday, March 15, 2019

All Day 5th Grade DARE Field Trip to
the La Crosse County Jail

High School Events

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

12:20pm Early Release

Students released at 12:20pm

Buses depart at 12:30pm

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

9:00am NHS Blood Drive @ HS LMC

Saturday, March 23, 2019

7:00pm Spring Band & Choir Concert
@ Heider Center

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

All Day Wisconsin Forward Assessment
for Sophomores

Friday, March 29, 2019

All Day End of 3rd Quarter

Reminder Regarding Snow Make-Up Days

In light of recent school cancellations due to weather, district administrators evaluated the school calendar and have made some revisions we need to make you aware of. At this point, we have had seven cancellation days, four of which we are required to make up. March 15 was included in our calendar as a make-up day, so school will now be held this day. In addition, students will also attend classes June 6 and 7. To avoid potentially having to hold school during the second full week of June, the district has decided that school will now be held on March 29, a previously scheduled day off for teacher inservice.

In summary, these snow days will be made up on March 15 and 29 and June 6 and 7 pending any further cancellations. To see a revised school year calendar, please go to the link below. If you have any questions, please let us know.

http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us/uploads/content_files/files/district/web_calendar.pdf

Cyber Corner from the WSSD Tech Department

The WSSD Tech Department will be sharing a monthly Cyber Corner with our readers to inform them about new technology news, tips, and tricks. We hope you enjoy!



A Guide to Parental Controls by Device

Chances are your devices already include robust protection features. You just need to activate (and in some cases download) them. Here's how to do it on the most popular devices:



Browse to the links below for help with Parental Controls for popular mobile devices and gaming systems.

Mobile devices: <https://www.parents.com/parenting/better-parenting/advice/a-guide-to-parental-controls-by-device/>



Gaming systems: <https://www.esrb.org/about/settingcontrols.aspx>

PLEASE NOTE: This content was produced by the WI Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. We (WSSD Technology Department) agree with the mission of this organization and believe their materials can be helpful for children, parents and educators. However, we have not fully tested the recommendations in this guide.

Source: WI ICAC Task Force Community Newsletter

March is Youth Art Month!

March is Youth Art Month in Wisconsin, and to celebrate the West Salem District Art Department presents the Annual K-12 Honors Art Exhibit. This exhibit showcases the talents of our art students from Kindergarten through their Senior year. Over 100 works will be in the Marie W. Heider Gallery from March 1st through the 31st.

There will be a public reception on Thursday, March 21st from 6-7:30pm in the gallery.

The West Salem District Art Department is proud to announce that 12 of our students will have artwork featured at the State Youth Art Month exhibit at the Capitol Rotunda in Madison on April 5th! These students displayed work at the West Central Regional exhibit in Black River Falls, and were chosen to advance to the State Exhibit. The Capitol Rotunda exhibit is an annual event that celebrates the best student artists in the state of Wisconsin. It is attended by artists, teachers, politicians and dignitaries, and features approximately 500 works of student art.



District Announcements



WSES Teacher wins "Tools for Schools"

Anne Skaar, a second grade teacher at West Salem Elementary, was recently awarded the WXOW "Tools for Schools" Award for the month of February. The \$750 award is given by WXOW, Brenengen Auto, Dependable Solutions and S.S.E. Music to one deserving teacher in our area every month to fund a project that will impact student learning both now and in the future. Her class received a visit from the sponsors where they presented her with a check and visited with her students. Mrs. Skaar will use the award to purchase rock tumbling supplies and books for her class, so that they can learn about weathering, erosion and other natural processes revolving around geology. We'd like to thank all of the generous sponsors for their support of our area teachers and congratulate Mrs. Skaar on winning this well-deserved award!

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



Sail On: A Beach Boys Tribute
Friday, March 8, 2019
7:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$24/\$22



Art Gallery
K-12 West Salem District
Honors Show
March 1-29, 2019

Art Reception
Thursday, March 21, 2019
6:00-7:30pm

Dallas String Quartet (DSQ Electric)
Thursday, March 28, 2019
7:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$24/\$22



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

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.

WSMS Mathcounts Competes at Regionals

WSMS students competed in the regional Mathcounts competition on Wednesday, February 6th in La Crosse. There were 51 competitors representing eight different schools. West Salem placed 1st as a team, followed by Onalaska and Holmen. Other schools participating were Viroqua, Prairie du Chien Bluff View, Ithaca, Richland Center St. Mary of the Assumption, and Wauzeka-Steuben. West Salem's team consisted of Brennan Holst, Celia Mitchell, Jackson Fry, and Alyssa Kruse. The team had three individuals place within the top ten, including Jackson Fry in 6th place, Celia Mitchell in 3rd place and Brennan Holst in 1st place.



Also competing for West Salem were Haley Chandler in 12th place (tie), Andy Johnson and Alyssa Kruse in 14th place (tie), Reece Sackett and Xavier Valdez in 20th place (tie), Peter Lattos in 24th place (tie), and Amalia Hemker in 34th place. Mathcounts is a national program designed to promote excellence in math and science in grades 6-8. It allows students to improve their problem solving skills as individuals, as well as in teams. West Salem's team of four advances to the State Competition on March 2 in Sheboygan. West Salem's coaches are Tammy Bentzen and Sarah Weber.

Looking for Donations

Mr. Running and Mr. Mahlum are looking for any youth golf club donations. Clubs can be individual clubs or youth sets. They can be dropped off at the middle school or pick-up can be arranged.


Please call the middle school at (608)-786-2090 with questions or email Mr. Running at running.justin@wsalem.k12.wi.us or Mr. Mahlum at mahlum.jason@wsalem.k12.wi.us. Thank you for supporting our youth!




Community Events

JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE AT THE

Panther Den!



Stop by during Celebrate West Salem!
Sunday, March 17, 2019
11 a.m.-2 p.m.



BLOOD DRIVE

West Salem High School Blood Drive

National Honor Society
Thursday, March 14
8:30 AM - 2:00 PM



Location: Library/EMC

All donors will receive a t-shirt! Help save up to 3 lives with each blood donation! Be A Hero!!

Please visit bit.ly/WestSalem2019 to schedule an appointment or call 877-232-4376.

Appointments encouraged.
Open to the Public.

bcw.edu
Please bring a photo ID with your birth date

 [facebook/bloodcenterofwisconsin](https://www.facebook.com/bloodcenterofwisconsin)
 [twitter/bloodcenterwi](https://twitter.com/bloodcenterwi)

#ImAHero
Post your selfie on BloodCenter of Wisconsin's facebook page or twitter with #ImAHero

Be a Hero, Donate Blood

BLOODCENTER
of WISCONSIN™
PART OF VERSITI

Celebrate

WEST SALEM

BUSINESS EXPO

Sunday, March 17, 2019
West Salem High School
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Celebrate West Salem is a community wide event being held Sunday, March 17, 2019, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at West Salem High School. This event will bring together local businesses, educational institutions, and civic organizations of all sizes to showcase their products and services, as well as to celebrate the community we live in.

School District of West Salem Regular School Board Meeting Minutes January 28, 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 24, 2019.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Mike Malott 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, Eric Jensen, Mike Malott, Justin Jehn, Ryan Rieber, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Rachel Newton and Dagan Hemker. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr.

Approval of Agenda

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

Connection with the Community

Dagan Hemker, Student Representative reported on:

1. The high school show choir performed in Bloomington, MN on January 19. They tied for 6th place.
2. The show choir extravaganza took place this past Friday and Saturday night at the Heider Center. All show choirs performed and several soloists performed. Both nights had an outstanding attendance.

Rachel Newton, Student Representative reported on:

1. Dance team placed 2nd in poms and jazz and will be heading to state.
2. Girls' Basketball has won one game and lost one.
3. Boys' Basketball has lost two and tied one.
4. Wrestling lost their last dual meet.

Correspondence – None.

Public comments

Cristina Toro, foreign exchange student and Jacki Hickey, host parent, asked the Board to consider their request for Cristina to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Written and Oral Reports

Policy Committee- Mrs. Griffin reported on the committee's meeting earlier this evening.

District Strategic Initiatives update by the Business Operations Team and Troy Gunderson were reviewed.

A review of the high school Health Career Pathway program was provided by high school teachers Jennifer Stenberg, Antoinette Key, Pamela Hansen, and Amy Hanson.

Director of Finance Shawn Handland provided a summary of the 17-18 financial audit report and provided the Board a copy of the full audit.

Board members Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield, Catherine Griffin, Jane Halverson, Robin Fitzgerald, Syl Clements, and Superintendent Troy Gunderson shared highlights from the 2019 Education Convention.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2019, and the invoices to be paid. Motion carried. 5-Aye, 0-Nay, 2-Abstained (Mrs. Griffin and Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield)

Discussion/Action Items:

Mrs. Griffin moved, Mr. Clements seconded to approve the Strategic Planning for 2019 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Griffin moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to accept the administration's request and approve a part-time paraprofessional at the elementary school. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Griffin moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to accept the administration's recommendation to approve the Open Enrollment space determinations for special education for the 2019-2020 school year as follows:

- Elementary Intellectual Disability/Autism: 1
- Elementary Early Childhood: 2
- Middle School emotional Behavioral Disability: 6
- High School Cross Categorical: 2
- High School Emotional Behavioral Disability: 3
- Programs/grade level not listed: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Finance Committee process and budget reductions for the 19-20 school year. No action was taken.

Operational Referendum communication strategy. No action was taken.

Contracts for administrators. No action was taken.

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" regarding the superintendent's evaluation, and regarding contracts for specific administrative personnel.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Clements seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 10:00 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield, Aye; Mr. Clements, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Adjournment

Mrs. Griffin moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to adjourn at 11:05 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield, Clerk

School District of West Salem Regular School Board Meeting Minutes February 11, 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 February 7, 2019.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Rachel Newton led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Dagan Hemker recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Syl Clements, Jane Halverson, Ken Schlimgen, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Ben Wopat, Mike Malott (7:31), Ryan Rieber, and Deanna Wiatt; Student representatives: Rachel Newton and Dagan Hemker. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Tom Grosskopf, Eric Jensen and Shawn Handland.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of a TIF Report by Mr. Schlimgen under II. Connection with the community, d. Reports #6. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Student Representative Rachel Newton reported on:

1. Girls basketball has won 3 games
2. Boys basketball has won 2 and lost 1
3. Wrestling placed 3rd at their conference tournament on February 2nd
 - Joe Hess had his 100th career win
 - Aaron Bahr became the all-time wins leader with his 168th career win
4. Placed 2nd at the regional tournament on the 9th
 - Six wrestlers qualified for sectionals this upcoming Saturday
 - Evan Wolfe, Dalton Schams, Aaron Bahr, and Joe Hess were tournament champions
 - Carlyle Lyga and Dylan Noel both took 2nd

Student Representative Dagan Hemker reported on:

1. DECA chapter went to a Milwaukee Bucks game on February 9th
2. Show choir placed 5th (singsations) and 6th (vivace) in Eau Claire on February 2nd
 - Josie Hanson won best female soloist (February 2nd)
 - Finished their season on Saturday (February 9th) at a competition at Logan HS

Correspondence

A letter of congratulations to Ryan Waldhart from Alden "Buz" Hoefer was read.

Public comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Transportation Committee – Mr. Schlimgen reported on the committee's last meeting.

Finance Committee – Mrs. Griffin reported on the committee's last meeting.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Griffin reported on the committee's last meeting.

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

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

TIF District – Mr. Schlimgen reported that he attended the meeting with the Village of West Salem about the TIF District.

Members of the West Salem High School DECA club and DECA Advisor Jason Holter presented information on the recent competition and introduced the club's officers. DECA Officers: Danielle Miller, Julia Stoleson, Kendra Ames, Abby Sharp, Carissa Hass, and Kylie Wright. Max Schumacher was also in attendance as he and Julia Stoleson will both be running for a state office.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2019, and the invoices to be paid. Motion carried unanimously. There were no resignations to act upon.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to accept donations from Leegar Roofing for the Nutrition Services Jane Doe account, from Ashley for the Arts for the dance team and the swim team, from Dennis and Barbara Manthei for the scholarship fund, from the family of Nicholas and JoAnne Quinn for the scholarship fund, and from the La Crosse County Dairy Promotions for the high school Family and Consumer Education program. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget reductions for the 2019-2020 school year – No action was taken.

Board development session. A discussion was held and more discussion will be held at an upcoming Board Retreat to be scheduled. No action was taken.

Review list of action/to do items and process for updating the list – No action was taken.

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" regarding administrator contract extensions and an employee performance concern.

Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:29 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield, Aye; Mr. Clements, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield, 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.

Working and Learning Together

Throughout the year, 8th graders have given up their Panther Time to be peer mentors and buddies to friends in a physical education class that combines all skill levels and abilities. In Ms. Becker's Unified PE, students of all abilities work together to problem solve, communicate, and build friendships with others who may be unlike them. In this class, students have learned various lifetime activities, danced, and participated in fitness activities. Most importantly; however, students have learned how to work cooperatively, communicate in a

variety of ways, accept all abilities, and lead by example. Ms. Becker had such a wonderful response when she asked 8th graders if they wanted to be involved that she had to split them into three separate groups. As you can see, they are all having a great time! Unified PE has provided students with many life lessons as well as many new friends! Thank you to Ms. Becker for providing such a wonderful opportunity for our students. This class is truly an example of serving with passion!



Did You Know?
Edamame is considered a protein food and a vegetable by the USDA!

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

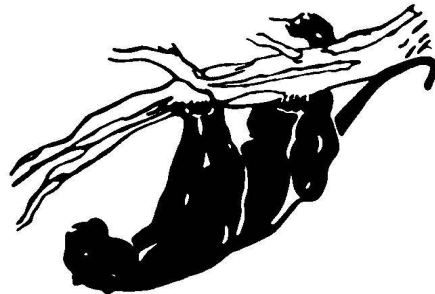


Serve With Passion To
Ignite Creativity,
Innovation, and
Excellence



Current Resident
School District of West Salem
West Salem, WI 54669

#WeAreWS



School District of West Salem
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West Salem, WI 54669

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