

April 2021



# Newsletter

School District of West Salem

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## Letter from Superintendent Ryan Rieber

### Exciting Times and Thank You

This past year we have all seen a great deal of change, but we are very excited about what the remaining months of school are going to be like here on campus. We are very proud of where we have come in the last year and that we have been able to serve our students face to face. This did not come easily and there were challenges, but we have done it! Hindsight is always 20/20, and I have learned a lot this year, but if it would not have been for the help and support of our school board, community, staff, and students, we would not have seen the success that we have. Our school nursing staff has played a key role in this success. School Nursing Week isn't until May, but I wanted to share a sincere thank you to Beth Clements, Kate Brohmer, and Jessica Tomten. They have done a tremendous job throughout this school year and have been a big part of our success. Thank you for all that you have done and we all appreciate your leadership!

Because of our success, we continue to move forward and are planning and preparing for all district events to occur as we move into the conclusion of our school

year. For starters, we will be having our first softball games on our new softball fields. These fields were part of our facility upgrade referendum, and now they will be able to be utilized. Although still in the planning stages, our buildings are working on prom, senior sing-out, graduation, and 8th-grade recognition ceremonies. We are excited about moving forward with this planning to provide these experiences.

In West Salem, we are very fortunate to have our own school forest/outdoor education center (OEC). Our OEC has provided opportunities for education and experiences for generations. The OEC has been well utilized this year providing educational opportunities outdoors to our students. This resource is an asset to our district and our community. Our current OEC coordinator, John Sullivan, has taken great pride in his role and is putting a great deal of time and energy into this wonderful resource. Currently, John is working on signage and improving the over three miles of trails within our school forest. John is working with a team of our teachers within the district, and we will soon be seeking input and thoughts from our community in the coming months. If you are interested in learning more about our school forest or would like to be a part of moving this great resource forward, please contact John

Letter continues on next page...

## School District of West Salem

at [sullivan.john@wsalem.k12.wi.us](mailto:sullivan.john@wsalem.k12.wi.us).

There is excitement as we conclude this school year and optimism moving forward into the 2021-22 school year. Recently, I reread a book titled *Our Iceberg Is Melting: Changing and Succeeding Under Any Conditions* by John Kotter. The fable in the story is about an emperor penguin colony in Antarctica. One of the birds discovers a potentially devastating problem in their home, but no one listens. The story is about resistance to change and discovering ways to overcome obstacles. It showed that real progress requires the participation of a team,

where everyone has an important role. Our community has played an important role in the success of our district this past year. It has required patience, trust, and overcoming resistance to change. We are setting ourselves up for a very bright future, thanks to all of you! Keep up the great work, West Salem! We should all be proud to be Panthers!

Ryan G. Rieber  
Superintendent

# Student Artwork Part of Statewide Exhibit

We'd like to congratulate the following students who have had their artwork selected to be a part of the Wisconsin Art Education's Youth Art Month Virtual Statewide Exhibit.

West Salem Elementary School  
Colton Stricker-3rd Grade  
Harper Haas-2nd Grade  
Emmitt England-1st Grade

West Salem Middle School  
Dominic Wachter-7th Grade  
Julia Hansen-6th Grade  
Ava Jambois-6th Grade

West Salem High School  
Sasha Grueneis-11th Grade  
Reghan Sage-12th Grade  
Serena Fincher-12th Grade

Each year, teachers can submit up to five student pieces to their regional exhibit. West Salem is in the West Central Region. The West Central Youth Art Month Regional Vice President then selects three pieces from each teacher to move on to the State Youth Art Month Exhibit, where the work is displayed with the other Regional Artists who advanced to the state exhibition. Typically this event is held on the second floor of the Capitol rotunda, but this year is a little different and the exhibit is virtual. You can view their artwork by going to [wiarted.org](http://wiarted.org) and clicking on the link titled "2021 Youth Art Month Virtual Exhibit."



# School District of West Salem

**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 6, 2021, in the County of La Crosse, the following polling place locations will be used for the Municipalities and Districts

<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
BANGOR	Town Hall – N4400 State Rd 162
BARRE	Town Hall – W3541 County Road M, La Crosse
BURNS	Town Hall – W1313 Jewett Rd, Bangor
FARMINGTON	Town Hall – N8309 County Road 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 – W1430 County Road H, Newburgs Corner
VILLAGE OF WEST SALEM	Community Center – 175 South Leonard Street, West Salem

The School District of West Salem Board of Education Candidates are Kyle D. Boland, Robin Fitzgerald, Tom Helgeson, and Chris Peterson.

**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.**

**<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.

<b>School District</b>	
<b>School Board Member</b>	
<b>Vote for not more than 2</b>	
<input type="radio"/>	Kyle D. Boland
<input type="radio"/>	Robin Fitzgerald
<input type="radio"/>	Tom Helgeson
<input type="radio"/>	Chris Peterson
<input type="radio"/>	write-in:
<input type="radio"/>	write-in:

# Get to Know Our Newest SRO

Did you know the School District of West Salem has had a School Resource Officer on staff since the 1990s? The position was made full-time in 2020 thanks to an agreement with the Village of West Salem. We are very fortunate to have an SRO on staff. SROs help with a variety of issues including truancy, family issues, illegal substances, and more. They also go into classrooms to speak with students about a variety of topics such as federal and state laws, safe behavior, and protecting themselves on the internet. Get to know our newest School Resource Officer, Officer Nate Ganrude!



**Q: How long have you been the school resource officer here?**

A: "I have been employed as the School Resource Officer for the West Salem Police Department since September 29th, 2020. Prior to this, I was a police officer in Bangor for over 6 years."

**Q: Why did you become a police officer?**

A: "I became a Police Officer to help people in need because everyone needs a helping hand every once in a while."

**Q: Tell us what a day at work is like for you.**

A: "A day can consist of me doing a lot of different stuff, and each day can be totally different from the day before. I am usually seen going back and forth between all the schools, to meet with students and staff. Sometimes that means I am hanging out during lunch or recess with the students, or speaking with a student in my office about an issue they would like to report."

**Q: What is your favorite part about your job?**

A: "My favorite part is getting to know the students. There are a ton of amazing things that go on each and every day with the students, so getting to see that first hand is awesome!"

**Q: If you could give students one piece of advice, what would it be?**

A: "Don't stop chasing your dreams because dreams do come true."



Thank you Officer Ganrude for your commitment to serving our students, staff, and district!

# SUMMER SCHOOL 2021

*Swimming Lessons will also be back this  
year! Dates and Times TBD*

**JULY 19-AUGUST 6, 2021**  
**GRADES K-8: 8:30 A.M.-11:40 A.M.**  
**GRADES 9-12: TIMES WILL VARY**

Look for registration info to come through Skyward  
at the end of April!



# District Announcements



## Putting a Modern Twist on an Old Classic

Mr. Jones' 8th grade robotics class has been learning about and building various types of mechanisms including chain drive, simple gear train, bevel gear, crank and slider, rack and pinion, cam and follower, and deadscrew. Students were tasked with taking what they learned about these mechanisms in class to build a modern day pull toy similar to those that used to be common for young kids, such as a dog whose tail would wag as you pull it. They had to use at least two of the mechanisms from class to build their toy out of vex parts. The students did a great job putting together the various mechanisms to create some very intricate and creative pull toys!

## 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](http://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, audiotope, 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.

## 2021-2022 Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment into the School District of West Salem runs February 1-April 30, 2021. 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

- Jane Halverson ~~~~~ 786-1067
- Ken Schlimgen ~~~~~ 786-4382
- Catherine Griffin ~~~~~ 769-1714
- Tom Grosskopf ~~~~~ 386-0168
- Robin Fitzgerald ~~~~~ 792-4130
- Sean Gavaghan ~~~~~ 797-3585
- Erik Peterson ~~~~~ 792-5370

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

## WSMS Mathcounts Competes at Regionals

The regional invitational Mathcounts virtual competition was held on Thursday, February 25th. There were 10 competitors representing six different schools. The schools competing were Holmen, Ithaca, Onalaska, Providence Academy, Viroqua, and West Salem.

Since the competition was held virtually, students only competed as individuals rather than as teams. West Salem's individual results were as follows: 10th place - Will Stefferud, 6th place - Makinlee Marshall, 3rd place - Luke Jambois, and 2nd place - Gideon Wolbrink.

Mathcounts is a national program designed to promote excellence in math and science in grades 6-8. Mathcounts allows students to improve their problem solving skills. The top five competitors qualify for the virtual state competition, so Wolbrink and Jambois competed on Thursday, March 25. Congratulations to all on a wonderful season! West Salem's coaches are Tammy Bentzen and Sarah Weber.



# District Announcements

## WSHS DECA Competes at State

Students in the West Salem High School DECA chapter have a lot to celebrate after stellar performances in the virtual state tournament! The tournament was held over the course of two days in a virtual format on campus.

After competing with approximately 1,400 other students throughout the state, ten students qualified to compete at the virtual International Career and Development Conference, which will be held April 19-23. In addition, WSHS DECA member Kate Fitzgerald was selected to lead Wisconsin DECA as president for the 2021-2022 school year. This is an outstanding accomplishment, and Kate is the first of our DECA students to ever be selected to fill this role! We'd like to congratulate all of our students on a spectacular season so far!

The following students will be moving on to compete at ICDC with 20,000 other students throughout the country: Kate Fitzgerald, Marina Thompson, and Julia Krien in Financial Literacy Project, Max Goetz, Evan Domnie, and Breezy Hofmeister in Virtual Business Challenge Retail, Ava Huth and Brynn Hofmesiter in Hospitality Services Team, Abi Koch

and Calista Robaczewski in Business Law and Ethics, Morgan Quackenbush in Integrated Marketing Campaign-Service, and Adam Chandler in Start Up Business Plan. The WSHS DECA Advisors are Jason Holter and Brittany Hodgson. Congratulations to all and best of luck at ICDC!



## Care to Judge?

Each year our Seniors showcase their work on their Senior Exit Projects by presenting to a panel of community judges. Being a judge is an excellent way to learn more about the process and the type of projects students complete. Presentation day this year is the afternoon of Wednesday, May 12. We are always looking for more judges to help us make our day successful.

There will not be a formal lunch this year, and masks are required for those who attend. If you are interested in becoming a judge or have questions, please contact: Michelle Schwier at [schwier.michelle@wsalem.k12.wi.us](mailto:schwier.michelle@wsalem.k12.wi.us) or call the high school at 786-1220.

## Livestream Events

Keep an eye on the School District of West Salem YouTube channel for upcoming livestream events such as concerts, performances, certain class events and more!

Events are also available for viewing on the channel after they have occurred. We are excited to be able to offer access to these events to family, friends, and community members as we continue to limit our capacity for safety. Thank you for supporting our students and district!



# School District of West Salem

## School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes February 22, 2021 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

**As noted on the Public Meeting Notice: The health and safety of district employees, Board of Education and the community is our number one priority. Therefore, the district is taking precautionary measures consistent with the CDC and the La Crosse County Health Department recommendations. \*Board members may participate via remote access. The room will be open to limited spectators. Live streaming of this meeting was available on our District's YouTube page. Face coverings were required to be worn when attending the meeting and social distancing measures should be followed.**

### Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe's Country Market, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on February 18, 2021.

### Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Sean Gavaghan led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Deanna Wiatt recited the District Mission Statement.

### Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Jane Halverson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Ryan Rieber, Ben Wopat (remote access), Eric Jensen (remote access), Mike Malott, Tami Bagstad (remote access), Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland (remote access); Student representatives: Madisyn Haun and Maxwell Goetz. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: N/A.

### Approval of Agenda

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

### Connection with the Community

Maxwell Goetz, Student Representative, reported on:

1. High school parent/teacher conferences will be held virtual on February 25.
2. Weight room is offering off-season training for athletes.
3. The high school basketball season has come to an end.
4. Students have started signing up for spring sports.
5. The e-sports team has expanded to play both Overwatch and Rocket League.

### Madisyn, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Seniors took their class photo last Wednesday in the gym. Everyone received a class of 2021 mask to wear.
2. Seniors received their caps and gowns for graduation.
3. NHS has started planning their next blood drive on March 19 at the West Salem American Legion.

Correspondence – None.

Public Comments – None.

### Written and Oral Reports

Teaching & Learning Committee – Mrs. Fitzgerald reported on the agenda item, progress of the 20-21 school year.

Policy/Communication & Engagement Committee – Mr. Gavaghan reported out on the agenda item, Neola Bylaws School Board Policies.

Staff Relations Committee – Mr. Peterson reported out on the agenda item, School Perceptions Discussion.

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Business Operations Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Human Resource updates: the resignations of John Laffey-custodian, Bonnie Crogan-school nutrition, Cheryl Schran-school nutrition; the hiring of Ryan Rieger-custodian, Edward Shank-school nutrition, Lindsey Harnden-school nutrition; and Wade Behrens as a limited-term music instructor.

E-sports Coach Jason Holter and the state champion team consisting of Evan Domnie, Ryne Sandvick, Lucas Jandt, Adam Chandler, Eli Zenz, and Briley Larson shared information on what e-sports competitions are like.

### Consent Agenda

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2021;
- b) the invoices to be paid;
- c) to accept the donation from the La Crosse Area Builders Association for the District's Random Acts of Kindness fund;
- d) to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendations to hire Brian Babiash-head varsity softball coach, Stacy Mitchell-head varsity track coach, Justin Stakston-head varsity track coach, Jim Klos-head varsity golf coach, Lionel Karyea-head varsity girls' soccer coach; Jamie Olson-head varsity baseball coach, and Julie Kamla-head varsity boys' tennis coach;
- e) to accept the retirements of Barb Buswell, Director of Human Resources, and Terri Martinson, English/Language Arts Teacher.

### Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to allow the superintendent to adjust the calendar on two (2) days. Motion carried unanimously.

The list of to do items / information requests was reviewed. No action was taken.

### Adjournment

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Halverson, Clerk

## School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 8, 2021 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

**As noted on the Public Meeting Notice: Board members may participate via remote access. The room will be open to limited spectators. Live streaming of this meeting was available on our District's YouTube page. Face coverings were required to be worn when attending the meeting and social distancing measures should be followed.**

### Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe's Country Market, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on March 4, 2021.



# School District of West Salem

## School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 8, 2021 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag  
Tom Grosskopf led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Tami Bagstad recited the District Mission Statement.

### Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Jane Halverson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Ryan Rieber, Ben Wopat, Eric Jensen, Mike Malott, Tami Bagstad, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Madisyn Haun and Maxwell Goetz. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: N/A.

### Approval of Agenda

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mr. Peterson seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### Connection with the Community

Madisyn Haun, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The drama department will perform “10 Ways to Survive Life in a Quarantine” this Thursday.
2. Juniors will take the ACT tomorrow.
3. Last Wednesday’s early release included: the freshmen and sophomores doing ACT Aspire prep, the Juniors doing ACT prep and the seniors doing adulting sessions and SEP/scholarship work time.
4. There will be an early release this Wednesday with a shortened schedule.

Maxwell Goetz, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Prom has been tentatively scheduled for May 1 at the Village Park.
2. Baseball, softball, soccer, and golf are beginning their contact days. Official practices will start in mid-April.
3. Esports is continuing their season with both Overwatch and Rocket League.

Correspondence – None.

Public Comments – None.

### Written and Oral Reports

Business Operations Committee – Mr. Grosskopf reported on the agenda items: bus bid/purchase and budgeting/staffing for 2021-2022 school year.

CESA #4 Board of Control – Mrs. Halverson reported on the Board of Control’s agenda items.

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Superintendent’s Cabinet Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Elementary School Art Teacher Kaylin Lotspaih and Middle School Art Teacher Angie Hemker invited the Board and administration to select artwork from the K-12 West Salem District Honors Show for display.

Outdoor Education Center (OEC) Coordinator John Sullivan provided a presentation on our OEC facility.

### Consent Agenda

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2021;
- b) the invoices to be paid;
- c) to accept donations from Ledegar Roofing Co. Inc., to the Nutrition Services Jane Doe Fund and from the La Crosse Community Foundation/Corrine Zielke Baseball Fund for the high school baseball program;
- d) to approve co-curricular contracts for Ethan Ringlien & Makenzie

Becker-co-head 7th grade softball coach; Katie Fink-8th grade softball head coach; Sarah Weber, Nicole Friell, Bill Jensen and Jenna Piersma-middle school track coach; Josh Maliszewski, Nick Schultz and Adam Krause-assistant baseball coach; Kyle Helgeson, Randy Schultz and Jared Hauser-volunteer baseball coach; Brittney Hodgson-assistant softball coach, Rod Hamilton, Rob Hansen, Jeanne Babiash, and Michelle Babiash; Dennis Kreuser-volunteer tennis coach; Lisa Hehli-assistant tennis coach; Shaun Borre-assistant golf coach; Darwin Carranza-assistant soccer coach; Samantha Reilly, Laura Deal, Cameron Robaczewski, Tommy Friday and Tony Weilandt-high school assistant track coach; and Avrie Duffy and Grant LeDoux-volunteer assistant track coach.

e) to accept the resignations of School Nurse Beth Clements, Middle School Special Education Teacher Colleen Betita and High School English Teacher Brittany Parry. Motion carried unanimously.

### Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Peterson moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to approve the request for an additional girls’ soccer coach for the spring 2021 season. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee recommendation to approve staffing requests for the 2021-2022 school year: .33 FTE Physical Education Teacher at the middle school, 1.0 FTE guidance counselor at the middle school; a 1.0 FTE At-Risk Teacher, a 1.0 FTE Business Education Teacher and 1.0 Family/Consumer Education Teacher at the high school; and full-time school nurse. Motion carried unanimously.

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended, as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

### Board Development Session

Mr. Rieber led the Board Development Session which included Chapter 4 of The Governance Core: School Boards, Superintendents and Schools Working Together, and review of the current strategic plan.

The list of to do items / information requests was reviewed. No action was taken.

### Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to adjourn at 9:07 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Halverson, Clerk

## School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 22, 2021 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

**As noted on the Public Meeting Notice: \*Board members may participate via remote access. The room will be open to limited spectators. Live streaming of this meeting was available on our District’s YouTube page. Face coverings were required to be worn when attending the meeting and social distancing measures should be followed.**

### 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, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe’s Country Market, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on March 18, 2021.

# School District of West Salem

## School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 22, 2021 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag  
Jane Halverson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Mike Malott recited the District Mission Statement.

### Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Jane Halverson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Ryan Rieber, Ben Wopat, Mike Malott, Tami Bagstad, Eric Jensen (remote access), and Deanna Wiatt. Student representatives: Madisyn Haun (remote access) and Maxwell Goetz (remote access). Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Shawn Handland.

### Approval of Agenda

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

### Connection with the Community

Mazwell Goetz, Student Representative, reported on:

1. DECA competed at state two weeks ago. A virtual awards ceremony was held in the Heider Center. Ten students will be advancing to the International Career Development Conference (ICDC). Kate Fitzgerald was elected to serve as the President of Wisconsin DECA for the following school year.
2. The esports teams are continuing to play. The varsity Rocket League team's record is currently 9-0.

Madisyn Haun, Student Representative, had technical difficulties, so Maxwell Goetz reported on for Madisyn:

1. The National Honor Society (NHS) held their blood drive on March 19, 2021.
2. The high school dance team competed over the weekend at the regional competition.
3. Third quarter will end on Friday, March 26.

Correspondence – None.

Public Comments – None.

### Written and Oral Reports

Business Operations – Mr. Grosskopf reported on the agenda items: budgeting/staffing for 2021-22 and a student's Senior Exit Project.

Workforce Engagement & Development – Mrs. Halverson reported on agenda items: preliminary review of district salaries and preliminary negotiations with the West Salem Education Association.

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Business Operations Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Human Resource updates: the resignations of paraprofessionals Kalee Hanson and Deb Pessl-Bauer, the hiring of Carrie Niedfeldt as a part-time elementary custodian.

### Consent Agenda

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Peterson seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2021;
- b) the invoices to be paid;
- c) to accept donations from Laura Halverson and from Teresa Halverson for the Robotics Team 5019, and from Terri Lenselink and Francine Jones for the middle school art department;

d) to approve co-curricular contracts for Amy Hanson-middle school play director, Elle Nimm-middle school assistant play director, Kim Volden-stage manager/technology supervisor, Jon Jones-volunteer baseball coach, Scott Koepnick-volunteer baseball coach, Ashley Miner-high school assistant track coach, and Tristan Johnsrud-volunteer trap coach;

e) to accept the resignation of Madeline Kiehn as the JV volleyball coach, the resignation of Raena Housker as an elementary special education teacher, and the retirement of Eric Jensen as the Director of Pupil Services. Motion carried unanimously.

### Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Peterson moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee's recommendation and approve Draft #5, dated March 18, 2021, Staffing Capacity Changes for the 2021-2022 school year. Included in Draft #5 were the addition of a 1.0 FTE Virtual Learning Teacher using ESSR II Funds, the removal of a .5 FTE 4K teacher and paraprofessional from the reduction list, and the addition of a 1.0 FTE MS/HS technology education teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

The list of to do items / information requests was reviewed. No action was taken.

Mrs. Griffin 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.

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:40 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

### Closed Session

### Adjournment

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Halverson, Clerk

## Celebrating Reading!

Every year in March, our elementary school students celebrate Read Across America Week, an annual celebration started by the National Education Association to help get kids excited about reading. This year, they were able to participate in lots of fun activities and dress up days to celebrate their favorite books and authors. Dress up days included “Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus Day,” “Dr. Seuss Day,” “Owl Diaries Day,” “Pete the Cat Day” and “Mercy Watson Day.” Students participated in activities like

searching for pigeons in the lobby, dressing up like Dr. Seuss characters, trying green eggs and ham, doing the “Cool Cat Boogie,” drawing their best pigs and lots more! Our students always have a great time during this week and we love that it encourages them to read. Special thanks to Mary Hundt, WSES Library Media Center Director for organizing the student activities and contests and to the Jane and Burt Bangsberg family for donating student prizes. We’re excited for next year already!



### Did You Know?

Edamame is considered both a protein food and a vegetable!

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  
and Instagram  
@schooldistrictofwestsalem



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.”



#WeAreWS



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