

April 2026

# WS Newsletter

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## Letter from Superintendent Ryan

### A Time of Reflection & Renewal

April is a time of year that invites both reflection and renewal, when the hard work of winter begins to show signs of growth and the promise of spring reminds us of what is possible. As Aristotle once shared, “Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution.” That excellence has been on full display across our schools this past month. From the surprising run to the state tournament by our boys’ basketball team, to our middle school

students presenting Shrek Jr., to our spring performances across our buildings, to the recent completion of the ACT exam by our junior class. We commend them for their dedication and preparation, and, more importantly, for giving their very best. As Vince Lombardi reminds us, “The quality of a person’s life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field.” We are proud of our students for embracing that mindset.

Looking ahead, the standardized testing season is also upon us and

Letter continues on next page...

### School District of West Salem

will take place across all buildings in April. These assessments provide valuable insight into student growth and help guide our instructional practices. More than anything, they reflect perseverance and progress. As Carol Dweck emphasizes through her work on growth mindset, effort and resilience are what truly drive success.

Our middle school students will once again take part in their annual village clean-up as part of our servant leadership initiatives. This meaningful tradition allows students to give back and take pride in their community. We are incredibly proud of our students for living out this message through their actions.

Across the district, our construction projects continue to make exciting progress. At the elementary school, concrete flooring has been poured in the gym, hallway, and storage areas, with interior work set to begin in early April. While this phase may bring minor disruptions, it also brings us closer to a space that will serve our students for years to come. We appreciate the flexibility and optimism of our staff as we move forward together.

Work at the high school is also progressing well and remains on

schedule, with a projected completion at the end of the first semester of the 2026–27 school year. With foundations in place and steel beams arriving, the vision is steadily becoming a reality. Interior work, which includes renovating our current fitness center to improve the PE and wrestling facilities, will begin in April, along with the addition of a new greenhouse in the interior courtyard. This space will provide hands-on learning opportunities connected to our science classrooms, enhancing programs like aquaponics and environmental studies. These investments reflect our commitment to preparing students for a dynamic and evolving future.

March was Youth Art Month, and we are excited to celebrate our students' creativity at the April 13th Board meeting. Selected artwork will be displayed in the Heider Meeting Room for the coming year. This is always a highlight, an opportunity to recognize the incredible talents of our students and welcome their families into a moment of pride and celebration. As Pablo Picasso once said, "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up." Our students remind us each day of the beauty of creativity

and expression.

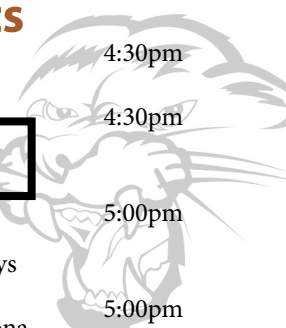
April truly is a month of transitions, moving from winter to spring, from preparation to celebration, and from one chapter of the school year to the next. Seniors are preparing to present their Panther Portfolio projects, students are completing assessments, and the anticipation of summer grows a little stronger each day. With these transitions come opportunities for reflection, growth, and celebration.

As Maya Angelou wisely said, “Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.” This captures the heart of what we strive for each day, continuous growth, for our students and for ourselves.

Thank you for your ongoing support, partnership, and commitment to our schools. We are grateful for each of you and all that you do to make our community such a special place. Wishing you a wonderful start to spring.

Ryan Rieber  
Superintendent

# Calendar of Events April



## Athletic Events

### Thursday, April 2, 2026

3:00pm

Track: Girls & Boys Varsity Invite vs. Abbotsford, Altoona, Amery, Arcadia, Barron Area, Bloomer, Butternut, Cadott, Chetek-Weyerhauser, Chippewa Falls, Cochrane-Fountain City, Colfax, Cornell, Cumberland, Eau Claire North, Fall Creek, Flambeau, Holmen, Independence/Gilmanton, Lakeland Union, Marshfield, Medford, Menomonie, Mondovi, New Auburn, Onalaska, Osceola, Owen-Withee, Pepin, Prairie Farm, Prescott, Rice Lake, Shell Lake, St. Croix Falls, Stanley-Boyd, Tomah, Turtle Lake, Viroqua, Wausau East & Wonewoc Center @ UW-Stout

4:00pm

Golf: Boys Varsity Invite vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, Galesville -Ettrick-Trempealeau, Hillsboro, Holmen, Luther, Sparta, Tomah & Westby Area High

4:30pm

4:30pm

5:00pm

5:00pm

7:00pm

### Saturday, April 4, 2026

5:00pm

School @ Fox Hollow Golf Course  
Baseball: JV Game vs. Logan @ Carroll Park  
Baseball: Varsity Game vs. Logan @ Logan High School  
Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Arcadia @ Arcadia High School  
Soccer: Girls JV Match vs. Baldwin-Woodville @ Baldwin-Woodville High School King Field  
Soccer: Girls Varsity Match vs. Baldwin-Woodville @ Baldwin-Woodville High School King Field

Track: Girls & Boys Varsity Invitational vs. Abbotsford, Appleton West, D.C. Everest, Fond du Lac, Lodi, Madison La Follette, Madison West, Marshfield, Medford, Milwaukee King, Milwaukee Reagan, Mosinee, Mount Horeb, Mukwonago, Necedah, New London, Notre Dame, Rhinelander, Shorewood, Stevens Point Area Senior, Sun Prairie West, Three Lakes, Tomahawk, Valley Christian, Watertown, Wausau West & Wauwatosa East @ UWSP Multi-Activity Center (MAC)

Calendar of events continues on next page...

## School District of West Salem

### Tuesday, April 7, 2026

- 4:30pm Tennis: Boys Varsity Scrimmage vs. Tomah @ Tomah La Grange Elementary
- 5:00pm Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Black River Falls @ West Salem High School
- 5:00pm Softball: JV Game vs. Black River Falls @ West Salem High School Softball Fields
- 5:30pm Tennis: Boys JV Scrimmage vs. Tomah @ Tomah La Grange Elementary

### Thursday, April 9, 2026

- 4:15pm Tennis: Boys JV/Varsity Match vs. Altoona @ Altoona Tennis Courts
- 5:00pm Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Black River Falls @ Black River Falls High School
- 5:00pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Black River Falls @ Red Creek Softball Fields

### Friday, April 10, 2026

- 4:00pm Tennis: Boys Varsity Invitational vs. Aquinas @ Green Island Tennis Courts
- 4:00pm Track: Varsity Meet vs. Arcadia, G-E-T & Holmen @ G-E-T High School
- 5:00pm Soccer: Girls Varsity Game vs. Madison West @ Madison College

### Saturday, April 11, 2026

- 10:00am Tennis: Boys Varsity Invite vs. Central @ Central High School
- 1:00pm Tennis: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Logan @ Logan High School
- 4:00pm Tennis: Boys Varsity Match vs. Onalaska @ Green Island Tennis Courts

### Monday, April 13, 2026

- 4:00pm Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Royall, Luther & Westby-Viroqua @ Coulee Golf Bowl
- 5:00pm Baseball: JV Game vs. Luther @ Onalaska Reserve Field School
- 5:00pm Baseball: Varsity Game vs. Luther @ Luther High School
- 5:00pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Luther @ Luther High School

### Tuesday, April 14, 2026

- 4:00pm Track: Varsity Invitational vs. Aquinas, Arcadia, Black River Falls, Central, G-E-T, Holmen, Logan, Luther, Onalaska, Sparta, Tomah, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ Onalaska High

## School District of West Salem

- 4:00pm Soccer: Girls Varsity  
Match vs. Tomah  
@ Tomah Veteran's Park  
Field
- 5:00pm Baseball: JV/Varsity  
Game vs. Onalaska  
@ West Salem  
High School
- 5:45pm Soccer: Girls JV Match  
vs. Tomah @ Tomah  
Veteran's Park Field

### Thursday, April 16, 2026

- 4:00pm Golf: Boys JV Meet  
vs. Arcadia, Black  
River Falls, G-E-T,  
Hillsboro-Royall,  
Luther & Westby-  
Viroqua @ Arcadia  
Country Club
- 5:00pm Baseball: JV/Varsity  
Game vs. Luther  
@ West Salem  
High School
- 5:00pm Softball: JV Game vs.  
Luther @ West Salem  
High School Softball  
Fields
- 5:00pm Soccer: Girls JV Match  
vs. Onalaska @ West  
Salem High School
- 7:00pm Soccer: Girls Varsity  
Match vs. Onalaska  
@ West Salem High  
School

### Friday, April 17, 2026

- 12:00pm Tennis: Boys Varsity  
Quad vs. De Forest, La  
Crosse Lightning &  
Waunakee @ DeForest  
High School
- 4:00pm Golf: Boys JV Dual  
Meet vs. Sparta  
@ Sparta - River Run  
Golf Course

### Saturday, April 18, 2026

- 10:00am Softball: Varsity  
Triangular vs.  
Baldwin-Woodville &  
Spooner @ Mill Pond  
Park Baseball/Softball  
Field #4
- 10:00am Tennis: Boys Varsity  
Invitational vs.  
Ashland, Chippewa  
Falls, Eau Claire North,  
Ellsworth, Tomah,  
Wausau East & Wausau  
West @ Eau Claire  
North High School
- 10:00am Soccer: Girls JV Game  
vs. Assumption Catholic  
@ West Salem High  
School
- 12:00pm Soccer: Girls Varsity  
Game vs. Assumption  
Catholic @ West Salem  
High School

### Monday, April 20, 2026

- 5:00pm Baseball: JV/Varsity  
Game vs. Westby Area  
High School @ Westby  
City Field
- 5:00pm Softball: JV/Varsity  
Game vs. Westby Area  
High School @ Westby  
High School

### Tuesday, April 21, 2026

- 10:45am Golf: Boys Varsity  
Tournament vs.  
Adams-Friendship,  
Amherst, Baraboo,  
Black River Falls,  
Chippewa Falls, DC  
Everest, Marathon,  
Marshfield, Mauston,  
Nekoosa, Newman  
Catholic, Reedsburg,  
Sauk Prairie, Stevens  
Point Area Senior,

## School District of West Salem

	Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln & Wittenberg- Birnamwood @ Sand Valley Golf Resort		Bruce, Cameron, Chippewa Falls, Cochrane-Fountain City, Durand- Arkansaw, Eau Claire Memorial, Eau Claire North, Independence /Gilmanton, Menomonie, Mondovi, New Richmond, Osceola, Phillips, Rice Lake & St. Croix Central @ UW-Eau Claire
4:00pm	Track: Girls & Boys Varsity Invite vs. Arcadia, G-E-T, La Crescent-Hokah, Logan & Tomah @ Logan High School		
4:00pm	Soccer: Girls Varsity Match vs. Holmen @ Holmen High School		
4:30pm	Tennis: Boys Varsity Dual Meet vs. Holmen @ West Salem High School		
5:45pm	Soccer: Girls JV Match vs. Holmen @ Holmen High School		
<b>Thursday, April 23, 2026</b>			
3:30pm	Track: Varsity Invite vs. Altoona, Arcadia, Elk Mound, Fall Creek, La Crosse Central, Mondovi & Neillsville @ Arcadia High School		
5:00pm	Soccer: Girls JV Match vs. Sparta @ West Salem High School		
7:00pm	Soccer: Girls Varsity Match vs. Sparta @ West Salem High School		
<b>Friday, April 24, 2026</b>			
TBD	Track: Boys Varsity Invitational vs. Alma, Baldwin-Woodville, Bloomer, Boyceville,		
		<b>Saturday, April 25, 2026</b>	
		9:00am	Softball: Varsity Invitational vs. Logan, Merrill, Portage & Poynette @ Portage High School
		9:00am	Track: Girls & Boys Varsity Invitational vs. Adams- Friendship, Altoona, Aquinas, Ashland, Bangor, Cadott, Cashton, Central, Colfax, Durand-Arkansaw, Edgar, Hayward, Holmen, Hudson, La Courte Oreilles Ojibwe, Lancaster, Logan, Luther, Mauston, Melrose-Mindoro, Necedah, Onalaska, Osseo-Fairchild, Prairie du Chien, Providence Academy, The Prairie & Winona Senior @ University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

**School District of West Salem**

10:00am Golf: Boys Varsity Invitational vs. Aquinas, Arcadia, Baraboo, Central, Cochrane-Fountain City, G-E-T, Hillsboro, Holmen, Luther, Marshfield, Mosinee, Onalaska, Osseo-Fairchild, Sparta & Tomah @ Sparta River Run Golf Course

11:00am Soccer: Girls JV Game vs. Rice Lake @ West Salem High School

1:00pm Soccer: Girls Varsity Game vs. Rice Lake @ West Salem High School

**Monday, April 27, 2026**

4:00pm Golf: Boys JV Meet vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Royall, Luther & Westby-Viroqua @ Coulee Golf Bowl

5:00pm Baseball: JV Game vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua High School Mason (BB) Field

5:00pm Baseball: Varsity Game vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua High School Park Bowl Baseball

5:00pm Softball: JV Game vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua High School Roo (SB) Field

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

**Tuesday, April 28, 2026**

4:00pm Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Royall, Luther & Westby-Viroqua @ Fox Hollow Golf Course

4:00pm Tennis: Boys Varsity Match vs. Viroqua @ West Salem High School

4:00pm Track: Boys & Girls Varsity Invitational vs. Aquinas, Central, Holmen, Luther, Mauston, Onalaska, Providence & Tomah @ Onalaska High School

5:00pm Soccer: Girls JV Match vs. Central High School @ West Salem High School

7:00pm Soccer: Girls Varsity Match vs. Central High School @ West Salem High School

**Thursday, April 30, 2026**

4:00pm Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Royall, Luther & Westby-Viroqua @ Ettrick Golf Course

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

## School District of West Salem

- 5:00pm Softball: JV/Varsity  
Game vs. Viroqua  
@ West Salem High  
School
- 5:00pm Soccer: Girls JV  
Match vs. Aquinas  
@ Field for Kids
- 7:00pm Soccer: Girls Varsity  
Match vs. Aquinas  
@ Field for Kids

### Band Events

#### Saturday, April 18, 2026

- TBD Jazz Band  
Performance  
@ Stoney Creek  
Inn

### Elementary School Events

#### Thursday, April 2, 2026

- All Day No School-Snow Day  
Makeup Day

#### Friday, April 3, 2026

- All Day No School-Easter  
Break

#### Monday, April 6, 2026

- All Day No School-Easter  
Break

#### Wednesday, April 8, 2026

- 8:45am Kindergarten to Play  
@ Viterbo University

#### Thursday, April 9, 2026

- 7:20am Walking School Bus  
Meet at the corner of  
N. Tilson &  
W. Hamlin Streets

#### Friday, April 17, 2026

- 7:20am Walking School Bus  
Meet at the corner of  
N. Tilson &  
W. Hamlin Streets

#### Wednesday, April 22, 2026

- 8:30am 4th Grade to the OEC

#### Thursday, April 23, 2026

- 7:20am Walking School Bus  
Meet at the corner of  
N. Tilson &  
W. Hamlin Streets
- 8:30am 4th Grade to the OEC

#### Friday, April 24, 2026

- 8:30am 4th Grade to the OEC

#### Monday, April 27, 2026

- 8:20am 3rd Grade to the  
National Eagle  
Center
- 8:30am Kindergarten to the  
OEC  
Hickey & Wagner

#### Tuesday, April 28, 2026

- 8:30am Kindergarten to the  
OEC  
Grams & Passehl

#### Wednesday, April 29, 2026

- 8:30am Kindergarten to the  
OEC  
Wheeler &  
Christianson

#### Thursday, April 30, 2026

- 8:30am 1st Grade to the  
OEC

### Middle School Events

#### Thursday, April 2, 2026

- All Day No School-Snow Day  
Makeup Day

#### Friday, April 3, 2026

- All Day No School-Easter  
Break

#### Monday, April 6, 2026

- All Day No School-Easter  
Break

**School District of West Salem**

**Tuesday, April 7-Friday, April 11, 2026**

All Day 6th & 7th Grade  
Forward Testing

**Monday, April 13-Friday, April 17, 2026**

All Day 5th & 8th Grade  
Forward Testing

**Friday, April 17, 2026**

All Day Trimester 3 Mid-Term

**Monday, April 20, 2026**

All Day Trimester 3 Mid-Term  
Grades Due

**Monday, April 6, 2026**

All Day No School-Easter  
Break

**Friday, April 10, 2026**

8:00am Pre-ACT Testing for  
Freshmen &  
Sophomores

**High School Events**

**Thursday, April 2, 2026**

All Day No School-Snow Day  
Makeup Day

**Friday, April 3, 2026**

All Day No School-Easter  
Break

**Classes run  
July 6-24,  
2026**



**SUMMER  
SCHOOL &  
SWIMMING  
LESSON  
REGISTRATION**

OPENS APRIL 13

**Grades K-8  
Register via Skyward for  
classes & Sign-Up Genius  
for swimming lessons**

# Panther Pride



## A Taste of a New Culture

Spanish IV students are reading a book called "Libertad" based on a true story about a man's journey to find freedom during Castro's Revolution in Cuba. To learn more about the culture, they put their cooking skills to the test as they made some Cuban cuisine, including black beans over rice, yuca fries, papaya, and tamarindo juice! What a delicious way to learn!



# District Announcements



## Superintendent for a Day!

As part of the West Salem Elementary PTO's recent fundraiser, one lucky student was able to win the opportunity to be "Superintendent for a Day" and shadow Mr. Rieber! The lucky winner was Lilia, a 3rd grade student in Ms. Stencel's class. She got to shadow Mr. Rieber and learn all about the day to day workings of the school district, check out some of the construction projects, meet with staff members and community partners, write some very important emails, and even get ice cream for her whole class and declare a Pajama Day at West Salem Elementary! We'd say she had a very successful day!



## School Board Members

- Catherine Griffin, President ~~~~~(608) 769-1714
- Erik Peterson, Vice President ~~~~~ (608) 792-5370
- Trish Harman, Treasurer ~~~~~(608) 332-9222
- Caitlin Wilson, Clerk~~~~~ (608)780-3836
- Bob Minard, Director~~~~~(608)786-9998
- Ben Garbers, Director~~~~~(608) 498-9510
- Jennifer Hatz, Director~~~~~(608) 317-3115

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

# District Announcements

## Heider Center



### Art Gallery

K-12 Honors Exhibit  
Runs March 2-April 10, 2026

Senior Art Exhibit  
Runs April 13-May 15, 2026  
Reception: Thursday, May 14  
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Box Office Hours  
(608) 786-2550  
Monday &  
Thursday: 1:30 to  
4:00 p.m.  
[www.heidercenter.org](http://www.heidercenter.org)

### Sons of Serendip

Saturday, April 25, 2026

7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$28/\$26/\$10

Billboard charting classical crossover quartet, Sons of Serendip won the hearts of fans and judges alike as finalists on America's Got Talent (NBC) with their ethereal and emotionally stirring interpretations of pop music, arranged with a unique blend of vocals, harp, piano, and cello.



### Americans Go West

Our 2nd graders recently learned about Westward Expansion in America and as a fun way to wrap up their unit, they were able to participate in three historically accurate stations and could also dress up as someone from the 1800s. The stations including mining for gold, making a covered wagon and playing a Pony Express game. It was a great way to conclude their unit and Mr. Hubing even got in on the gold mining!



### Looking for Important Dates?

The district school year calendar, as well as individual building events and athletic events can all be found on our district website. Go to [www.wsalem.k12.wi.us](http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us) and navigate to the top right corner and click on the calendar icon. From here, you can view the school year calendar, Coulee Conference Athletic calendar, Mississippi Valley Athletic calendar, and individual building events.





# REFERENDUM PROJECT UPDATES

## What is Happening with the Construction Projects?

The West Salem School District referendum projects continue to move forward, and it's been exciting to watch the momentum build across the District. Each week brings visible progress—whether it's the new addition at the HS or the added gymnasium at the Elementary. We continue to see spaces taking shape, behind the scenes work is moving forward, and sub-contractors are gearing up for the next phases of work.



### Elementary School

Construction is now approximately 42% complete. Over the past few weeks, crews have made steady progress on several key work scopes of the gym addition. Roof drains and storm piping have been installed, helping prepare the building for long term durability and proper water management. Exterior wood blocking is now in place, and sub-contractors have completed the exterior framing and sheathing, giving the structure its shape. The weather barrier has been applied and spray foam insulation has been added, and the addition is now better protected from the elements as work continues inside and out.



### High School

Construction is approximately 14% complete. Progress on the high school has continued, though productivity has been somewhat limited due to encountering unsuitable soils. Even with that challenge, crews have completed several important tasks, including installing the retaining wall drain tile and completing the backfill. The team also finished the preload for the Area I (CTE addition) building pad, setting the stage for the next phases of construction as conditions stabilize.



### Work Upcoming

At the elementary site, crews will focus on setting up temporary heating to continue to support the upcoming tasks. The next milestone tasks include pouring the interior concrete slabs, installing the mezzanine stairs and railings, and building the CMU partition wall as interior spaces continue to take shape. In the weeks ahead at the high school site, crews will begin installing the pad footings, piers, and backfill in Area I, setting the groundwork for future construction. Structural steel columns and beams are also scheduled to go up in Area H (fitness addition), and teams will start work on the sanitary sewer mains in Area I.

To stay up to date on the current project site, the District and KA have set up a time-lapse camera to catch all day-to-day updates on site. This is located on the District webpage which can be found at [bit.ly/WSconstruction](http://bit.ly/WSconstruction). Check it out!

## School District of West Salem

### School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2026

Marie Heider Meeting Room

7:00 p.m

#### Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Catherine Griffin. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee Courier, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district website, and district office on February 19, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag  
Alex Hubing led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Ben Wopat recited the District Mission Statement.

#### Roll Call

Present: Catherine Griffin, Caitlin Wilson, Ben Garbers and Jennifer Hatz. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Justin Jehn, Alex Hubing, Ben Wopat and Alyssa Harlan; Student representatives: Lydia Jochen and Zeke Hyer. Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson. Excused: Erik Peterson, Bob Minard, Trish Harman, Heidi Horton, and Shawn Handland.

#### Approval of Agenda

C. Wilson moved, J. Hatz seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Written and Oral Reports

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Superintendent's Management team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Construction Walk Through – Superintendent Rieber played a Behind the Scenes video of the Elementary and High School construction projects.

Teacher University – Superintendent Rieber and the administrative team reported on Teacher University professional development day.

#### Connection with the Community

Lydia Jochen, Student Representative, reported on: Last week 35 seniors traveled to UW-La Crosse to compete in a Finance Bowl trivia competition. While none of the West Salem teams placed, students gained valuable financial knowledge and overall enjoyed the experience.

Show Choir recently hosted the annual Extravaganza and successfully put on a fantastic show despite many members being sick. Performers included the elementary group, the 5th grade, the middle school, and both high school groups. The high school groups also traveled to Hastings, Minnesota, for their final competition of the season, earning 7th place. While there, students also enjoyed a visit to Great Wolf Lodge and the Mall of America, making it a memorable trip to conclude their season.

As for FFA, Nadia Hurtz placed 2nd at the Regional Speaking Competition and will advance to the Sectional competition. This week is National FFA Week, so there are dress-up days throughout the week. Additionally, FFA is also spreading kindness through their "Fill Your Cup" initiative, delivering snacks such as trail mix and beef sticks to teachers in the teachers' lounge.

DECA members are currently in Lake Geneva competing at the State competition. Bennett Rieber, Sam MacRogers, Aidric Schmitz, and Anna Gross have already qualified for ICDC, the international competition. I will report next time if there are more international qualifiers, as the state competition goes through the 25th.

The ski and snowboard team competed in challenging conditions, as the warm weather required over 200 bags of salt to be spread to improve the course. The girls' Co-op earned an impressive 2nd-place finish overall, and the boys placed 3rd overall.

The boys' and girls' hockey teams both entered into the playoffs as the 7th seed, and unfortunately, both teams took losses in the first round, ending their season early.

The girls' wrestling team had three athletes qualify for sectionals: Jolie Meyers, Lily Kasinger, and Sophia Anderson. Sophia Anderson advanced from sectionals and qualified for State! She will compete this Thursday.

Zeke Hyer, Student Representative, reported on: The boys' Wrestling team recently took 3rd at the sectional tournament in Black River Falls over the weekend, which will not qualify them for team state at the La Crosse Center. But, looking on the bright side, the team has broken the school record for the most individual qualifiers in the state tournament with 5. These 5 are all seniors with Mason Chambers, Cayson Anderson, Teghan Moore, Kaiden Stello, and Caden Anderson. Also, Teghan Moore reached the 150-win

## School District of West Salem

### School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes February 23, 2026 continued...

#### Marie Heider Meeting Room

7:00 p.m

milestone, with Caden Anderson reaching the 100-win milestone.

The boys' basketball team is coming off a tough home loss to Onalaska last week, but they got back into the win column on Saturday for senior night, when they were named conference champs for the 7th year in a row. The boys have another tough game this week against Central to end their regular season. They will then start playoffs with a home game against New London, with the team likely playing Onalaska in the second round.

The girls' basketball team ended its regular season last week with an unfortunate loss to Onalaska. But the team also won the conference for the 6th year in a row. They start the playoffs tomorrow with a home game.

The gymnastics team continues to have a dominant season, winning the Coulee Conference over the weekend. The team has sectionals just this weekend to qualify for state! Also, senior Camdyn Lyga was named Coulee Conference Gymnast of the year!

The Adapted sports league team is continuing their season with a win over Onalaska last week and a win against Central just today!

To end my section for tonight, the Outdoor Education class recently went on their ice fishing trip on Lake Onalaska. I was a part of this, but I can say we had lots of fun despite the limited fish being caught. The class is now going caving next week for their next trip!

#### Correspondence

A Department of Public Instruction Proclamation declaring Music, Art, Dance and Theater Month, March 1-31, 2026, was read.

A Department of Public Instruction Proclamation declaring National School Social Work Week, March 1-7, 2026, was read.

A Department of Public Instruction Proclamation declaring Social, Emotional Learning Day, March 2, 2026, was read.

A Department of Public Instruction Proclamation declaring National School Breakfast Week, March 2-6, 2026, was read.

Public Comments – None.

#### Consent Agenda

C. Wilson moved, B. Garbers seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 9, 2026;
- the invoices to be paid;
- to accept the resignation of Multilingual Teacher Terri Martinson; and to accept the retirement of High School Math Interventionist Tammy Bentzen;
- to accept the donations from Lynxx Networks donated \$500 to the West Salem/Bangor Adapted Sports league; La Crosse County Pork Producers donated a pig (\$175 for processing and pig) to the High School Family and Consumer Education department; Our Savior's Lutheran Church of West Salem donated \$1000.00 to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### Discussion/Action Items:

Administrator, Ryan Rieber requested 3 volunteer board members to serve on the Future Ready (CCLR) video scholarship committee to watch, review and score the videos to award the scholarships. C. Wilson, B. Garbers and J. Hatz volunteered. C. Griffin will be an alternate if needed. No action was taken.

C. Griffin moved, J. Hatz seconded to amend Policy 0144.5. Under the Enforcement heading, in the 1st paragraph, at the end of the paragraph add the wording "needs to be in writing." Motion carried unanimously.

B. Garbers moved, J. Hatz seconded to approve the second reading of legal and recommended policy updates of Special Update and Vol 35 No 1. Motion carried unanimously.

School Support Organizations - Special Update Po5830 – Copy of STUDENT FUND-RAISING Po6605 – Revised Policy - Spec. Update-School Support Organizations - November 2025 - CROWDFUNDING Po6608 – New Policy - Special Update - School Support Organizations - November 2025 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT OF FUNDRAISER AND CROWDFUNDING DISBURSEMENTS Po7230 – Copy of GIFTS, GRANTS, BEQUESTS, AND MEMORIALS Po9211 – Copy of DISTRICT-SUPPORT ORGANI-

## School District of West Salem

### School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2026 continued...

Marie Heider Meeting Room

7:00 p.m

ZATIONS

Respectfully submitted,  
Caitlin Wilson, Clerk

Po9215 – Renum/Replacement Policy - Spec. Update  
- School Support Organizations -  
November 2025 - SCHOOL SUPPORT ORGANI-  
ZATIONS (SSO)

Legal/Recommended Vol 35 No 1

Po0100 – Copy of DEFINITIONS

Po0144.5 – Copy of BOARD MEMBER BEHAVIOR,  
COMMUNICATIONS, AND CODE OF CON-  
DUCT

Po1210 – Copy of BOARD - SUPERINTENDENT  
RELATIONSHIP

Po1230.01 – Copy of DEVELOPMENT OF HAND-  
BOOKS AND ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

Po2131.01 – Copy of READING INSTRUCTIONAL  
GOALS AND KINDERGARTEN  
ASSESSMENT

Po2261.01– Copy of PARENT AND FAMILY EN-  
GAGEMENT IN TITLE I PROGRAMS

Po2431– Copy of CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Po4140 - Copy of TERMINATION AND RESIG-  
NATION

Po5112 – Copy of ENTRANCE AGE

Po5136 – Copy of PERSONAL COMMUNICATION  
DEVICES

Po5411 – Copy of THIRD GRADE PROMOTION  
AND RETENTION: AT-RISK STUDENTS

Po5505 – Copy of ACADEMIC HONESTY

Po5515 – Copy of STUDENT USE OF MOTOR  
VEHICLES AND/OR BICYCLES

Po5895 – Copy of STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Po6320 – Copy of PURCHASING

Po7540.02– Vol. 35, No. 1 - November 2025 Replace-  
ment DIGITAL CONTENT AND  
ACCESSIBILITY

Po7540.08 – Vol. 35, No. 1 - November 2025 Re-  
placement ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

The list of to do items / information requests was reviewed. The Superintendent stated he will add development of a suggested AI policy to his to-do list and bring a draft to the Policy Committee for discussion. No action was taken.

Adjournment

C. Griffin moved, J. Hatz seconded to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.



# Full Day 4K Enrollment Now Open

The School District of West Salem will be offering full day 4K, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. Classes will be offered Monday-Thursday from 8:45 a.m.-3:10 p.m.



## Before & After School Care Available

The West Salem School District is partnering with the La Crosse Area Family YMCA to offer before and after school care for children enrolled in all day 4K. Care will be provided in the 4K wing at West Salem Elementary School Monday -Thursday. Enrollment information will come in early April, with formal online registration starting April 28th. Details will be posted at [www.laxymca.org](http://www.laxymca.org).

**General Program Details:**  
School Days Monday - Thursday  
Before school opens at 7:00am -8:45am  
After school starts at 3:10pm and closes at 5:30pm  
Program is State of Wisconsin licensed/regulated childcare

Specific questions can be directed to Julie Siakpere, Early Childhood Director, at [jsiakpere@laxymca.org](mailto:jsiakpere@laxymca.org)

## Winter Wellness

Winter Wellness is an annual highlight for our students at West Salem Middle School and this year's trips were no exception! Although the weather was a bit warmer than anticipated, everyone still had a great time! Students had a chance to get out of the classroom to practice physical and mental wellness,

whether that was through tubing, ice fishing, painting pottery, swimming, bowling, or other fun activities! Thank you to our staff for all of their hard work organizing this memorable day for our students!



COULEE REGION  
**FARM to school**  
LOCAL FOODS, HEALTHY KIDS

### Did You Know?

Radishes come in different sizes, shapes, colors, and flavors!



Check out videos and photos of the innovative things happening in your student's classroom at our district Facebook page and Instagram 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 X  
@WestSalemSD  
and Instagram  
@schooldistrictofwestsalem



For WSHS athletic events, visit our website:

- \*click the calendar icon and then
- \*click Coulee Conference/  
Mississippi Valley Conference
- For WSMS athletic events,
- \*click the calendar icon and then
- \*Three Rivers Conference

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

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