

March 2021



Newsletter

School District of West Salem

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Letter from Superintendent Ryan Rieber

Let the Madness of March Begin!

To me, March is a month of opportunity and a time for new beginnings! Whether it was as a basketball player trying to make the push to a State Tournament, working to do the same as a coach, or being hopeful that the Badgers would make a run in the NCAA tournament, March presents excitement and opportunity. It is hard to believe that we are approaching the date that began the pandemic for all of us a year ago on March 17th. I recently read a quote that states, "Today, I close the door on the past, open the door to the future, take a deep breath, step through and start a new chapter." I feel that this quote symbolizes where we are as a district. The District continues to move forward in a positive direction. We are looking to have a full spring sports season for our students and culminate our school year with a graduation ceremony this May. We have all learned a great deal and have grown over this time. I am proud of the direction we are going, and that we are doing so with our students fully on campus while keeping them and our staff as safe as possible.

School Board

The spring school board election is set for Tuesday, April 6th. There are four candidates running for two positions on the board. In this month's newsletter, each candidate was asked to answer four questions so our community could learn more about them as we look to make important decisions for our district. Incumbent Robin Fitzgerald is seeking reelection, former board member Thomas Helgeson is seeking a return to the school board, and newcomers Chris Peterson and Kyle Boland are seeking their first terms.

Board member Jane Halverson is completing nine years of service on our school board. I would like to thank Jane for her dedication to our schools and students. Along with Jane, our Board has done a great job of servicing the needs of our students, staff, and schools, and I would like to thank them for all that they have done. This past year has been a trying and difficult time for many, but our board has risen to these challenges and worked to do what is best for our students and staff in the midst of this difficult year.

Letter continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

Youth Art & Music Month

March is also Arts Month, which gives us the opportunity to acknowledge the many talents of our students and staff across the district. Youth Art Month allows us to recognize all of the wonderful visual artists that we have across our district, and Music in our Schools Month is celebrated with the opening of many of our musical performances. The K-12 Honors Art Show will be highlighted virtually on our district website for everyone to enjoy. It can also be found on the West Salem Art Department Facebook page.

Our music department will be having their spring performances as well. These will either be live-streamed or recorded and posted to our district's YouTube channel. We have remarkable talent here in the district and are looking forward to showcasing all that our students do!

This is a special time within our schools as we move into spring. It provides us all an opportunity to appreciate the present yet look forward to the future. Our students and staff continue to work towards meeting learning targets, seniors are working towards graduation, and our leadership teams and school board work diligently to prepare for next year. We are fortunate to be a part of this wonderful community! It's a great time to be a Panther!

Thank you for all that you do for our students, staff, schools, and community!

Ryan G. Rieber
Superintendent

March is Youth Art Month

Every March, the Wisconsin Art Education Association hosts an exhibit to celebrate Youth Art Month at the Capitol in Madison, which features a Youth Art Month flag with student artwork based on the year's theme.

This year, two of our West Salem Middle School students were chosen to have their artwork as part of the three designs on the flag! Congratulations to Natalie Chambers and Danielle Christianson on this awesome

honor! Their artwork was chosen from pieces submitted throughout the state of Wisconsin.

Not only will the flag be shown in this year's virtual exhibit, but it will also be a part of the Youth Art Month Museum at the National Art Education Association Convention in Chicago in March. We are very proud of these two students and their outstanding accomplishment!



**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

MUNICIPALITY	LOCATION
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.

School District	
School Board Member Vote for not more than 2	
<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:

Meet Your Candidates for West Salem School Board

In the Spring Election on April 6, 2021 there will be two seats open on the West Salem School Board. The four candidates that have filed to fill these positions are: Kyle Boland, Robin Fitzgerald (i), Thomas Helgeson, and Chris Peterson. Please remember to vote on April 6! Voting locations can be found on page 8.

1) What motivates you to become a board member?

A: “The events over the past twelve months have changed our lives and challenged us all. We are at a critical point in determining how we respond to those events and move forward. I firmly believe that no matter the challenges we encounter in our lives, we can come out on the other side even stronger. There are components of our lives that we can control, and others that are outside of our control. By focusing on the aspects that we can control, we can collectively work together as a district to create the best possible learning environment for our children and simultaneously serve as the hub of the community. I am motivated to become a board member to be able to help in the transition of moving forward as a district and striving for consistent improvement.”



Kyle Boland

2) What do you see as the board's roles and responsibilities?

A: “The board is a team that is responsible for the overall vision and goals of a cohesive district. Their role is to ensure that we meet our goals and make our vision a reality. To do so, they need to keep those goals and that vision in the forefront of their mind during their decision making processes. The board needs to hear the concerns of stakeholders and constantly weigh those concerns with the overall big picture to determine if we need to re-evaluate the larger goals and vision, or our steps to get there. With all of this in mind, the board is responsible for determining district policies, budgeting, and acting as advocates for the students and district. They need to make sure the school administration is held accountable and ensuring that the actions taken reflect the goals and policies.”

3) What is the most important responsibility of a school board?

A: “The most important responsibility of a school board is performing the act of listening. They need to then make informed decisions that align with the overall goals and vision of the district. These decisions should not come without hearing from those who are in the arena (the students, teachers, and staff) and the taxpayers whose dollars need to be spent resourcefully. Listening comes in many forms. Each taxpayer, teacher, employee, student, and board member is a member of the team. Everybody has a unique perspective and often, varying opinions. While this can sometimes initially be frustrating when opinions differ from our own, this is usually a good thing to allow us to explore ideas from a different perspective. Board members have their own opinions, but it is their role in an elected position to hear these opinions and perspectives and make responsible decisions with the district's best interest in mind.”

4) What issues do you believe the district needs to address in its academic program and offerings?

What changes would you recommend?

A: “One of the biggest issues to address is how we are going to move forward from the closures and uncertainties of our current school year. There has obviously been a great deal of change in the information and regulations, and this is going to continue to evolve. We need to continue to look at the data and what is best for our children and their education. I strongly believe that we need to give our children opportunities. The school has taken steps to get back in person and gradually increase their participation and activities while maintaining a safe environment for all parties. We need to continue moving in this direction. It has been demonstrated that it can occur in a safe manner and we can keep moving forward.”

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1) What motivates you to become a board member?

A: “I had the honor of being elected to the West Salem School Board in 2018. At that time, I noted a desire to ensure students of diverse backgrounds and abilities reach their full potential upon graduation. I vowed to ensure all stakeholders have a voice as we build on the already strong foundation of success while remaining steadfast to the fiscal responsibility of the taxpayer’s investment. I am proud to say that I have kept my word, both supporting the schools and advocating for changes when necessary. In my service on the board, I have learned that exceptional school systems deliver a superior education as a product of continuous commitment to improvement in an ever-changing environment. I believe in giving back to a community I love. I am motivated to continue on the school board because I am a strong advocate for public schools, and I believe the best gift you can give a child is an education.”



2) What do you see as the board’s roles and responsibilities?

A: “I view the board’s role is to ensure the representation of all stakeholders; families, staff, and community taxpayers. The board provides governance through continuous improvement planning and ensuring resources are available to support our incredible employees in executing our strategic plan that results in high student achievement. The board sets policies that provide a framework to define rules, regulations, procedures, and protocols for school operations. Simultaneously, the school board must remain prudent stewards of the taxpayer’s funds allocated to the schools through state funding and referendums. The school board works with the superintendent to form a unified leadership team committed to a clear strategic plan and a shared sense of responsibility to achieve the district’s vision. As a board member, I feel it is important to foster dialogue at the boardroom table and continue a collaborative decision-making process to set goals that align with the district’s mission and vision of success.”

Robin Fitzgerald

3) What is the most important responsibility of a school board?

A: “The board’s most important responsibility is to use the data and information available to drive decisions and set goals for improvement. The board must ensure every staff member has the resources and support needed to empower every learner with the knowledge and skills required to be future-ready as a West Salem School District graduate.”

4) What issues do you believe the district needs to address in its academic program and offerings? What changes would you recommend?

A: “If I could change the word “issues” to opportunities, the last year has brought changes in education never seen before. I believe the school district has an opportunity to emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever. There is a heightened awareness of how vital schools are to our children’s and community’s well-being. I would recommend that we continue to support our student’s academic success by strengthening relationships between home and school through advisory committees representing all stakeholders. A united community is a stronger community. West Salem is a pioneer in college and career readiness. I support our school’s incredible work to help students and provide guidance in formulating individualized plans to set goals that focus on their future academic and career readiness. I would like to increase partnerships with community industries to provide West Salem students with greater access to job shadowing and career exploration opportunities.”

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1) What motivates you to become a board member?

A: “First and foremost, I want to serve our community by working to create and sustain the highest levels of student achievement. Today we face unprecedented challenges that affect public education, I will use my experience, energy, and innovative ideas to address these challenges and make a positive difference.

I recognize that maintaining the public’s trust and confidence is crucial and I’ll advocate for accountability and transparency in all board actions.

I’m a team player and a consensus builder, I recognize that developing effective and realistic goals for improvement involves listening to and working with all of the stakeholders involved. The West Salem School District is a district of choice for families, students, staff and our community. I am committed to continuously improving our district and always focus on our mission statement to “Serve with Passion to Ignite Creativity, Innovation, and Excellence.”



2) What do you see as the board’s roles and responsibilities?

A: “Ultimately, the greatest responsibility of the board is to improve student achievement within our schools. As elected public officials, board

members must ensure the community’s values, beliefs, and priorities are reflected in district’s governance, oversight, and actions. The board adopts

a budget and sets a tax rate to ensure our students get the best education possible for the tax dollars spent.

Communicating exactly how the complicated school funding formulas work is important for constituent buy-in. The board also establishes a unifying mission and vision, and collaborates with staff and administration to determine the goals and expected outcomes in the strategic plan. The board hires, evaluates, and builds a collaborative relationship with the superintendent and ensures that the district’s facilities are safe, clean, and promote educational excellence.

All things considered, everything the board does must be centered on achieving positive student learning outcomes.”

3) What is the most important responsibility of a school board?

A: “Ensuring that all of our students receive a world-class education that effectively prepares them for life beyond high school is our most important responsibility. An engaged and supportive school board prepares every student for the modern world and creates the pathways to college and rewarding careers. Students today are incredibly diverse and often exceptionally talented. The board should write and revise school policies to embrace this diversity, and nurture individual talents and strengths. By providing a challenging and inspiring curriculum, we will prepare our students to thrive in a university, a technical school, the armed forces, or the workplace.”

4) What issues do you believe the district needs to address in its academic program and offerings?

What changes would you recommend?

A: “I would like to see an expansion of Project Based Learning (PBL) in all our schools. PBL is a teaching method that challenges students to solve real-world problems or complex issues through a “project”. The concept isn’t new, it is effectively learning-by-doing, but what is new are the breadth of resources available to our professional educators. Almost everything we do in life is essentially a project. For example, our rich agricultural history around West Salem offers a perfect opportunity to practice PBL. Investigating how modern dairy farms operate and exploring everything from environmental sustainability to cheese making to budgeting offers students a unique opportunity to practice this discovery learning. PBL builds the skills that all employers are looking for including critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Perhaps one of the greatest benefits is that by making the projects fun, the students sometimes forget they are in school.”

Thomas Helgeson

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1) What motivates you to become a board member?

A: “My passion is to: Influence the next generations of world-class citizens. Being a quality teammate on our school board can help me meet this mission. I have developed a knack to bring people together for a greater good and think that as a district we can continue to improve in our strategic initiatives as well as in our development of connections within our community. We have wonderfully competent stakeholders (student, community, staff) and a tremendous responsibility to create a climate and culture where they feel that their voice belongs in the discussions, decisions and direction of the district. Building bridges and relationships within all stakeholders and the district will be paramount in moving from good to great. I hope to bring a positive energy and play a part in this truly optimistic future. ‘To lead we must first serve’ -James Hunter’



Chris Peterson

2) What do you see as the board's roles and responsibilities?

A: “Many people have a limited working knowledge of the monumental job of a school board. Educating all stakeholders of the roles and responsibilities of the district is important. This would also lend itself well to bolstering the importance of transparent communication. A successful school board recruits, retains, supports and empowers all staff of the district in accordance with policy and laws. Growing and maintaining a healthy relationship between staff and all stakeholders is wise. They, too, participate in educational conferences and workshops to further develop positive growth. Successful school boards are in continual review of policy. They prioritize and approve the financial management of the district. School boards adopt best practices in education so that the students can best live out the vision and mission of the district. Effective and efficient school boards actively seek community input. They continually collect, monitor and evaluate (data) all aspects of student health and safety.”

3) What is the most important responsibility of a school board?

A: “In a sentence: The most important task of a school board is to gather and utilize student, staff, and stakeholder input in symphony with supporting best educational practices to set the vision for the community's young people in order to best set them up to be world-class citizens in their chosen fields and families.”

4) What issues do you believe the district needs to address in its academic program and offerings? What changes would you recommend?

A: “Without having had meaningful conversations and/or scrutinizing any data, this is a difficult question to answer. Many schools are discovering ways to improve their models of education moving forward through the pandemic. We have a unique needs based position for growth in how the typical learning takes place. It would be wise to further explore how technology can help us best meet our learners needs in all aspects of their educational journey. Many districts are taking a very long look at supporting the social and emotional learning of our kids and families. Becoming data savvy and focusing energies on developing healthy and transparent relationships with all stakeholders will help move us further down the path of meeting our vision for children. I believe that all districts can benefit from exploring ways and committing to become a more equitable, inclusive, and diverse learning institution. We are at a wonderful spot to reimagine how the School District of West Salem can continue to become a school of choice.”

WSMS Mathcounts Competes at Regionals

WSMS students competed in the regional Mathcounts virtual competition on Friday, February 5th. There were 43 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: 26th place - Megan Johnson, 25th place - Makena Ihle, 24th place - Evan Noel, 23rd place - John Noelke, 22nd place - Jovey Morrison, 20th place - Sophie Breier, 17th place - Ethan Crusan, 16th place - Kate Townsell, 14th place - Drew Hatz, 13th place - Isabel Krueger, 11th place - Tom Stenberg, 9th place - Will Stefferud, 7th place - Gideon Wolbrink, 6th place - Makinlee Marshall, and 1st place - Luke Jambois.

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. Jambois, Marshall, Wolbrink, and Stefferud advance to the invitational regional competition on February 25. If they do well at this competition, then they advance to the virtual state competition on March 25. Good luck! West Salem's coaches are Tammy Bentzen and Sarah Weber. Congrats to all and best of luck!



District Announcements



"Heart Attacks" Full of Love

Mrs. Antony's first graders knew just the way to warm everybody's hearts on a chilly February day by giving out "Heart Attacks" to celebrate Valentine's Day. Students worked together to cut out all of the paper hearts and glue them on to make their cards, and then went on an adventure throughout the building to distribute them to staff. They were so excited to spread some kindness and love to our staff that work with all of our students, but don't have classrooms of their own. This is a tradition in Mrs. Antony's class, and we love to see the smiles their "heart attacks" bring every year.

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

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.

The West Salem School District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the Pupil Services Director at (608) 786-0700. To file a complaint of discrimination write to: Eric Jensen, Pupil Services Director at 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI 54669 or call 608-786-0700. The West Salem School District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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

District Announcements

Celebrating Our Bus Drivers

Recently, for Wisconsin School Bus Driver Appreciation Week, we sat down to chat with Bonnie Kortbein, one of our bus drivers, about her experiences driving a bus for the School District of West Salem. We hope you enjoy learning a little bit more about Bonnie and the awesome work our bus drivers do!

Q: How long have you worked as a bus driver for the School District of West Salem?

A: "This is my 47th year. I started in 1974, and I have had the same route for 46 of the 47 years."

Q: Why did you decide to become a bus driver?

A: "My neighbor, Mary Lou Meyer, was the district's first female bus driver, and she encouraged me to apply when my children were young. She thought I would be good at it and I became the second female bus driver and I've been doing it ever since. For my training, I drove her bus up and down our road."

Q: What does a typical day look like for you?

A: "I wake up about 5:30, get ready, and go to start the bus a little before leaving at 6:30. From there, I pick up all of the kids on my route and drop them off at school by 7:30. I also drive our 4K students, so then I go to pick them up and drop them off at school by 8:30. I head back to the bus garage, sanitize the entire bus, and then head home for a short time around 9:00. By 11:30, I'm back to pick up the 4K students and drop them off at home. Another stop at the bus garage to sanitize, home for a short while, and then back around 2:30 to get ready to take the kids home. After school lets out, I drop off all the kids on my route until about 4:30, take one last trip back to the bus garage to sanitize and then head home for the evening."

Q: What is your favorite part about your job?

A: "Being able to pick the kids up every day and share in their accomplishments. Over the years, society and technology have changed, but kids are still kids."

Q: What is one memory from your time as a bus driver that you will never forget?

A: "I'd have to say driving in bad weather or on icy roads. My bus has gotten stuck in Welsh Coulee and had to be pulled out. I won't forget that."

Q: What is something you want people to know about being a bus driver?

A: "It's pretty rewarding. West Salem is an excellent place to work."

Thank you Bonnie for your years of dedication to our students, families, and district! You truly live out our mission of serving with passion!



Spreading Joy in the Snow

Our 4K students recently spent some time outside hopping, skipping, and jumping through the snow to bring some cheer to the residents of Salem Terrace and Lakeview. Students waved hello through the windows, danced to some fun tunes, and made snow angels in the courtyard. It was great to see the resident's faces light up with smiles as the students came by, and the students had a blast and can't wait to visit again soon! We hope they were able to bring some happiness to a cold winter's day!



**THE WEST SALEM ART DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS
OUR FIRST VIRTUAL**

K-12 HONORS ART EXHIBIT

MARCH 2ND-31ST

FEATURING WORKS FROM STUDENTS IN THE WEST SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT

**VIEW THE WORKS MARCH 2ND AT:
FACEBOOK---WESTSALEMARTDEPARTMENT
INSTAGRAM--@WSHSART**

POSTER ARTWORK: CLAUDIA DORADO, SENIOR WSHS

BLOOD DRIVE

Hope springs
eternal

**DONATE
BLOOD**

**Friday
March**

19

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

***Covid-19 Antibody testing
will be performed on all
blood donations as part of
our standard testing.**

**West Salem High School
National Honor Society Blood Drive**

**West Salem American Legion
148 Leonard Street, West Salem**

**Schedule appointments online: bit.ly/panthersgive
or call 877-232-4376**

**Thank you for scheduling an appointment to share
your life-saving gift with patients and their families
in our community - we are grateful for you!**



School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes February 8, 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 4, 2021.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Robin Fitzgerald led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Ken Schlimgen recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, 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 (remote access), Tami Bagstad (remote access), Deanna Wiatt (remote access), and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Madisyn Haun (remote access) and Maxwell Goetz (remote access). Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Jane Halverson

Approval of Agenda

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

Connection with the Community

Maxwell Goetz, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Students are still in person going to school 5 days a week. Precautions are still in place; students can go to LMC, commons or first hour. Having the opportunity to have lunch in the gym has been beneficial.
2. Junior Prom Committee had its first meeting last week. The committee is planning on having a junior and senior prom at an outside venue, later than normal and possibly late May.
3. This Wednesday will be the first early release of the year. Each grade at the high school is doing something different. Freshman & sophomore: exploring electives, and registering for classes. Junior: preparing for the ACT and registering for classes. Senior: completing scholarships and continuing to work on their SEP.

Madisyn Haun, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The wrestling team placed 3rd at regionals with 8 sectionals qualifiers, however no one made it onto state.
2. Hockey lost their first playoff game and is now done with their season.
3. Girls' basketball starts playoffs this Friday.
4. The snow day last Thursday was a welcome relief to the students.

Correspondence

A thank you note from the family of Janet Wolter was read.

Public Comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Business Operations Committee – Mr. Grosskopf reported on the agenda

items: options for computer/technology lease/refresh and budgeting/staffing for 2021-2022.

Policy/Communication & Engagement Committee – Mr. Gavaghan reported on the agenda items: removing job descriptions from Board Policy.

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

Consent Agenda

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

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2021;
- b) the invoices to be paid;
- c) to accept the donation from 1st Community Credit Union, Sparta for the DECA program;
- d) the gymnastics coop with Bangor and Aquinas for the 2021-2022 school year, and the wrestling coop with Bangor for the 2021-2022 & 2022-2023 school years.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee's recommendation to stay with Apple products for the technology refresh as proposed. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mr. Peterson seconded to accept the Policy/Communication & Engagement Committee's recommendation to remove the following job descriptions from School Board Policy: #902 High School Principal, #903 High School Associate Principal, #904 Middle School Principal, #905 Elementary School Principal, #906 Elementary School Associate Principal, #907 Director of Pupil Services, #911 Director of Buildings and Grounds, #913, Director of Nutrition Services, #914 Director of Finance and Business Operations, #916 Director of Transportation, #917 Director of Instruction and Technology, #926 High School Athletic Director, #942 Superintendent/School Board Administrative Assistant, and #948 Director of Human Resources. 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. Grosskopf seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:17 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Fitzgerald, Acting Clerk

Hiking and Hot Cocoa

After a frigid beginning to February, our students have finally had the opportunity to get outside and enjoy some beautiful weather. Our 5th grade classes recently took their annual winter trip to the school forest. They went on a snowshoe hike and learned about the wildlife and vegetation in the forest, tried ax throwing, and learned how to start a fire. They even got a special visit from ORC Industries, the company that makes Redfeather snowshoes, which are made locally in La Crosse. They are also the same

snowshoes the students use on their hikes at the forest. Their visit was complete with yummy hot chocolate and cookies, which the students sure appreciated after their hike through the snow. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful outdoor space for our students to explore and learn new skills. We'd like to give a big thank you to ORC Industries for their generosity in treating our students and staff! Although there is still snow on the ground, our students are looking forward to their spring visit



COULEE REGION

FARM TO SCHOOL
LOCAL FOODS. HEALTHY KIDS

HARVEST OF THE MONTH
NEWSLETTER 03/2021



Did You Know?

"Green" beans can actually be green, yellow, purple, or speckled.



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
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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.”



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