

January 2026

# WS Newsletter

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## Letter from Superintendent Ryan

### The Start of a New Year

As we welcome the start of a new year, I wish everyone in the West Salem community a happy, healthy, and hopeful January. The turn of the calendar offers a natural pause, a moment to reflect on where we've been, appreciate what we've accomplished together, and set the conditions for where we want to go next.

Looking ahead to spring, I'd like to share an important update regarding our upcoming School Board election. This year, there will be four School Board seats on the ballot, including two seats that will serve full three-year

terms, one seat that will serve a two-year term, and one seat that will serve a one-year term. The final vote totals will determine the length of each term. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to the three-year terms, the candidate with the third-highest number of votes will serve a two-year term, and the candidate with the fourth-highest number of votes will serve a one-year term.

Serving on the School Board is a meaningful way to support our students, staff, and community, and I encourage anyone interested to consider this opportunity. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate

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January Newsletter

## School District of West Salem

to reach out to me. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Completed paperwork must be submitted to the District Office by January 6 at 5:00 p.m. If you have questions or would like to learn more about Board service, please don't hesitate to reach out.

One tradition I've grown accustomed to at the start of each year is participating in the One Word Challenge. Rather than setting multiple resolutions, this practice centers on choosing one word to guide decisions, growth, and focus throughout the year. Past words that have shaped my thinking include hope, perseverance, intentionality, determination, and opportunity.

As I enter 2026, my word for the year is communication.

Excellent communication builds trust, strengthens relationships, resolves conflicts, and creates clarity. It allows organizations to move forward together, even during complex or demanding times. With construction projects underway, an updated strategic plan on the horizon, and so many wonderful things happening in our classrooms, communication will be essential. It's equally important in our homes, friendships, and community connections. This word feels especially fitting for the year ahead.

Many people wait until January 1 to start new goals. A better approach is

to set the conditions now, creating momentum that allows us not just to start the year, but to move confidently into it. This applies both individually and collectively to the community.

The holidays gave us time to recharge, spend time with family and friends, rest, and refocus. They also allowed us to decide what we want to carry forward and what we're ready to leave behind. By being intentional with our time and energy, we can enter the new year stronger, clearer, and more aligned.

As a district and as a community, we have accomplished a great deal together, and there is much to look forward to. I'm deeply grateful for the continued support, partnership, and care you show for our students, our schools, and one another.

As we welcome the new year, I want to thank our families, staff, and community for the shared dedication that continues to move West Salem forward. Happy New Year, and here's to a year of collaboration, growth, and positive momentum as we continue working together on behalf of our students.

Ryan Rieber  
Superintendent

# Calendar of Events January

## Athletic Events

### Friday, January 2, 2026

- 3:00pm      Gymnastics: JV/Varsity Invitational vs. G-E-T, Logan, Onalaska, River Valley, Sparta, Tomah & Westby Area High School @ Westby Area High School
- 6:00pm      Wrestling: Boys & Girls Varsity Triangular vs. Black River Falls & Westby Area High School @ West Salem High School

### Saturday, January 3, 2026

- 10:00am      Gymnastics: JV/Varsity Invitational vs. Bloomer, Kaukauna, Marshfield, Oshkosh West, Rhinelander & Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln @ Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln High School
- 11:45am      Basketball: Girls JV Game vs. Aquinas @ West Salem High School
- 12:30pm      Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. D.C. Everest @ River Falls High School
- 1:00pm      Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Aquinas @ West Salem High School

### Monday, January 5, 2026

- 7:00pm      Ice Hockey: Girls Varsity Game vs. Stoughton @ Panther Den Arena

### Tuesday, January 6, 2026

- 5:45pm      Basketball: Boys C-Team Game vs. G-E-T @ Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau High School Gym South
- 5:45pm      Basketball: Boys JV Game vs. G-E-T @ Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau High School Gym North
- 7:00pm      Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. G-E-T @ Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau High School Gym North

### Thursday, January 8, 2026

- 5:00pm      Ice Hockey: Girls JV Game vs. Chippewa Falls High School @ Panther Den Hockey Rink
- 5:45pm      Basketball: Girls JV Game vs. Arcadia @ West Salem High School
- 6:00pm      Wrestling: Boys & Girls Varsity Triangular vs. Arcadia & Viroqua @ Arcadia High School
- 7:00pm      Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Arcadia @ West Salem High School

Calendar of events continues on next page...

## School District of West Salem

7:00pm Ice Hockey: Girls  
Varsity Game vs.  
Chippewa Falls High  
School @ Panther  
Den Arena

7:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys  
Varsity Game vs.  
Avalanche @  
Onalaska Omni  
Center

### Friday, January 9, 2026

4:30pm Wrestling: Girls  
Varsity Invite vs.  
Adams-Friendship,  
Auburndale,  
Baraboo, Berlin,  
Black River Falls,  
De Forest,  
Evansville, Laconia,  
Lodi, Logan,  
Mauston, Mineral  
Point,  
Mondovi, Monroe,  
New Lisbon,  
Onalaska, Parkview,  
Poynette, Reedsburg,  
Rosholt, Royall,  
Sparta, Spencer, St.  
Croix Central,  
Tomah, Wautoma,  
Westby Area High  
School & Westfield  
Middle @ Mauston  
High School

5:45pm Basketball: Boys  
C-Team Game vs.  
Westby Area High  
School @ West Salem  
Middle School

5:45pm Basketball: Boys JV  
Game vs. Westby  
Area High School  
@ West Salem  
High School

### Saturday, January 10, 2026

9:00am Wrestling: Boys JV  
Invite vs. Aquinas,  
Arcadia, Black River  
Falls, Blair-Taylor,  
Brookwood,  
Cashton, G-E-T,  
Holmen,  
Independence,  
Logan, Neillsville,  
Onalaska, Sparta,  
Tomah, Viroqua,  
Westby Area High  
School & Whitehall  
@ West Salem Middle  
School

9:30am Wrestling: Girls  
Varsity Invitational  
vs. Aquinas,  
Boscobel,  
Brookwood, Cashton,  
Cuba City, De Soto,  
Dodgeville,  
Hillsboro,  
Iowa-Grant, Ithaca,  
Kickapoo, North  
Crawford, Onalaska,  
Richland Center,  
River Valley, Royall,  
Verona Area, Viroqua  
& Westby Area High  
School @ Kickapoo  
High School

12:00pm Ice Hockey: Girls  
Varsity Game vs.  
Northland Pines  
@ Panther Den Arena

### Monday, January 12, 2026

4:15pm ASL - Floor Hockey:  
Varsity Game vs.  
Holmen @ Holmen  
High School

## School District of West Salem

### Tuesday, January 13, 2026

5:45pm Basketball: Girls JV 5:45pm  
 Game vs. Viroqua  
 @ West Salem  
 High School

7:00pm Basketball: Girls Varsity 7:00pm  
 Game vs. Viroqua  
 @ West Salem High  
 School

### Thursday, January 15, 2026

5:45pm Basketball: Boys 7:00pm  
 C-Team Game vs.  
 Arcadia @ West Salem  
 Middle School

5:45pm Basketball: Boys JV 7:15pm  
 Game vs. Arcadia  
 @ West Salem High  
 School

6:00pm Gymnastics: JV/Varsity  
 Meet vs. Caledonia Area  
 Public Schools  
 @ Caledonia Area  
 High School

7:00pm Basketball: Boys Varsity  
 Game vs. Arcadia  
 @ West Salem High  
 School

7:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys  
 Varsity Game vs.  
 Onalaska/Central/  
 Logan @ Onalaska  
 Omni Center

### Friday, January 16, 2026

4:30pm Wrestling: Boys Varsity  
 Quad vs. Aquinas,  
 Marathon &  
 Weyauwega Fremont  
 @ Aquinas HS

5:00pm Ice Hockey: Girls  
 JV Game vs. River Falls  
 School District  
 @ Panther Den Arena

5:45pm Basketball: Girls JV  
 Game vs. Bangor  
 @ West Salem

High School  
 Basketball: Boys JV  
 Game vs. Logan  
 @ Logan High School  
 Fieldhouse

Basketball: Girls Varsity  
 Game vs. Bangor  
 @ West Salem  
 High School

Ice Hockey: Girls  
 Varsity Game vs. River  
 Falls School District  
 @ West Salem Panther  
 Den Arena

Basketball: Boys Varsity  
 Game vs. Logan  
 @ Logan High School  
 Fieldhouse

### Saturday, January 17, 2026

9:00am Gymnastics: JV/Varsity  
 Invitational vs. Baraboo,  
 Caledonia Area Public  
 Schools, Chippewa  
 Falls, G-E-T, Holmen,  
 Marshfield,  
 Reedsburg, Sauk Prairie,  
 Southwestern, Sparta,  
 Stevens Point Area  
 Senior, Tomah/Sparta,  
 Westby Area High  
 School & Wisconsin  
 Rapids Lincoln  
 @ Holmen High School  
 Panther Den Hockey  
 Rink

## School District of West Salem

|                                  |   |                                   |   |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| 9:00am                           | Wrestling: Girls<br>Varsity Tournament<br>vs. Arcadia, Belmont,<br>Black River Falls,<br>Boscobel,<br>Brookwood,<br>De Soto, Fond du<br>Lac, Ithaca-Weston,<br>Mondovi, New<br>Lisbon, Richland<br>Center, Sparta,<br>Tomah, Viroqua &<br>Westby Area High<br>School @ Westby<br>Area High School |                                   | Community Arena   |
|                                  |   | 7:00pm                            | Wrestling: Boys<br>Varsity Dual Meet<br>vs. Spencer @ West<br>Salem High School   |
|                                  |   | <b>Thursday, January 22, 2026</b> |   |
|                                  |   | 4:30pm                            | Basketball: Boys JV<br>Game vs. La Crescent<br>@ West Salem<br>High School  |
|                                  |   | 5:00pm                            | Ice Hockey: Girls JV<br>Game vs. Chippewa<br>Falls High School<br>@ Chippewa Area<br>Ice Arena                                    |
| 3:00pm                           | Ice Hockey: Girls<br>Varsity Game vs.<br>School District of<br>Somerset<br>@ Panther Den Arena  | 5:30pm                            | Basketball: Boys<br>Varsity Game vs. La<br>Crescent @ West<br>Salem High School   |
| 5:30pm                           | Ice Hockey: Girls JV<br>Game vs. Somerset<br>School District<br>@ Panther Den Arena   | 5:30pm                            | Wrestling: Boys JV<br>Dual Meet vs. Sparta<br>@ Sparta High School  |
|                                  |   | 5:45pm                            | Basketball: Girls JV<br>Game vs. Luther<br>@ West Salem Hig<br>School   |
| <b>Tuesday, January 20, 2026</b> |   |                                   |   |
| 4:15pm                           | ASL - Floor Hockey:<br>Varsity Game vs.<br>Black River Falls<br>@ West Salem<br>Middle School   | 5:45pm                            | Gymnastics: JV/<br>Varsity Triangular<br>vs. Holmen &<br>Wisconsin Rapids<br>Lincoln @ Wisconsin<br>Rapids Lincoln<br>High School |
| 5:00pm                           | Ice Hockey: Girls<br>Varsity Game vs.<br>Viroqua @ Viroqua<br>Community Arena   | 7:00pm                            | Basketball: Girls<br>Varsity Game vs.<br>Luther @ West Salem<br>High School   |
| 5:45pm                           | Basketball: Boys<br>C-Team Game vs.<br>Viroqua @ Viroqua<br>High School   | 7:00pm                            | Basketball: Boys<br>C-Team Game vs. La<br>Crescent @ West<br>Salem Middle School  |
| 7:00pm                           | Basketball: Boys<br>Varsity Game vs.<br>Viroqua @ Viroqua<br>High School  |                                   |   |
| 7:00pm                           | Ice Hockey: Boys<br>Varsity Game vs.<br>Viroqua @ Viroqua   |                                   |   |

## School District of West Salem

- 7:00pm Ice Hockey: Girls  
Varsity Game vs.  
Chippewa Falls High  
School @ Chippewa  
Area Ice Arena
- 7:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys  
Varsity Game vs.  
Tomah/Sparta  
@ West Salem  
Panther Den Arena
- 7:00pm Wrestling: Boys  
Varsity Dual Meet  
vs. Sparta @ Sparta  
High School

### Saturday, January 24, 2026

- 11:00am Ice Hockey: Girls  
JV Game vs.  
Janesville Parker  
@ Panther Den Arena
- 12:00pm Basketball: Boys JV1  
Game vs. Fox Valley  
Lutheran @ Fox Valley  
Lutheran High School
- 12:00pm Basketball: Girls JV  
Game vs. Fox Valley  
Lutheran @ Fox Valley  
Lutheran High School
- 1:00pm Ice Hockey: Girls  
Varsity Game vs.  
Janesville Parker  
@ West Salem  
Panther Den Arena
- 1:30pm Basketball: Boys JV2  
Game vs. Fox Valley  
Lutheran @ Fox Valley  
Lutheran High School
- 1:30pm Basketball: Girls Varsity  
Game vs. Fox Valley  
Lutheran @ Fox Valley  
Lutheran High School
- 3:00pm Basketball: Boys Varsity  
Game vs. Fox Valley  
Lutheran @ Fox Valley  
Lutheran High School

### Tuesday, January 27, 2026

- 5:45pm Basketball: Girls JV  
Game vs. Black River  
Falls @ Black River Falls  
Fieldhouse
- 5:45pm Basketball: Boys  
C-Team Game vs. New  
Richmond @ West  
Salem Middle School
- 5:45pm Basketball: Boys JV  
Game vs. New  
Richmond @ West  
Salem High School
- 7:00pm Basketball: Girls Varsity  
Game vs. Black River  
Falls @ Black River Falls  
Fieldhouse
- 7:00pm Basketball: Boys Varsity  
Game vs. New  
Richmond @ West  
Salem High School
- 7:00pm Ice Hockey: Girls  
Varsity Game vs.  
Rochester Mayo  
@ Rochester Graham  
Arena
- 7:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys  
Varsity Game vs.  
Reedsburg @ West  
Salem Panther Den  
Arena

### Thursday, January 29, 2026

- 4:15pm ASL - Floor Hockey:  
Varsity Game vs.  
Black River Falls  
@ Black River Falls  
High School
- 5:45pm Basketball: Boys  
C-Team/JV Game  
vs. Luther @ Luther  
High School
- 7:00pm Basketball: Boys  
Varsity Game vs.  
Luther @ Luther  
High School

## School District of West Salem

|                                   |   |         |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------|---|
| 7:00pm                            | Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Black River Falls @ Milt Lunda Memorial Arena   |         | McDonnell Central Catholic, Medford, Merrill, Mondovi, New Richmond, Osseo-Fairchild,   |
| 7:00pm                            | Wrestling: Boys & Girls Varsity Dual Meet vs. G-E-T/Mel-Min @ G-E-T High School   |         | Prescott, Rosemount, Sparta, St. Croix Falls, Superior, Tomahawk, Turtle Lake, White Bear Lake Area & Whitehall @ Eau Claire North  |
| <b>Friday, January 30, 2026</b>   |   |         |   |
| 5:45pm                            | Basketball: Girls JV Game vs. G-E-T @ West Salem High School  | 10:00am | Gymnastics: JV/ Varsity Invite vs. Eau Claire Memorial, Elkhorn, Janesville   |
| 7:00pm                            | Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. G-E-T @ West Salem High School   |         | Craig, Madison East, Madison La Follete, Madison Memorial, Madison West, Middleton, Monona Grove, Oshkosh West, Stevens Point Area Senior, Sun Prairie West, Verona Area, Waukesha North, Waukesha West, Waunakee, Waupun, West Bend West & Wilmot Union @ Madison Memorial High School |
| <b>Saturday, January 31, 2026</b> |   |         |   |
| 9:00am                            | Wrestling: Boys Varsity Invitational vs. De Pere, Lodi, Oak Creek, St. Croix Central & Sun Prairie West @ Lodi High School  |         | Middleton, Monona Grove, Oshkosh West, Stevens Point Area Senior, Sun Prairie West, Verona Area, Waukesha North, Waukesha West, Waunakee, Waupun, West Bend West & Wilmot Union @ Madison Memorial High School  |
| 9:30am                            | Wrestling: Girls Varsity Invitational vs. Amery, Apple Valley, Barron Area Schools, Blair-Taylor, Bloomington Kennedy, Cameron, Centennial MN, Clear Lake, Eau Claire Memorial, Eau Claire North, Elk Mound, Fillmore Central, Forest Lake, Frederic, Hutchinson, La Crescent-Hokah, Lakeland Union, Lewiston-Altura, | 11:00am | Basketball: Girls JV Game vs. Marshfield @ West Salem High School   |
|                                   |   | 1:00pm  | Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Marshfield @ West Salem High School  |

## School District of West Salem

### Band Events

#### Thursday, January 8, 2026

6:30pm Girls Basketball vs.  
Arcadia

#### Friday, January 9, 2026

6:30pm Boys Basketball vs.  
Westby  
Alumni/Community  
Band Night

#### Tuesday, January 13, 2026

6:30pm Girls Basketball vs.  
Viroqua

#### Thursday, January 15, 2026

6:30pm Boys Basketball vs.  
Arcadia

#### Thursday, January 22, 2026

6:30pm Girls Basketball vs.  
Luther

#### Sunday, January 25, 2026

7:00pm District Jazz Concert  
@ Heider Center  
Jazz Ensembles

#### Thursday, January 29, 2026

6:30pm Boys Basketball vs.  
Luther

#### Friday, January 30, 2026

6:30pm Girls Basketball vs.  
G-E-T

### Elementary School Events

#### Thursday, January 1-Friday, January 2, 2026

All Day No School-Christmas  
Break

#### Monday, January 19, 2026

All Day No School-Teacher  
Inservice

#### Thursday, January 29, 2026

8:30am 4th Grade to the OEC

#### Friday, January 30, 2026

8:30am 4th Grade to the OEC

### Middle School Events

#### Thursday, January 1-Friday, January 2, 2026

All Day No School-Christmas  
Break

#### Thursday, January 15, 2026

7:00pm 6th Grade Winter Band  
& Choir Concert  
@ Heider Center  
Students report  
@ 6:30 p.m.

#### Monday, January 19, 2026

All Day No School-Teacher  
Inservice

#### Friday, January 23, 2026

All Day Trimester 2 Mid-Term

### High School Events

#### Thursday, January 1-Friday, January 2, 2026

All Day No School-Christmas  
Break

#### Monday, January 19, 2026

All Day No School-Teacher  
Inservice

## Real World Ready!

Congratulations to the members of this fall's CNA class at WSHS, who recently graduated from their Quality CNA state certification course and took their state certification exam!

The CNA program is just one of many we offer that allows our students to earn real world certifications before graduation and gives them the opportunity to jump right into the workforce. Since 2019, over 70 students have earned their certification at WSHS.



# District Announcements



## WSES is a Model PLC!

We are thrilled to announce that West Salem Elementary School has officially been designated a Model Professional Learning Community (PLC) at Work School! This is one of the highest honors for professional practice in education, recognizing sustained commitment over multiple years to continuous improvement and student success. This distinguished designation means our educators work in collaborative, high-performing teams every day to ensure: Guaranteed Learning: Every student learns at a high level. Timely Intervention: Teachers work collaboratively to quickly identify learning gaps and provide immediate, targeted help so no student is overlooked or falls behind. Data-Driven Success: We constantly improve instruction based on measurable results. This achievement is a huge testament to the hard work and collaboration of our dedicated staff, supportive families, and our amazing students!



## 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

“Worlds Reimagined” - Exquisite Drawings, Prints and Handmade Books by Jessie Solberg & Chase Gentry  
Runs January 19-February 27  
Reception: Thursday, January 29th  
6:00-7:30p.m.

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

### Mason Dixon Line

Saturday, January 17, 2026

7:30 p.m.

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

The "Mason Dixon Line Band" (MDL) is a popular Midwest Country-Rock group formed in 2018 by brothers Justin & Jason Ploof, known for high-energy shows playing classic hits (60s-90s), supporting major country stars, and performing tributes to John Fogerty/CCR, with members including Micah Barrett and Tony Mazzone.



## Thank You, LiUNA!

We'd like to give a big thank you to the Laborers' International Union of North America- La Crosse, WI Local 140 Chapter for their generous \$500 donation to our Jane Doe Fund! This fund helps to cover school lunch expenses for families who may be struggling and these donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping to spread some holiday cheer!

Pictured are members of LiUNA Local 140 Chapter with Director of School Nutrition, Emily Klunk.



### 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?



As we move forward in our school year, we're excited to share the latest updates on the referendum projects across both the high school and elementary school sites. This month we are focusing on the high school as there has been some increased movement at that site. As always, we thank our students, staff, parents, and community for being an essential part of our district's success.

### High School Work Completed

Recent progress across the high school project site continues to move us forward. Erosion control measures have been installed to protect the area and support ongoing construction. Crews have completed the long jump, triple jump, and pole vault runs for the track season come springtime. New sod has been placed on the site where the field events have been completed. In addition, excavation for the east half of the retaining wall is now finished, marking another milestone.

### High School Work Ongoing

Construction activity continues to progress steadily across the site. Crews are completing selective site demolition to prepare for upcoming phases of work. At the fitness addition area, excavation and soil corrections are underway, along with installation of the sanitary sewer main and tie-ins to the existing system. Work is also progressing on the east half of the retaining wall, where crews are currently forming and pouring the footings.

### High School Work Upcoming

Looking ahead, several key activities are scheduled to begin in the coming weeks. Crews will replace the grease interceptor as part of ongoing infrastructure improvements. At the fitness additional area, building pad preload operations will get underway to prepare for future construction. Work will also advance on the retaining wall, including foundation wall construction, drain tile installation, and backfilling on the east half, as well as excavation, footings, and foundation wall work on the west half. Additionally, excavation in career and technical education addition area is set to begin, marking another major step forward for the project.

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](https://bit.ly/WSconstruction). Check it out!



***GUESS WHAT?  
WE WILL BE OFFERING  
FULL DAY 4K IN  
2026-2027!***



Help us plan by filling out the survey on our website by going to “Enrollment” and then “4K Registration Information” or scanning the QR code below.

Please fill this out if you are a resident that intends to enroll your child next year, or if you are a non-resident, but plan to open enroll.



## School District of West Salem

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

October 27, 2025

#### 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 October 23, 2025.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag  
Zeke Hyer led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Trish Harman recited the District Mission Statement.

#### Roll Call

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

#### Approval of Agenda

E. Peterson moved, B. Garbers seconded to approve the agenda as presented. unanimously.  
Motion carried

#### Written and Oral Reports

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

#### Connection with the Community

Lydia Jothan, Student Representative, reported on: Last week, students in the band were stressed as it was audition week. Marching season is officially over, and the bands are divided into Wind Symphony and Concert band. They are now practicing for their concert in December. Choir also performs that night and has been singing Christmas music since the first week of school. They are also preparing their songs for Disney as the band and choir program leave Nov. 23rd.

FFA is going to the National Convention. They are leaving tomorrow for Indianapolis and will be

gone through Friday. There they will meet students from other states and get to learn how different places operate. There are also several booths and collages looking for students interested in Veterinary Science, diesel engines, and other agricultural studies. In addition to the convention, they will tour UW Madison, go to a rodeo, Dave and Busters, an exotic cat sanctuary and their Chapter meal at Olive Garden.

HOSA is a student organization for those interested in healthcare careers. They meet Monday mornings and are currently working on an affirmation poster project. They hang these sounds at the school, especially in areas like the bathroom mirrors. Additionally, they are working to keep the women's bathroom stocked with feminine hygiene products.

The West Salem FIRST Technical Challenge Robotics team will be participating in a scrimmage event at WTC's Wanek Center this Saturday, November 1st. There will also be a Wisconsin FIRST Lego League Robotics Regional Event at the West Salem Middle School on Saturday, November 8th where two middle school teams from West Salem will be competing.

Zeke Hyer, Student Representative, reported on: The junior class had the opportunity to be interviewed by community members in their English 11 classes. I think it's awesome that our English classes are setting students up for success in the real world by developing their interview skills.

All our fall sports are coming to a close with the playoffs with: The volleyball team ending their season last week with a devastating playoff loss to St. Croix Central.

Senior Carson Gronomus, Sophomore Evan Berra, and Freshman Nora Johnson have all advanced to the state cross country meet this Saturday the 1st. Both Evan and Nora have broken school records in the 5k this season.

The football team won 48-20 in the first round of playoffs this past Friday against Berlin. They will then play Little Chute this Friday. There are buses available for students and parents to support the team.

Boys' soccer ended their season last week in a tough 1-2 loss against Mount Horeb. With our sports seasons in the heat of playoffs, and students being involved in various other activities,

## School District of West Salem

### School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes October 27, 2025 continued...

#### Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m

the student body is at incredibly hard work with everything they have going on. With this hard work I believe the majority of students are feeling overwhelmed from sports, classes, or both. Although I believe stress is a necessity for growth, I do think it's important for Lydia and I make the board aware of how students feel.

#### Correspondence

•A Department of Public Instruction Proclamation HOSA-Future Health Professionals (HOSA-FHP) Week, November 3-7, 2025, was read.

Public Comments – None.

#### Consent Agenda

E. Peterson moved, B. Garbers seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 13, 2025;
  - the invoices to be paid;
  - to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendations for elementary school advisors, middle school advisors, assistant gymnastics-Britney Jones, head 7th grade basketball-Mark Wagner, assistant 7th grade basketball -Nick Wagner and assistant middle school wrestling coach-Trevor Arentz;
  - to accept the donations from Cynthia & William Innes to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund, Allison Gegzna, David Bohnsack & Ashley Foreman to the Jane Doe Nutrition fund; Jo & Steve Mader brought in donation from the La Crosse Area Autism Foundation for the West Salem School District; Kwik Trip Management Team donated to the Homecoming Parade for Marching and Jazz Band; West Salem PTO donated to the special education classroom; Bostwick Estates donated to the West Salem District Football and Choir.
- Motion carried unanimously.

#### Discussion/Action Items:

B. Garbers moved, T. Harman seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee recommendation to approve bid pack 4 including Alternate 1, 2 and 3, Brick in lieu of Metal panel and renovation of the FACS classroom.  
Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, B. Garbers seconded to set the budget for the 2025-2026 school year as presented at the Annual Meeting – proposed Fund 10 revenues \$29,690,573 and proposed Fund 10 expenses at \$29,396,641. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, J. Hatz seconded to set the 2025-2026 school year Tax Levy at \$12,841,941 with a mill rate of 0.00773671.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended, as noted on the Public Meeting Notice. Live Stream Ends at 7:29 p.m.

#### Closed Session

C. 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 employment and compensation of a district employee. The board will discuss the salary of a district position.

C. Griffin moved, T. Harman seconded that the board convene in closed session at 7:32 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Closed Session

#### Adjournment

C. Griffin moved, B. Garbers seconded to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erik Peterson, Acting Clerk

## School District of West Salem

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

November 10, 2025

Marie Heider Meeting Room

7:00 p.m

#### Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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 November 6, 2025.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag  
Bob Minard led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Ryan Rieber recited the District Mission Statement.

#### Roll Call

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

#### Approval of Agenda

B. Garbers moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the agenda as presented.  
Motion carried unanimously.

#### Written and Oral Reports

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Superintendent's Collaborative Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

#### Connection with the Community

Lydia Jothan, Student Representative, reported on: The Adaptive sports league team just finished up their indoor soccer season. They had a very successful season and made their way to the championship game. They played against Holmen at Holmen and won! Next, they will begin their floor hockey season!

Winter Sports are just starting up! Girls' basketball, and both girls and boys' hockey started practice tonight, then wrestling and boys' basketball starts next weekend. And the ski and snowboard time won't begin competing until after Christmas

Veterans Day is tomorrow and the high school is honoring our veterans during an assembly. There the choir and band will perform, we will hear from a guest speaker and take time to honor and remember those who have served and are currently serving our country.

Interact recently held a food drive at Hansen's as part of their iFeed program. They collected over 350 canned goods and hundreds of dollars in cash donations. Half of the donations went to the food pantry, and the other half went to Wafer.

The math team had their annual competition last Wednesday. A few students from each grade headed to Platteville to take two math tests; first an individual test, and then they got to work together as a team on a test. These tests are extremely hard, in fact Mr. Milne, the coach said if you can get even three problems right, you're doing pretty well. THEY TOOK 3RD!

This past month West Salem's DECA Chapter has been very busy fundraising, volunteering, and preparing for our competition season. They kicked off October with local police and fire departments for Cops in the Corn. DECA members helped guide trick-or-treaters through the nearby corn maze to grab candy from officers and firefighters. They continued with the fun activities as we began our coloring competition at the elementary school. Students had 2 weeks to color sheets with the winners of each grade receiving ice cream as a reward. In total they completed 814 coloring sheets which will go to active service members and senior citizens in need of a smile. Following this, they hosted their first ever DECA movie night to raise funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Through concessions and raffle ticket sales, they raised \$265.00 for the cause. Ending off the month, West Salem DECA partnered with our National Honor Society to participate in Trick-or-Can and the Haunted Trail. We collected a total of 2350 canned goods for our local food pantry the day before Halloween and guided kids through scary and non-scary haunted house experiences at the school forest the following Saturday. In this first week of November, they have already begun to work as they hosted our regional DECA competition. With five schools and 60 plus participants, it gave a chance for new members to experience the competitive side of DECA and they said it was a super fun night overall!

#### Correspondence

- A thank you letter was read from Our Savior's

## School District of West Salem

### School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes November 10, 2025 continued...

#### Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m

Lutheran Church in regards to the districts assistance with the summers "Feed our Children" program.

•A Department of Public Instruction Proclamation, Homeless Awareness Month, November 1-30, 2025, was read.

Public Comments – None.

#### Consent Agenda

E. Peterson moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 27, 2025;
  - b. the invoices to be paid;
  - c. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendations for Head MS 7th grade basketball coach-Nick Wagner; Resignations from Mark Wagner & Brennan Kennedy; Volunteer assistant MS basketball coach-Nancy Wagner; Volunteer assistant boys basketball coach-Joe Stekel; Assistant boys basketball coach-Jaxon Beck; Assistant boys basketball coach-Tucker Wildes; Volunteer gymnastics coach-Ellie Loughan; Volunteer gymnastics coach-Mya Tepp; Assistant gymnastics coach-Brittney Hodgson; Volunteer assistant gymnastics coach-Evan Moe; Volunteer girls hockey coach-Charles Streeter;
  - d. to accept the donations from Brenda Skittone for 75 binders to the West Salem High School, Julie Baginski and Curtis Deboer donated to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund and Rosalie O'Connell donated a snare drum with case to the High School music program.
- Motion carried unanimously.

#### Discussion/Action Items:

C. Wilson moved, B. Garbers seconded to approve the first reading of Po 6236 Community Services Fund (Fund 80).  
Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, J. Hatz seconded to approve the 4K Full Time Full Day program proposal with the Option 1 transportation. 5-Aye, 1-Nay (Minard).  
Motion carried.

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

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended, as noted on the Public Meeting Notice. Live Stream Ends at 8:12 p.m.

Student Representatives L. Jothan dismissed. B. Wopat, A. Harlan and H. Horton leave the meeting.

#### Board Development

The Sponsorship Agreement and advertising materials were review and discussed.  
Policy 7510 Use of District Facilities Excluding Center of the Arts was reviewed and discussed.

#### Adjournment

E. Peterson moved, B. Garbers seconded to adjourn at 8:59 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caitlin Wilson, Clerk



# JOIN OUR TEAM!

We Are Looking for Bus Drivers!

APPLY VIA WECAN



## Bus Driver

### Key Responsibilities

- Current CDL or willing to obtain one
- Ability to work well with students of all ages
- Complete a pre trip inspection & keep the bus clean and orderly
- Approximately 3- 3.5 hours per day

### Benefits of Joining Us

- CDL Training & Costs provided by district if needed
- Starting at \$25.52/hour
- Enjoy a school year schedule!
- Ability to take extra trips



## School District of West Salem

### A Magical Week in Florida

The WSHS Band and Choir recently spent a magical week Thanksgiving visiting Florida, where they had the opportunity to perform at Walt Disney World! On Wednesday, the band had the opportunity to march at Magic Kingdom, and Friday, the choir performed at Disney Springs. They also

had lots of time to explore the other theme parks including Universal Studios, Islands of Adventure, Hollywood Studios, Epcot, and Animal Kingdom! We are so grateful for our wonderful staff, parent volunteers, and all those that make these incredible experiences available to our students!



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

#### Did You Know?

Most of the beets grown in Wisconsin are red beets, but there are also pink, purple, white, and yellow beets!



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  
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West Salem, WI 54669

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