

July 2026

WS Newsletter

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Letter from Superintendent Ryan

Summer is in Full Swing!

Happy July! While the summer sun is in full swing, our campus is buzzing with energy, growth, and preparation for a fantastic month ahead. Whether you are relaxing by the pool or stopping by campus, there is a lot to look forward to!

We were excited to kick off Summer School on Monday, July 6th! There is nothing quite like the sound of laughter and learning filling our hallways again, and we are absolutely delighted to welcome our students back to campus.

A massive shout-out and thank-you to our incredible staff. Their dedication, creativity, and energy are what make these weeks so special. Thank you for providing such positive enrichment and wonderful learning opportunities for our students!

If you've driven by lately, you've probably noticed a few orange cones and heavy machinery! We are making great progress on our campus upgrades. As we enter the 2026-27 school year, we are thrilled to be entering the final stretch of these major construction projects.

Letter continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

The year ahead is incredibly exciting for us in West Salem. Here is what you can look forward to:

- August 31st (Start of School): Our brand-new elementary school gym will be fully completed and ready for action!
- High School Interiors: Interior construction at the high school is also scheduled to be completed in time for the students' return.
- Winter 2026: The highly anticipated Trades Building, along with our new Business Education Classrooms and Fitness Center, are on track to be completed around Christmas time.

When you look at the new walls going up around our district, it's easy to focus just on the bricks and mortar. But there is a profound difference between a carpenter and a craftsman. A carpenter builds things; a craftsman or craftswoman puts their heart, soul, spirit, and passion into their work to create a masterpiece. The truth is, it's easier to just show up. It's easier to go through the motions at work, at home, or in a classroom. It's easier to be mediocre, but nobody remembers average. Just showing up doesn't lead to greatness or make a lasting impact on our children's lives. As Michelangelo once said, "If people knew how hard I worked

to get my mastery, it wouldn't seem so wonderful at all."

It is hard to be great. It requires more than just standard effort; it requires caring more. When you care more, you do more, create more, and become more. There is a Greek word that captures this: Meraki. It means doing something with love, creativity, and soul; leaving a piece of yourself in your work; and leaving something lasting behind.

This spirit of Meraki, of being craftsmen and craftswomen dedicated to excellence, is exactly how we approached our biggest academic milestone this year: the launch of our first-ever, full-day 4-Year-Old Kindergarten (4K) program.

This spirit of Meraki, of being craftsmen and craftswomen dedicated to excellence, is exactly how we approached our biggest academic milestone this year: the launch of our first-ever, full-day 4-Year-Old Kindergarten (4K) program.

This program was a long time in the planning process. Traditionally, our largest group of students who open-enroll out of our district has

School District of West Salem

been our 4K students. On average, we have had 18 to 20 resident students whose parents chose to educate them in neighboring districts. Keeping our resident families here at home has been a primary goal of ours because we deeply believe in our team.

Thanks to our exceptional 4K instructors, paraprofessionals, and district team, we didn't just build a standard program; we crafted a robust, play-based masterpiece. Because of their heart and soul, the open-enrollment number has plummeted from 20 to only 4. We are overjoyed to keep our resident kids right here in the West Salem School District, surrounded by educators who refuse to just "go through the motions."

Like Steve Jobs' father, who meticulously crafted the back of a backyard fence with the same beauty as the front simply because "You will know," our staff operates with that exact same integrity. We believe our students and our community can sense the genuine care put into our schools. True craftsmanship doesn't happen overnight. It takes trying new things, learning, improving, and overcoming challenges. But when we show up each day

as artists dedicated to our craft, the world becomes a better place for it. As we look toward the 2026-27 school year, we aren't just opening buildings; we are putting our love and soul into West Salem. We are building a masterpiece that reflects the essence of our community's energy, effort, and heart.

Thank you for being on this incredible journey with us. Here's to the continuation of a fantastic summer, and as we officially enter the 2026-27 school year, here is to an even better school year ahead!

Ryan Rieber
Superintendent



Starts 6/2

Tuesdays and Thursdays

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Meals can be picked up at Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 Leonard St. N (use East Ave. door)

Delivery available within the Village of West Salem - Watch for
sign up on Facebook & District website

Free meals for kids 18 and under

For more info, check the Feed Our Children - West Salem

Facebook page or email feedourchildrenws@gmail.com

CLASS OF 2027: IT IS YOUR TIME

Senior year is finally here! We have an important yearbook deadline to keep in mind. Each senior needs to submit the following photos:

1. Yearbook Portrait

This photo is a traditional, formal head and shoulders pose. You may use this same portrait for everything if you would like.

***No full-length poses, hats, props, "misty" filters, or distracting backgrounds.**



2. Times of Our Lives

This may be less formal.



3. Baby Photo

This photo will be used to morph into the "big kid" photo for the Senior Slide Show. The best morphs are created using baby photos where the baby's face is the dominant part of the photo.



4. Senior Photo for Slide Show

This photo will be the photo that the baby photo morphs into for the slide show. It can be the same photo used for the Yearbook or Times of our Lives if you would like.



Photos due:

Friday, Nov. 13,
2026

Submit **300 dpi jpeg** photo(s) via email to armstrong.andrea@wsalem.k12.wi.us
Please label photos with the student name and publication - ex. JoeSmithYearbook.
Labeled hard copy photos can be dropped off to room 241 - silver box.

2026-2027 Registration Information and Reminders

Elementary School

Online registration through Skyward Family Access for West Salem Elementary 4K through 4th grade students will start **August 4th**. If you are unable to register online, an in-house registration will be held on Tuesday, **August 18th** from 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Jostens will be here to take student pictures at this time. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.

4K & Kindergarten

If you have a child who will be four or five years old by September 1, 2026, please call the Elementary Office (786-1662) ASAP to register your child for 4K or kindergarten, if you have not already done so.

New this year!

4K will run all day Monday-Thursday from 8:45 a.m.-3:10 p.m.

Middle School

Online registration through Skyward Family Access for West Salem Middle 5th-8th grade students will start August 1st. If you are unable to register online, in-house registration will be held on Tuesday, **August 18th** from 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Jostens will be here to take pictures at this time. Please plan on attending!

8th Grade W.E.B. Leader Training

August 17th & 18th, 2026

8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

MS Gym

Meet in the gym each morning with a water bottle, a pen/pencil, and some light snacks (no nuts or peanut/peanut butter allowed). Wear comfy clothes (no skirts) for the activities. During your training you will receive information about expectations such as report time and attire for the 5th grade orientation.

5th Grade W.E.B. Orientation

August 19, 2026

8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

MS Gym

Wear comfy clothes (no skirts) and leave your bags, backpacks, hats, and phones at home... travel light! The purpose of this orientation day is to make the transition from elementary school to middle school a positive one. Eighth graders will be serving as leaders and mentors to the fifth graders. Large and small group activities are designed to address students' needs and concerns in an enjoyable manner. Students will be eating a school-provided lunch with their leaders that day.

Please do not drop your child off early because there is no supervision available

2026-2027 Registration Information and Reminders

High School

Online registration will open on **July 15th**. Buy a yearbook, update Skyward, pay fees, and receive schedules, all through the online registration process. Schedule Change requests will be minimal and considered using the Schedule Change Policy which is located in the Student Handbook. A Skymail will be sent in July with more detailed information.

Student pictures will be incorporated into the first day of school time slots.

Freshmen: 7:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Sophomores: 8:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Juniors: 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Seniors: 12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Link Crew Freshman Orientation

August 31, 2026

7:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

WSHS Gymnasium

The purpose of this orientation is to make the transition from middle school to high school a positive one. Seniors and juniors will be serving as leaders and mentors to the freshmen. Large and small group activities are designed to address students' needs and concerns in an enjoyable manner. Students should wear comfortable shoes and clothing, as this will be an active day! Part of the day will be spent at the school forest, so please plan accordingly. Lunch will be served at this event. Students are expected to attend and stay for the duration of the event.

If you have any questions, please contact Link Crew Coordinator Jamie Olson (olson.jamie@wsalem.k12.wi.us).

Athletics

The WIAA Sports Meetings will once again be part of the online registration process. We will no longer host a large all sport meeting. However, each individual sport will still host a break out session prior to the first date of practice. Dates for individual break out sessions will be placed on the school district calendar once determined.

Students participating in athletics must have a current physical on file with the main office of the high school prior to the first day of practice. Physicals must be dated on or after April 1, 2025, to be valid. Any athletes with physicals dated between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026, must also have an alternate year card on file with the main office. All forms can be downloaded by going to the district website and clicking on "Schools > High School > Activities > Athletics." Please contact the high school office at (608)-786-1220 with any questions.

Bus Registration

4K-12 Students

Please check your email for registration information from our Transportation Department. If you need assistance or did not receive info, please call or email Michelle Lawryn at 608-786-4356 or lawryn.michelle@wsalem.k12.wi.us. Please complete your registration by July 24. Bus schedules will be mailed in mid-August.

Congratulations to our Retirees!

We are lucky to have over 300 phenomenal staff members here in West Salem, and each year we bid several of them a “see you later” as they enter retirement.

Our 2026 retirees are:

- Julie Kamla - IT/Curriculum Administrative Assistant
- Debra Kendhammer - High School Special Education Paraprofessional
- Patsy Manke - High School Special Education Paraprofessional
- Kathleen Morgan - Bus Driver
- Dan Schroeder - Middle School Custodian
- Melanie Stellner - Print Center Administrative Assistant

Together these individuals have served our district for 147 years! While they will all be missed, we wish them nothing but the best in their retirement!

Thank you for your dedication, passion and service to our students and community!



District Announcements



Enjoying the Outdoors

A well-loved tradition for our 7th grade students is their annual end of the year campout at the school forest and this year was no exception! While there, they get to participate in a variety of fun activities that allow them to soak up some time in nature! They spent time catching macroinvertebrates in the lake, using GPS to find and survey a forested area, making nature observations and plaster tracks, removing

invasive species including buckthorn, garlic mustard, and honeysuckle, taking a five mile bike ride through a variety of terrain, enjoying pancakes on the outdoor griddle, and howling for wolves! They even heard wolves howl back



both nights this year! When they weren't busy, they simply enjoyed being outside with their classmates hanging around the campfire, sleeping in tents, and exploring the woods! Thank you to our excellent staff for always making this such a fun-filled and memorable experience for our students!

School Board Members

Catherine Griffin, President ~~~~~(608) 769-1714
Caitlin Wilson, Vice President ~~~~~ (608)780-3836
Trish Harman, Treasurer ~~~~~(608) 332-9222
Jennifer Hatz, Clerk~~~~~ (608) 317-3115
Bob Minard, Director~~~~~(608)786-9998
Ben Garbers, Director~~~~~(608) 498-9510
Nick Walters, Director~~~~~ (608) 769-0278

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

District Announcements

Heider Center



Heider Center Mainstage

2026-2027 Season Tickets

Season tickets for the new 2026-2027 Heider Center Mainstage Season will go on sale Thursday, May 28th at 1:30 pm.

Individual show tickets will go on sale to the general public on Thursday, August 13th at 1:30 pm

The Box Office will be closed the month of July with regular hours resuming in August.

Hours
Monday &
Thursday:
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
(608) 786-2550
www.heidercenter.org

Track and Field at State!

Congratulations to the following students who earned a spot to compete at the WIAA Division 2 State Track & Field Meet in June!

Girls Qualifiers included
4 x 800 Relay: Anna Witte, Isabel Krueger, Elise Flock and Natalia Minard, 100 Meter Dash: Kaylee Skiles, and 100 Meter & 300 Meter Hurdles: Olivia Maki.

Boys Qualifiers
4 x 200 Meter Relay: Jackson Seberg, Kaden Langrehr, Josiah Wolbrink and Cade Donahue, 4 x 100 Meter Relay: Jameson Skifton, Cade Donahue, Josiah Wolbrink and Jackson Seberg, 800 Meter Run: Michael Torrance, 200 Meter Dash: Cade Donahue, 3200 Meter Run: Evan Berra, and Shot Put: Isaiah Laack.



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. Navigate by going to "Schools" > "High School" > "Students" > "Student Services" > "Transcripts."

If you have questions, please call the High School Student Services Office at (608) 786-1220.

Enrollment for 2026-2027

Are you new to the district and looking to enroll your students for the 2026-2027 school year?

All enrollment information can be found by going to our website at www.wsalem.k12.wi.us and clicking on "Enrollment" at the top of the page. Here you can learn more about our district and print off the required enrollment forms. Once completed, you can bring them to the District Office to complete registration. If you have any questions, please call (608)-786-0700.

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 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?



We hope that all West Salem School District students, staff, and families are enjoying summer break thus far! Construction continues at both the Elementary and High School sites. Don't be afraid to drive by during the summer to continue to see progress or look at the live stream camera that is on the District web page at the link below.

Elementary School

Construction is approximately 58% complete. Completed work at the Elementary includes painting of precast walls, exposed ceilings, and ductwork, as well as interior remodel of underground plumbing and slab infill. Interior metal stud framing progressed, gym acoustic wall panels were installed, and exterior insulation and finish system (EIFS) work continues to advance the building exterior finishes.

High School

Construction is approximately 35% complete. Completed work at the High School site includes work in areas H (fitness addition) and I (CTE area) of the underground MEP (mechanical, electrical, and plumbing) installations and construction of the fitness addition CMU partition wall. Concrete placement for the fitness addition slab was completed, along with exterior framing, sheathing, and blocking. In the CTE area, structural steel erection continued with columns, beams, joists, and metal deck installed, while roof drain systems and associated piping were also put in place to support ongoing building enclosure and roofing activities for the greenhouse relocation.

Work Upcoming

Upcoming work at the Elementary School includes installation of gym door hardware and equipment, along with drywall and painting activities within the interior remodel areas. Crews will continue to work on installation of corridor PLAM panels and suspended ceilings as interior finish work progresses.

Upcoming work at the High School includes MEP wall rough-ins and masonry veneer installation at the fitness addition. In the CTE area, the concrete slab was completed while interior wall framing, overhead MEP rough-ins, roofing, and weather barrier installation continues. Interior remodel activities advanced with wall framing and MEP rough-ins, and courtyard demolition and excavation remained underway.

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



Elementary School



Elementary School



High School



High School

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2026

Marie Heider Meeting Room

7:00 p.m

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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 May 7, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Ben Garbers led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, and Nick Walters recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Catherine Griffin, Ben Garbers, Jennifer Hatz, and Nick Walters. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Justin Jehn, Alex Hubing, Heidi Horton, Crystal Becker, Ben Wopat, and Shawn Handland; Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson. Absent: Student representatives: Tula Mitchell and Graham Sjoquist, and Board Members Bob Minard, Trish Harman, Caitlin Wilson, and Alyssa Harlan.

Approval of Agenda

B. Garbers moved, N. Walters seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Written and Oral Reports

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

CESA #4 Board of Control – C. Griffin reported on the Board of Control's agenda.

Construction Project Update – Superintendent Rieber reported on the construction progress of the Elementary and High School projects.

Workforce Engagement & Development Committee – Catherine Griffin reported that the committee met on May 4, 2026, and they came to an agreement with the West Salem Education Association for the 2026-2027 school year.

High School ACT Report – Justin Jehn presented an

ACT Score explanation, structure and instructional changes.

Connection with the Community
Boys' and Girls' Club update
Maggie Solberg presented the BGC Update.

Justin Jehn, Principal, reported on:

- o The boys and girls track team traveled to Viroqua for the last meet before the conference meet tonight. Both teams are looking great for conference this coming Saturday. We had another school record broken on the track last Thursday as senior Olivia Maki broke her own school record in the 300 hurdles in a time of 45.75!
- o The seniors presented their Panther Portfolios to the judges last Wednesday. Many of the seniors said it went well and are happy it is over. While the seniors were here presenting, the rest of the school had the day off.
- o Prom was two weekends ago, and it was such a fun night for all. We started out the night with pictures at Riverside in La Crosse, and the night ended with the dance here at the high school. This year's King and Queen were announced, the king being Josiah Wolbrink and the queen Jayda Miller.
- o The choir had its last concert of the year last night while also recognizing the seniors in the choir for all their hard work and dedication. The band has its last performance this coming Sunday, and they will also be recognizing their seniors as well.
- o Last Thursday, the softball team won its game against GET, which solidified its place as conference champions for the third year in a row!
- o The summer musical was announced to be Grease a couple of weeks ago. The cast of Grease has been at work learning their lines, songs, and dances. The first show will be on Thursday, June 11.
- o A large majority of the high school band and choir students spent their time at UW-L two weekends ago for the state solo and ensemble festival. These students showcased their vocal and instrumental talents with solo performances and group performances.
- o This past week, students began their AP testing. On Monday, May 4th was the exam for AP Biology, and the exam for AP Calculus was this morning.

Correspondence

A thank-you card from Partners In Excellence was read, and a letter from Rick Kline, Director of Transportation.

Public Comments
None.

School District of West Salem

Consent Agenda

- B. Garbers moved, J. Hatz seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:
- a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 27, 2026;
 - b. the invoices to be paid;
 - c. to hire Emily Meyer as a 1.0 FTE high school Intellectual Disabilities Teacher;
 - d. resignation(s)/retirement(s), none;
 - e. Co-Curricular Recommendations: Summer Musical Stage Directors – Ben Hanson and Lucas Jandt;
 - f. to accept a donation from American Family, in the amount of \$2845.48 for Scholarships.
- Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Discussion/Action Items:

- C. Griffin moved, N. Walters seconded to approve the Open Enrollment requests for the 2026-2027 school year, with the exceptions of students numbered 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30, 34, 37, 46, 49, and 54. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

The Board discussed scheduling the summer board retreat. Due to insufficient board member availability for discussion, by consensus, the Board directed administration to distribute a survey to board members to determine potential dates.

- C. Griffin moved, B. Garbers seconded to approve option 1 to hire a .75 FTE (with benefits) Multi-Lingual teacher. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

- J. Hatz moved, C. Griffin seconded to approve options 2 and 3 from the Kraus-Anderson proposal of the Girls Varsity Locker Room at the Panther Den. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

The list of to-do items/Board member information requests was reviewed.

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended at 8:45 p.m., as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

Closed Session

- C. Griffin stated the Board would consider a motion to convene in closed session pursuant to: Wis. Stats §19.85(1) (a) Deliberating concerning a case which was the subject of any judicial or quasi-judicial trial or hearing before that governmental body; and (f) Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a

substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations; and pursuant to Wisconsin Administrative Code 36.06 to discuss, consider and take action, if appropriate, regarding the revocation of the Open Enrollment status of a student and to review and discuss confidential pupil records under 118.125.

And 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 salaries for individual district and administrative staff member(s) for the 26-27 school year.

- C. Griffin moved, B. Garbers seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:50 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: C. Griffin, Aye; N. Walters, Aye; B. Garbers, Aye; and J. Hatz, Aye. Absent: B. Minard, T. Harman and C. Wilson. Motion carried unanimously (4-0). Also in attendance: Ryan Rieber, Jennifer Larson, Cody Braun, Justin Jehn, Crystal Becker and Shawn Handland.

Closed Session

- J. Hatz moved, B. Garbers seconded to reconvene into Open Session at 9:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Open Session

Discussion/Action Items:

Agenda Item a. Setting wages for the support staff for the 26-27 school year. By consensus, the Board agreed to postpone this item to a future meeting to ensure a full voting body is present, noting that one member must abstain due to a declared conflict of interest.

N. Walters moved, C. Griffin seconded to approve setting wages on the miscellaneous wage sheet for the 26-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

N. Walters moved, J. Hatz seconded to approve setting the wage for the co-curricular salary schedule for the 26-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Adjournment

N. Walters moved, J. Hatz seconded to adjourn at 9:38 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (4-0). Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hatz, Clerk

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes June 8, 2026

Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Acting President Caitlin Wilson. 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 June 4, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Justin Jehn led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, and Alyssa Harlan recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Trish Harman, Caitlin Wilson, Ben Garbers, Jennifer Hatz, and Nick Walters. Also in attendance – Administration: Justin Jehn, Alex Hubing, Heidi Horton, Alyssa Harlan, Crystal Becker, and Shawn Handland; Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson. Student representatives: Tula Mitchell and Graham Sjoquist.

Absent: Board Members Catherine Griffin and Bob Minard and Superintendent Ryan Rieber, and Ben Wopat.

Approval of Agenda

T. Harman moved, N. Walters seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Written and Oral Reports

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

Connection with the Community

Graham Sjoquist, Student Representative, reported on:

• Track

The boys and girls track team has had a remarkable end to their season. At the conference meet both the boys and girls won the team championships. The boys won their 6th straight championship, and the girls won their 2nd straight championship. The teams then went on to regionals at GET. We had many individuals qualify for the sectional meet

in Rice Lake. Both teams went on to win the team championships at regionals as well. At sectionals, we had phenomenal performances, including three new school records broken. Michael Torrance broke the 20-plus-year 800-meter record in a time of 1:56. Evan Berra set the 3200-meter record in a blazing time of 9:30. Olivia Maki reset her record again in the 300-meter hurdles. The following athletes/relays qualified for the state meet this past weekend at UWL: boys 4x1, boys 4x2, girls 4x8, Cade Donahue in the 200, Michael Torrance in the 800, Evan Berra in the 3200, Isaiah Laack in shot put, Kaylee Skiles in the 100, Olivia Maki in the 300H, and 100H. Congrats to all runners at state.

- The class of 2026 graduated on May 22nd. Mrs. Jones gave the graduating class a farewell address. The seniors had a full day of fun activities, including a breakfast, senior sing-out, and one last walk through the schools. Congratulations graduates.
- West Salem had the neat experience of hosting 5 foreign exchange students this year. They were Fiona from Germany, Youseff from Egypt, Sinna from Finland, Martina from Spain, and Fredrick from Germany. It was so cool to get to know the different cultures and traditions that they have.
- As of May 30th, incoming seniors who got approved to start their Panther Portfolio Projects have begun working on them. There are a large number of students who got approved to start this summer, and many project ideas that are unique and fun for the students and the community.

Tula Mitchell, Student Representative, reported on:

- The boys' baseball team finished their season last week, losing a close game to Merrill. Congrats on a great season, boys.
- The girls' softball team ended their season at the sectional semifinal last Tuesday, the 2nd. They played Baldwin Woodville and lost 0-4. They were regional champions and had an overall record of 21-4.
- The high school Marching Band has officially started its summer band camp. They started last Monday, the 1st, and their last day is Friday, the 12th. During band camp, they learn the routine for the upcoming marching season and memorize their marching song for the season.
- The girls' soccer team has started the playoffs. They won their first playoff game at home and then lost their next game in a shootout to Baldwin Woodville. Great season, girls.
- The cast for the summer musical, Grease, has been working extremely hard on the play. The opening day is on June 11th with a performance the next day

School District of West Salem

on June 12th. They also have shows the next week on June 17th and 18th.

Correspondence

A thank-you card from Addie Jehn and Amanda Beld was received and read.

A Department of Public Instruction Proclamation declaring June 14-20, 2026 Summer Food Service-

Program Week was read.

Public Comments

Emily Wiedemann and Andrea Pierson spoke about 4K Open Enrollment.

Consent Agenda

J. Hatz moved, N. Walters seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items with the exception of item c. varsity boys' soccer coach recommendation, which was removed from the consent agenda for further discussion at the next Board meeting:

a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 11, 2026;

b. the invoices to be paid;

c. Co-curricular Recommendations: varsity volleyball coach, varsity girls' tennis coach, varsity girls' cross-country coach, and WIAA Membership renewal;

d. to hire Malena Lupient as a 1.0 FTE High School Counselor and Emily Phillips as a .75 FTE District Multilingual Learners Teacher;

e. the resignation of Tabitha Kemp, School Counselor, and Ryan Olson, Athletic Director;

f. to accept a donations from Cynthia and William Innes, in the amount of \$20.00 for Random Acts of Kindness Fund, West Salem Cares donated \$1000.00 to the Jane Doe Fund for the general balance, West Salem Cares donated \$406.55 to the Jane Doe Fund for the Senior balances. Jane Doe donations from Tiffany Brenengen: \$17.45, Cynthia Lambert: \$5.25, Ann Donahue: \$2.75, Anna Graham: \$13.85, Carrie Guley: \$3.25, Jessica Hauser: \$55.70, Ethan Hegge: \$13.20, Monika Logging: \$20.05, Ashley Nelson: \$29.95, Audra Nelson: \$288.05, Jennifer Odegard: \$5.45, Sara Patterson: \$21.75, Danielle Reichert: \$30, Erica Schauf: \$.50, Amy Schmidt: \$12.45, Heidi Schwarz: \$117.35, Kimberly Volden: \$.90, Tabitha Kemp: \$16.55, Deb Kendhammer: \$5.20. Motion carried, 3-0 with 2 Abstentions: 2 (T.Harman, B. Garbers)

Discussion/Action Items:

B. Garbers moved, N. Walters seconded to cancel the July 27, 2026, Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

B. Garbers moved, J. Hatz seconded to remove the 4K open enrollment cap for the 2026/2027 school

year. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Justin Jehn explained to the board about the possible need for a policy change to our graduation policy due to potential WIAA tournament conflicts in the future. No action was taken.

The list of to-do items/Board member information requests was reviewed.

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended at 8:07 p.m., as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

Closed Session

C. Wilson stated 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 compensation and salary recommendations for individual district employees and administrative staff members for the 2026-2027 school year; and Wis. Stats §19.85(1) (e) deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, for the purpose of discussing employee compensation with the West Salem Education Association for the 2026-2027 school year.

B. Garbers moved, T. Harman seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:08 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: T. Harman , Aye; N. Walters, Aye; C. Wilson, Aye; B. Garbers, Aye; and J. Hatz, Aye. Absent: B. Minard, and C. Griffin. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). Also in attendance: Jennifer Larson, Crystal Becker and Shawn Handland.

Closed Session

B. Garbers moved, T. Harman seconded to reconvene into Open Session at 8:53 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Open Session

Discussion/Action Items:

B. Garbers moved, N. Walters seconded to set wages for the support staff for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried, 4-0 with 1 Abstention (J. Hatz).

B. Garbers moved, N. Walters seconded to approve the agreement with the West Salem Education Association for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Adjournment

B. Garbers moved, N. Walters seconded to adjourn at 8:54 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0). Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hatz, Clerk

One Last Wave

The Last Day of School wouldn't have been complete without one Last Wave Goodbye at WSES! Through smiles, laughs and even a few tears, staff bid farewell to our students as the buses pulled away to end the 2025-2026 school year. It was a year full of learning, growth, and many achievements

for our Panthers and we can't wait to see what the 2026-2027 school year brings! Thank you all for a wonderful year and we hope you enjoy your summer!



Farm to School is Getting an Update!

Our Farm to School Calendar is getting an update for the 2026-2027 school year! Stay tuned for more!

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

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