

March 2025



Newsletter

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Letter from Superintendent Ryan Rieber

March Madness

As we step into March, the energy in our district is palpable. This month is filled with celebrations, exciting events, and opportunities for community collaboration.

Congratulations to all our winter co-curricular participants on their outstanding achievements! A special shoutout to Teghan Moore for taking 4th place at the state tournament in wrestling; our girls' gymnastics team won conference, took second place at sectionals, and is headed to the state gymnastics tournament. Our ski team had an outstanding showing at the state skiing competition at Mt. La Crosse, and the boys' and girls' basketball teams won conference championships and are continuing their journey to return to the state tournament. We also had four seniors win the Coulee Region Finance and Investment Bowl last week and are moving on to state in May. Our middle school embraced the spirit of wellness with its annual Winter Wellness Day despite Mother Nature's attempt to hold back the festivities!

Meanwhile, our elementary school is excited as they prepare for Read Across America Week, fostering a lifelong love for reading among our youngest learners.

Looking ahead, we continue the exciting planning of building projects across the district. These projects are essential in ensuring that our schools remain innovative, safe, and equipped to meet the evolving needs of our students. Your ongoing support and engagement are crucial as we move forward with these improvements that will shape the future of education in West Salem. I will share this information as we begin to have a firm foundation on what these new additions will look like. We are working internally with our elementary and high school staff and community task force members as these visions take shape.

If you have recently driven by the elementary school, you will see that we are in the process of replacing the roof. This work is a product of our April 2022 operating referendum. Roofing will be a constant across the district this spring and summer. The middle school roof will also be replaced using insurance money this summer due to the Letter continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

damage that occurred during the July 2023 storm. In a short time, the district will have all buildings with new roofs, setting us up for decades of solid infrastructure.

We are also thrilled to announce that the Heider Center will host the district's K-12 Honors Art Show again. This prestigious event will showcase exceptional artwork from students across all grade levels. Vincent Van Gogh said, "What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?" Let's celebrate our young artists' courage and creativity—be sure to stop by during open Heider Center hours to witness their incredible work firsthand! March is also Music in Our Schools Month, which coincides beautifully with Youth Art Month. Music is more than just notes on a page; it is a universal language that fosters creativity, discipline, and collaboration. Our students will share their talents in upcoming spring concerts. Don't miss these opportunities to support our talented

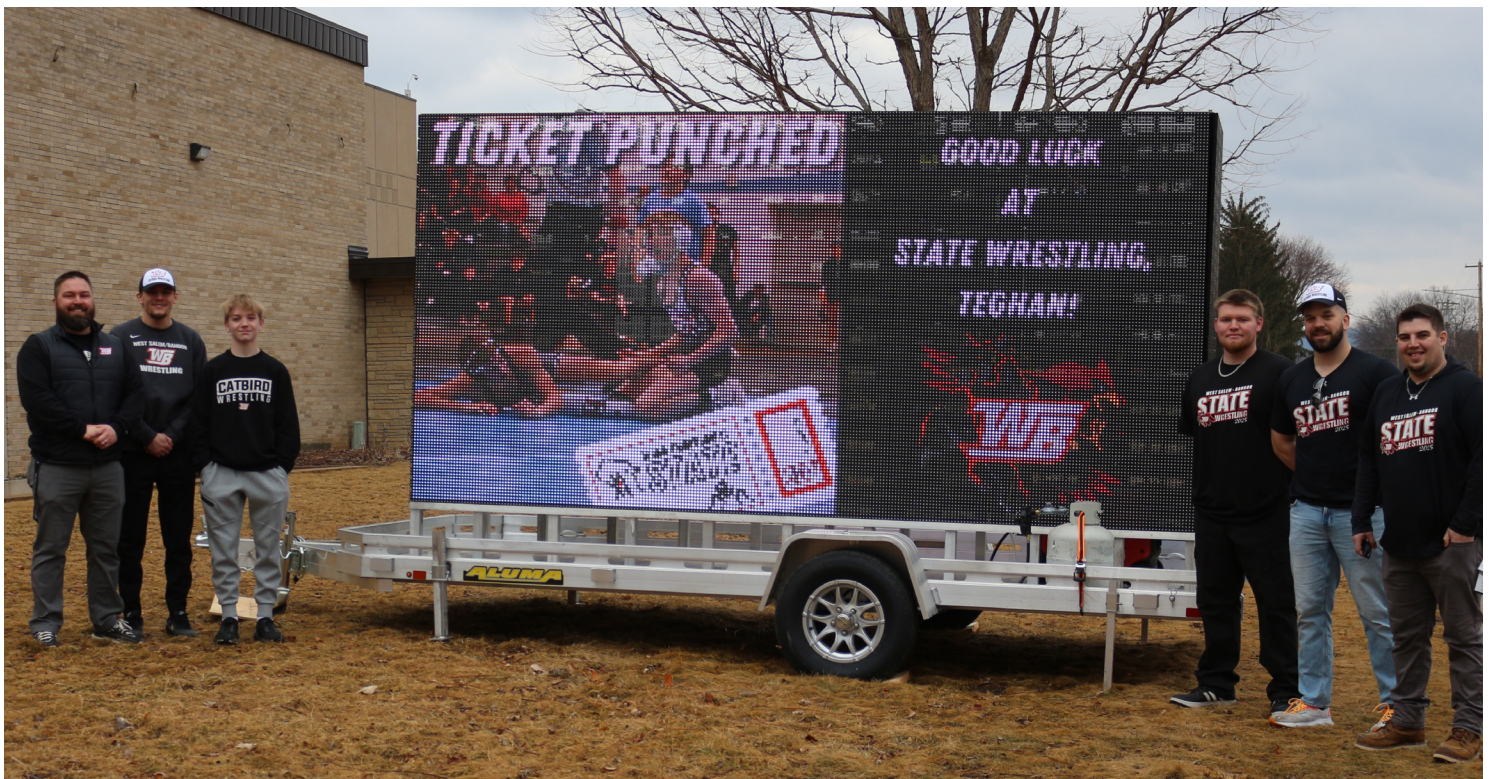
musicians and enjoy the joy they bring to our community. Our district is also preparing for the April 1st election. Five candidates—Tom Grosskopf, Bob Minard, Sean Gavaghan, Trish Harman, and Ben Garbers—are vying for three school board positions. Later in this newsletter, you will find information on the candidates so you can cast an informed vote.

Finally, as we move forward with excitement and purpose, let's remember Albert Einstein's words: "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." Together, we will continue making West Salem a place where students thrive, creativity flourishes, and our community grows stronger each day. Here's to a March filled with positivity, progress, and pride!

Ryan Rieber
Superintendent

Playoff Athletic Schedules

Many of our high school sports teams will be participating in the WIAA playoffs throughout the month of March. As dates and times are determined for these competitions, they will be posted on the WIAA website at wiaawi.org. To find schedules, click "Tournaments" at the top of the page, select the sport you are looking for, scroll down to "Assignments and Brackets" on the left side of the page and then click the respective sport's division bracket for the latest schedule. As a reminder, WIAA uses only digital ticketing for playoffs. Best of luck to all of our student-athletes! Go Panthers!



Calendar of Events

March

Athletic Events

Saturday, March 1, 2025

2:00pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs.
Arcadia @ Arcadia High School Wanek
Center Arena

Saturday, March 29, 2025

12:00pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Ellsworth
Community @ West Salem High School
Softball Fields

Band Events

Thursday, March 20, 2025

TBD Piano Solo/Ensemble

Friday, March 28, 2025

7:00pm Spring Concert @ Heider Center
All Band Members

Elementary School Events

Monday, March 3, 2025

6:15pm Grade 1 Music Concert
@ Heider Center

7:15pm Grade 3 Music Concert
@ Heider Center

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

6:15pm Kindergarten Music Concert
@ Heider Center

7:15pm Grade 2 Music Concert
@ Heider Center

Thursday, March 13, 2025

6:00pm 1st Grade P.E. Night

Thursday, March 20, 2025

6:00pm Kindergarten P.E. Night

Friday, March 21, 2025

All Day No School-Snow Make-Up Day if Needed

Middle School Events

Thursday, March 6, 2025

1:15pm 5th Grade DARE Graduation @ Heider
Center

Friday, March 7, 2025

All Day End of Trimester 2
11:45am 5th Grade Field Trip to the La Crosse
County Courthouse

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

4:00pm WWSMA Middle School Solo &
Ensemble @ WSHS

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

8:00am Trimester 2 Grades Due

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

7:00pm Band Extravaganza Concert featuring
Jazz Ensemble and 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade
Bands @ MS New Gym

Friday, March 21, 2025

All Day No School-Snow Make-Up Day if Needed

High School Events

Monday, March 3, 2025

8:45 a.m.- NHS Blood Drive @ HS LMC

2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

3:30 p.m.- Family Teacher Conferences

7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

All Day ACT State Assessment for Juniors

Friday, March 21, 2025

All Day No School-Snow Make-Up Day if Needed

Calendar of events continues on next page...

Meet Your Candidates for West Salem School Board

In the Spring Election on April 1, 2025 there will be three seats open on the West Salem School Board. The five candidates that have filed to fill these positions are: Ben Garbers, Sean Gavaghan, Tom Grosskopf, Trish Harman, and Bob Minard . Please remember to vote on April 1!

1) What motivates you to become a board member?

A: “As a proud graduate of West Salem High School, I am deeply grateful for the lessons and support I received from faculty and community leaders. This foundation helped me navigate through college, raise a family, and grow in my career. To give back, I have actively volunteered within the community as a coach for Park and Rec Boys Baseball and Boys and Girls Basketball. I have also had the privilege to work with teachers and administrators to help increase Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) extra-curricular programs. I am motivated to serve on the school board to further contribute my skills and experience. Throughout my career, I have successfully developed long-term strategic visions, managed short-term projects aligned with those goals, implemented effective policies, and overseen large budgets. I am passionate about fostering a positive, collaborative environment that supports student success. Serving on the board would be an opportunity to help shape the future of West Salem schools and ensure continued excellence for students and educators alike.



Ben Garbers

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

A: “The school board's primary responsibility is to collaborate with administration, teachers, and the community to develop a clear short- and long-term vision focused on student achievement. This requires setting and prioritizing SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Bound) goals, regularly evaluating policies, and creating new ones to support these objectives. Additionally, the board must ensure financial responsibility by maintaining the district's budget. Ongoing evaluation of key metrics with the Superintendent is essential to making informed adjustments to policies, goals, or financial plans. Furthermore, board members should embody servant leadership and actively promote community engagement. Throughout my career at International Business Machines (IBM) and Trane Technologies, I have successfully built high-performing teams with clear visions, SMART goals, and effective policies, all while managing budgets and collaborating with stakeholders. I look forward to applying these skills to support the West Salem School District's success.

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

A: “The school board plays a crucial role in shaping an environment where students can reach their full potential—often in ways they never imagined. This begins with establishing a clear vision that faculty and the community support, backed by well-defined goals. To bring this vision to life, the board must create a system of support and accountability for district staff, ensuring a high-quality educational experience. In such an environment, students feel empowered to learn, strive for excellence, and collaborate with others. The most rewarding moments come when a student sets ambitious goals, dedicates time to mastering their craft, learns from challenges, and ultimately succeeds. This is equally true in team settings, where individuals work together toward a common objective. The school board's ultimate responsibility is to cultivate a culture where this continuous growth and achievement thrive.

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

What changes would you recommend?

A: “The world is evolving rapidly. The West Salem School District must adapt to ensure students are prepared for the future. Expanding STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) programs will provide students with the skills needed to thrive in an increasingly technological world. Additionally, strengthening partnerships with local businesses, educational institutions, and industry leaders will help align the curriculum with real-world job market needs. It's also crucial that academic programs and extracurricular activities foster character development and life skills, such as leadership, teamwork, and resilience. The new Career and Technical Education Center offers an excellent opportunity to integrate both technical and character-building programs, helping students navigate the challenges ahead. These are exciting times and embracing these challenges by boldly leading will be key.

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Please remember to vote on April 1!

1) What motivates you to become a board member?

A: "I have been on the Board for 6 years and have always been motivated by the unbelievable education and opportunities West Salem School District provides to our children. My two daughters both graduated from West Salem School District and thrived in the safe and positive environment that defines our community."

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

A: "I see the Board's role as to set policy and ensure all children have the opportunity to learn. The Board's job is to ensure we deliver on promises made to our community and set the precedence that West Salem is a destination community and our community and school district go hand in hand."

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

A: "To deliver on the promises made to our community and to ensure all students have the opportunity to learn and grow. It is vital to achieve these results while delivering on promises especially achieving these results while being fiscally responsible."

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

A: "I believe we have done a good job in meeting students where they are in their education journey. We have provided college level classes as well as significant offerings in extra curricular offerings to find and enhance the interests of students. We have provided vital help to those that required help and addressed the needs of students in order to graduate from West Salem. We will need to support young learners and challenge them to find their passions and have implemented curriculum changes at the High School to have all our schools at The Exceeds Expectations on state report cards."



Sean Gavaghan

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1) What motivates you to become a board member?

A: “I want to help our students and community get the best education, skills, and financial balance that I feel our community agrees with and to become the best destination school district in the state.”

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

A: “Creating the best education and life skills possible when our students graduate. Navigate difficult issues within our district and state. Look to the future for our students and community. Be financially responsible to our community and save as much as possible while balancing a great education and facilities/campus.”

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

A: “Provide our community’s wants and needs, school policies, great education, and life skills. Be an answerable link between the school district and the community.”

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

A: “For the next year, we must ensure that we develop the best possible curriculum for our trade classes: HVAC, Electrical, Plumbing, Construction, and Culinary. I wouldn’t say changes; I would say goals. One is to keep growing our great education platform at West Salem. To improve and better our pay rates where needed for our staff so we don’t lose great employees. Better advertising of who we are and what we offer at the School District of West Salem.”



Tom Grosskopf

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Please remember to vote on April 1!

1) What motivates you to become a board member?

A: “My motivation is simple: I want to continue to give back to a community that has given much to my family. Education is the foundation of opportunity, and strong schools are the heart of a thriving community. Even before we had children, we chose West Salem because of its outstanding schools. I want to ensure our district remains a destination for families seeking excellence in education. I believe in financial responsibility while understanding that growth and innovation require strategic investment. With an open mind and a commitment to learning, I will advocate for all children, ensuring every student has the resources and opportunities to succeed.

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

A: “At its core, the role of a school board is advocacy. As one of seven elected officials, the board helps shape standards and expectations for over 1,800 students, 300+ staff, and the broader community. That advocacy takes many forms, for example: ensuring students have a competitive curriculum, supporting marginalized populations, making our district an employer of choice, and balancing a commitment to education with fiscal responsibility. The board is responsible for approving policies that provide consistency, transparency, and a foundation for growth. Strong policies that align with our strategic plan help create a clear vision and direction. Board members are financial stewards entrusted with making sound fiscal decisions that maximize resources while keeping our district competitive in the era of school choice. Finally, the board is responsible for communicating. The board must actively listen—to students, staff and stakeholders—and ensure transparency in its decision-making. By fostering open dialogue and clear communication, we can build trust, drive progress, and keep West Salem’s schools strong.

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

A: “While it may not seem the most exciting, the most critical responsibility of a school board is the development and implementation of strong policies. Policies serve as the foundation for a well-functioning school district, ensuring clarity, consistency, and accountability in decision-making. Effective policies set clear expectations for students, staff, and stakeholders, creating a structured environment where learning can thrive. Policy guides everything from curriculum standards to school safety, financial oversight, and staff support. Well-crafted policies not only establish goals but also provide a roadmap for achieving them while maintaining transparency and bolstering trust.

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

What changes would you recommend?

A: “West Salem has built a strong reputation for academic excellence and innovation, embracing new approaches. However, to ensure our students remain competitive in an ever-evolving world, we should continue to assess and refine our academic programs. I do not have a full view into our curriculum programming as I am not on the board, so do not recommend any changes at this time. However, ideas that we could consider launching and/or expanding include: creating benchmarks against high-performing districts beyond the Coulee Region/Wisconsin to identify best practices and emerging trends. Ongoing professional development for our educators is essential, equipping them with the latest tools and strategies to enhance student learning. Additionally, strengthening partnerships with local businesses, higher education institutions and industries will help align our curriculum with real-world workforce demands. The key to maintaining excellence is a commitment to continuous improvement—regularly evaluating our programs, embracing innovation, and remaining agile in response to the changing educational landscape.



Trish Harman

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1) What motivates you to become a board member?

A: “Personally, I’m driven by a deep commitment to education and community service. I believe in the power of education to transform lives and communities. Serving on a board allows me to contribute directly to shaping policies that impact students, especially my daughter.

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

A: “The board plays a crucial role in setting the vision, mission, and goals for the school district. It oversees budgetary decisions, hires and evaluates the superintendent, ensures legal and ethical compliance, and advocates for the needs of students and families.

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

A: “I believe the most important responsibility is to uphold the school’s mission to “Serve with Passion to Ignite Creativity, Innovation, and Excellence.” This means setting policies that nurture a culture of creativity, promote innovative teaching methods, and ensure excellence in all aspects of education, so that every student has the opportunity to excel and thrive.

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

A: “One area that deserves attention is Career and Technical Education (CTE). We’ve already taken a significant step forward by passing a referendum to build a new CTE building, which will enhance our ability to provide hands-on learning opportunities. Moving forward, I would recommend expanding CTE programs to offer more diverse pathways for students, increasing industry partnerships, and ensuring that the new facility is equipped with the latest technology and resources to best prepare students for the workforce.



Bob Minard

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**WEST SALEM K-8
SUMMER SCHOOL
JULY 7-25, 2025**

Registration
will be open
April 1 - 15, 2025

More information on class offerings and
registration will be sent out via Skyward in
mid-March

**RESERVA LA
FECHA**

**ESCUELA DE VERANO PARA
ESTUDIANTES DE JARDÍN DE
INFANTES A OCTAVO GRADO DE
WEST SALEM
7-25 DE JULIO DE 2025**

La inscripción estará
abierta del 1 al 15
de abril de 2025.

Se enviará más información sobre las
ofertas de clases y la inscripción a través
de Skyward a mediados de marzo.

The Power of Play

One of the most important ways to learn is through play, and our WSES students did just that when they celebrated Global Day of Play on February 5! Whether they were playing sports, cruising around on scooters, stacking cups, building with Legos or coloring, they were exercising their creative muscles, having fun, and using their imaginations!

Global Day of Play is a day that encourages time for free play without the use of screens, structured games, or adult direction, letting students explore their creativity, problem-solving skills, and social interactions in an unstructured and spontaneous environment!



District Announcements



Winter Wellness Fun

After a few years of less than ideal winter weather, our middle school students finally got a great day to enjoy their annual Winter Wellness Day recently! This day allows them to participate in a variety of fun indoor and outdoor activities to get active and promote physical and mental health outside the classroom. Whether they were out ice fishing on Lake Onalaska, tubing down the hills at Ft. McCoy, swimming in the pool at Chaos Waterpark, jumping on trampolines at JumpStart, bowling at Features, or skiing and snowboarding down the slopes at Mt. La Crosse, they had a blast enjoying all that the season has to offer with their classmates and teachers! This day is always a highlight of the middle school experience for our students and we are happy to be able to provide such a memorable and fun day for them to enjoy! Thank you to our staff for all of their hard work coordinating this day!



School Board Members

Catherine Griffin, President ~~~~~ 769-1714
Tom Grosskopf, Vice President ~~~~~ 386-0168
Erik Peterson, Clerk ~~~~~ 792-5370
Sean Gavaghan, Treasurer ~~~~~ 797-3585
Bob Minard, Director ~~~~~ 786-9998
Bob Gollnik, Director ~~~~~ (612) 720-1852
Caitlin Wilson, Director ~~~~~ (608) 780-3836
Board meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of every month

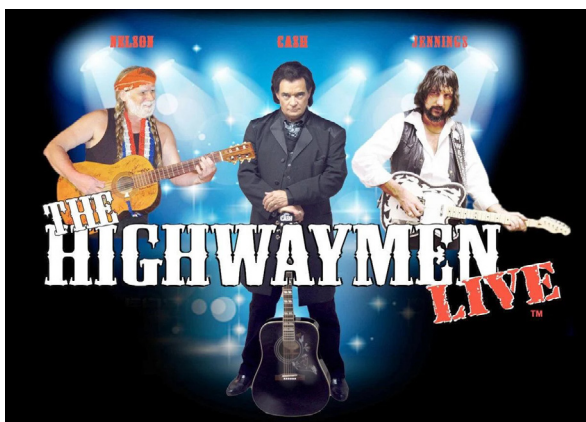
District Announcements

Heider Center



The Highwaymen Live
Thursday, April 10, 2025
7:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$26/\$24/\$10

Relive The Magic... Of The Greatest Country Music Super Group Of All Time. Willie, Waylon & Cash... The Highwaymen Live. Perhaps the greatest country music super group in history, the Highwaymen traveled the world performing country music to millions of fans. Your audience will watch in amazement as each song, one hit after another is sung just as if they were seeing the original band perform. This 90-minute show is full AV tribute to the greatest country stars – Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson and features upbeat, honky-tonk hits like Ring of Fire, Dukes of Hazard, On the Road Again & Mama Don't Let Your Babies Grow up to be Cowboys.



Art Gallery

K-12 Honors Art Exhibit
Runs March 4-April 4, 2025
Reception: Thursday, March 20
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Box Office Hours

Monday & Thursday: 1:30 to 4:00
p.m.
Open Everyday 1:30-4:00 pm the
week before a show
www.heidercenter.org

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.



WSHS Students Take 1st Place at Job Skills Olympics

Congratulations to Mrs. Whitacre's students at WSHS who took first place at the annual Job Skills Olympics held at Onalaska High School! They competed against over 100 students from nine other schools in a variety of job-related tasks including paper shredding, pencil sharpening, silverware sorting, table bussing, laundry sorting and folding, shirt hanging, shoe sorting and can crushing to take the top prize for the fourth year in a row! Way to go, Panthers!



School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 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 January 23, 2025.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Tom Grosskopf, Bob Minard, Bob Gollnik, Catherine Griffin, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Heidi Horton, Justin Jehn, Ben Wopat, Alex Hubing, Alyssa Harlan, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Jessa Hickey and Brennon Anderson. Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson. Excused: Caitlin Wilson

Approval of Agenda

S. Gavaghan 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 Management Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

2025 Education Convention highlights by attendees – T. Grosskopf, R. Rieber, C. Griffin, A. Harlan and B. Wopat reported on the 2025 Education Convention.

Construction Project Update – R. Rieber reported on beginning stages of utilizing space and scheduled 1st Community Task Force Meeting.

OEC – Education Tree Farmer of the Year award -R. Rieber attended the Monroe County Conservation Society Awards ceremony. John Sullivan – Educational Tree Farmer of the Year Award.

Connection with the Community

Jessa Hickey, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The girls' basketball team has had a great start to their season and are currently undefeated in the Coulee conference. Last week they took down Menominee and Westby and will take on Black River Falls and Holmen this week.
2. The boys' basketball team had a big win against Fox Valley Lutheran at home this Saturday. They play at Caledonia on Thursday.
3. The show choir team is hosting their annual extravaganza this Thursday and Friday, which is their home showcase. They will travel to Eau Claire for a competition the first weekend in February.
4. Last night the high school jazz band had a concert at the high school, performing for friends and family.
5. The varsity wrestling team competed in a tournament in Wausau on Saturday, taking 4th as a team. They have a triangular in Viroqua tomorrow night against Viroqua and Arcadia, and they will wrestle 5 duals in Lodi this weekend.
6. The JV wrestling team competed in their state tournament on Saturday, which was also in Wausau. Sophomore Payton King and freshman Isaac Arentz both took 5th place individually in their weight class.
7. Last week a group of students from the Ecology Club attended Trees for

Tomorrow. They attended many outdoor activities including cross country skiing and feeding birds out of their hands.

Brennon Anderson, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The boy's hockey team took down the Tomah/Sparta co-op team 6-5 at home last Thursday. They will play at Viroqua tomorrow.
2. The girl's hockey team won their 4th game of the season on Saturday against the Icebergs in Stoughton.
3. The dance team competed at their regional competition in D.C. Everest on Saturday. They qualified for state with both of their team routines along with solos from Ella Muellenberg and Makena Fecht. Seniors Ella and Jessa placed 4th overall in the state with their duet. The team will compete at the state competition on Friday night at the La Crosse Center.
4. The gymnastics team had a meet in Westby on Friday night. They got 1st place as a team and reached a new season high with their team score. This weekend they are traveling to Madison where they will compete against 20 D1 teams.
5. The high school had a college career life ready day last Wednesday when they came back to school for the start of the semester. The seniors spent the morning learning about local scholarships and different types of loans. Underclassmen prepared for the ACT, studying the different subjects and taking practice tests.

Correspondence

A thank you note from the family of Gene Batzel was read.

A thank you note from Sarah Weber was read.

A thank you note from the family of Ron Hanson was read.

A thank you note from Patrick Bahr was read.

A Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Proclamation, FFA Week is February 15-22, was read.

A Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Proclamation, National School Counseling Week is February 3-7, was read.

A Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Proclamation, Skills USA Week is February 2-8, was read.

A Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Proclamation, Career and Technical Education Month is February 1-28, was read.

A Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Proclamation, 2025 Adult Crossing Guard Recognition week is February 17-21, was read.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

S. Gavaghan moved, E. Peterson seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. The Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2025
 - b. invoices to be paid;
 - c. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendation for Heather Jehn as head 8th grade girls' basketball coach, Lionel Karyea as head high school girls' soccer coach, Jamie Olson as head baseball coach, Justin Stakston as head boys track coach, Stacy Mitchell as head girls track coach, Julie Kamla as head boys' tennis coach and Brian Babiash as head softball coach.
- Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

S. Gavaghan moved. B. Minard seconded to accept the Executive summary recommendation to contract with Johnson Block for Audit Services for 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Administrator R. Rieber presented 2nd Friday in January Enrollment Count. No action was taken.

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 27, 2025 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

E. Peterson moved, T. Grosskopf seconded to approve 67 regular education open enrollment seats and 14 seats in special education for the 2025-2026 school year based on the criteria outlined in the Board's Open Enrollment Policy #5113 Open Enrollment Program (Inter- District).

Students with Disabilities Spaces by Program

Early Childhood Education	2
Elementary Cross Categorical	4
Elementary Intellectual Disabilities	0
Middle School Cross Categorical	4
Middle School Intellectual Disabilities	0
High School Cross Categorical	0
High School Intellectual Disabilities	0
Speech and Language (SL)	4

Regular Education Spaces by Grade Level

Pre-Kindergarten	No Cap
Kindergarten	No Cap
Grade 1	No Cap
Grade 2	11
Grade 3	13
Grade 4	No Cap
Grade 5	13
Grade 6	No Cap
Grade 7	12
Grade 8	18
Grades 9-12	No Cap

Motion carried unanimously.

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Gollnik seconded to approve the second reading of policy 8500 – Food Services. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to rescind 8500.01–Meal Charge–Unpaid Meal Account and 8500.02–Jane Doe Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

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

E. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Peterson, Clerk

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes February 10, 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 February 6, 2025.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Bob Gollnik led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Caitlin Wilson recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Tom Grosskopf, Bob Gollnik, Catherine Griffin, Caitlin Wilson, and Sean Gavaghan. Also, in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Heidi Horton, Justin Jehn, Ben Wopat, Alex Hubing, Alyssa Harlan, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Jessa Hickey. Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson. Excused: Brennon Anderson, Bob Minard.

Approval of Agenda

S. Gavaghan moved, Caitlin Wilson 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.

Business Operations Committee – T. Grosskopf reported on the agenda item, Department 5 Year Plans.

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

Monthly Construction Update – Superintendent Ryan Rieber reported on Design & Construction updates from ISG.

Connection with the Community

Jessa Hickey, Student Representative, reported on:

1. This past weekend the show choir team competed in Fort Atkinson. Singasations placed 6th and Vivace placed 2nd. They will compete in Monona Grove this weekend.
2. Last Friday night the wrestling team competed in Westby for their conference meet. They got 2nd as a team and a number of wrestlers received first and second team all-conference and a few honorable mentions. Both the boys and girls' teams will compete at regionals in Holmen this weekend, with the girls being on Friday and the boys on Saturday.
3. Last Thursday the girls' basketball team took down Arcadia for their senior night home game. Tomorrow night they will play in Westby and host Wauwatosa East on Saturday. The girls are having a great season, remaining undefeated in the Coulee Conference!
4. The boys' basketball team lost a tough game to Central last Tuesday, but took down Black River Falls on Friday. They have a big game tomorrow night in Onalaska.
5. The gymnastics team had their first conference meet last Tuesday in Westby, and they took first place. They will compete in GET on Friday.
6. Last Thursday the boy's hockey team played in Black River Falls, losing 6-7 in double overtime. Their next game is tomorrow at La Crescent. The girl's hockey will take on Black River Falls tomorrow night.
7. The winter CAT program is continuing in the weight room, which allows students who are not in a winter sport to stay active during the winter months.
8. During last Wednesday's early release, student council hosted a winter sports assembly. There was a relay with activities inspired by each winter sport, and students from each grade level competed against each other.
9. Last week NHS hosted a clothing drive, receiving a generous amount of donations that will all go to the Teen Clothes Closet. They are also in the process of planning their blood drive, which will take place at the high school on March 3rd.

Correspondence

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes February 10, 2025 continued... Marie Heider Meeting Room

7:00 p.m.

A Thank You note from the Family of Allison Boelter was read. A Thank You note from Julie Kamla was read.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2025, and the Special Board Meeting Minutes of January 30, 2025;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. to accept donations from Sons of American Legion and Friends of West Salem/Bangor Wrestling for The Unsung Hero Scholarship Fund; Cynthia & William Innes for the Random Acts of Kindness Fund; Ashley for the Arts for Show Choir volunteers, Show Choir performance, Dance Team volunteer and Cross-Country volunteers; David Neuman for the Outdoor Education Center; Ashley Tauscher for the district.

Motion carried. 5-Aye. 2-Abstain (C. Griffin, S. Gavaghan)

Discussion/Action Items:

Administrator Shawn Handland presented the Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report, June 30, 2024. No action was taken.

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.

Board Development

Policy 7510 Use of District Facility excluding Center for the Arts was reviewed and discussed. No action was taken.

Adjournment

C. Griffin moved, E. Peterson seconded to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Peterson, Clerk

Coulee Region Finance Champions

Did you know that all seniors in Wisconsin are required to take a personal finance course to graduate? Twenty four seniors from WSHS recently traveled to UW-L to test their knowledge and compete in the Coulee Region Finance and Investment Challenge Bowl and came home with first place! Six teams of four competed against students from nine other local schools, answering questions on general

finance, economics, and accounting. After several rounds of competition, they were named the champions and qualified for the state tournament in May in Madison! The winning team consists of Noah Stewart, Philip Gabrielsen, Tom Stenberg, and Ethan Crusan. The bowl is put on by the 7 Regions Chapter of Credit Unions.



Did You Know?

Sometimes people call sweet potatoes yams, but yams and sweet potatoes are different vegetables!

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 X
@WestSalemSD
and Instagram
@schooldistrictofwestsalem



For WSHS athletic events, visit our website:

*click Calendars and then
*click Coulee Conference/Mississippi Valley 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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