

March 2020



Newsletter

School District of West Salem

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Letter from Superintendent Troy Gunderson

Updates from the District...

The crazy month of March brings warmer weather and a lengthy list of school and community activities. Get out and enjoy the fun!

March is also a great time for an “Updates from the District” newsletter. Here goes...

Yes, I retired. The school board accepted my request for retirement at their meeting on February 24th. I will complete my work for the school district in July. Today I will simply offer my sincere gratitude to all of you for allowing me to join such a wonderful place. There will be space in future newsletters for a more formal goodbye.

Strategic Planning Survey. Your school district survey will soon arrive or has already arrived, in your mailbox. Please take the time to offer your input into the next generation of the district strategic plan. You can complete the survey on-line, mail it back to the survey company, or deliver it directly to the school district office. The district received more than one thousand responses to the last survey which was conducted in 2015. Here is hoping we top that number this time. Please take the time to weigh in!

Spring School Board Election. The spring school board election is set for Tuesday, April 7th. There are three candidates running for two seats on the board. Incumbent Catherine Griffin is seeking reelection, former board member Thomas Helgeson is seeking a return to the school board, and newcomer Eric Peterson is seeking his first term.

Panther Den Questions. The first full ice season in the new Panther Den is nearing completion. The season will end with hosting the WAHA (Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association) state tournament for Girls 14U. The Panther Den will be hosting 8 teams from across the state for exciting action during the weekend of March 7 and 8. It will be a busy weekend in West Salem. Finally, and in response to citizen questions following the much-publicized issues with the ice arena in La Crosse, the April newsletter will offer a detailed accounting of costs connected to the operation of the Panther Den.

March is Music Month. March is a great time to “get out of the house” and enjoy some wonderful student music performances.

Letter continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

The Heider Center for the Arts is an amazing venue for music. Come out and join the fun. Please refer to the included calendar of events for the dates and times of the shows.

Celebrate West Salem. The annual celebration hosted by the West Salem Business Association will take place on Sunday, March 15th in the high school gymnasium and commons. Please come out to support our local business community.

As always, thank you for reading and thank you for your continued support of your public schools. Spring is here!!

Sincerely,

Troy M. Gunderson, Superintendent

Get to Know School Resource Officer Holzhausen

While the School District of West Salem has had a School Resource Officer on staff since the 1990s, the position was recently made full-time thanks to an agreement between the Village and the school district. This means our students get to benefit from having an officer on staff that assures they feel safe and can help with a variety of issues. Get to know more about Officer Holzhausen below.

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

A: I started the School Resource Officer position part-time in January of 2018 and became full-time in January of 2020. I was hired by the West Salem Police Department in 2012.

Q: Why did you become a police officer?

A: I wanted to become a police officer because I wanted to make a positive impact on others. I like that each day is never the same. I never know how my day is going to go or how it's going to end.

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

A: My day is never the same, even working full-time in the school. During the day, I will be interacting with students during free periods or lunch, when at any given time I will be called away to investigate truancy issues, tobacco/drug violations, to working possible child abuse/neglect cases. Then during any free time, I'm either meeting with students over concerns they have, preparing for presentations, playing a game at recess, and just being present so students and staff know that they are safe.

Q: What is your favorite part about your job?

A: Eating doughnuts... No, but honestly my favorite part is building positive relationships with the people that I come in contact with daily and being able to help make someone's life better. I also love that I have a job that lets me give back to the community that I grew up in.

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

A: I have a few.

First, enjoy each day that you get because life is too short and tomorrow is never promised.

Be honest and be kind to others, always!

Listen to your parents.

Remember not everyone is going to like you and that's okay.

Be the change you want to see in this world.

And lastly, laugh whenever you can.



Community Events

Announcement!!!

PROM 2020

DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, THE JUNIOR/
SENIOR PROM DATE FOR 2020 HAS BEEN MOVED
FROM MAY 2ND, 2020 TO MAY 9TH, 2020.
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



If you have any questions, please contact Kim Volden
at yolden.kimberly@wsalem.k12.wi.us.

Thank you for your flexibility and cooperation!



Tuesday
March

17

8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy
meal and drink plenty of
water before donating.

WEST SALEM HIGH SCHOOL BLOOD DRIVE

West Salem High School
405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI

For appointments call 877-232-4376
or schedule online at: bit.ly/givemarch17

Walk-ins welcomed and appointments honored.
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

All attempting donors will receive a gift from
Versiti as a thank you for donating.



Celebrate **WEST SALEM** **BUSINESS EXPO**

Sunday, March 15, 2020

West Salem High School

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Celebrate West Salem is a community wide event being held Sunday, March 15, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at West Salem High School. This event will bring together local businesses, educational institutions, and civic organizations of all sizes to showcase their products and services, as well as to celebrate the community we live in.

Calendar of Events

March

Athletic Events

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

4:00pm Track: Varsity Invite vs. Multiple Schools @ St. Mary

Thursday, March 26, 2020

4:30pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Sparta @ Memorial Park

Friday, March 27, 2020

3:30pm Track: Varsity Northern Badger Invite @ UW-Stout

5:00pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Holmen @ West Salem High School

Saturday, March 28, 2020

10:00am Soccer: Girls JV/Varsity Scrimmage vs. Arcadia & Holmen @ West Salem HS Soccer Fields

Monday, March 30, 2020

5:00pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. La Crescent @ West Salem HS Softball Fields

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

5:00pm Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Cochrane-Fountain City @ West Salem High School

5:00pm Softball: JV/ Game vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua High School Roo (SB) Field

5:00pm Softball: Varsity Game vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua High School Park Bowl Softball

Band Events

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

TBA Piano Solo & Ensemble @ TBA

Saturday, March 21, 2020

2:00pm Spring Concert Rehearsal Wind Symphony

6:45pm Spring Concert @ Heider Center Concert Band & Wind Symphony

Elementary School Events

Monday, March 2, 2020

6:00pm Science Night @ ES Gym

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

12:20pm Early Release
Students released at 12:20pm
Buses depart at 12:30pm

Monday, March 9, 2020

6:15pm 1st Grade Music Concert @ Heider Center

7:15pm 3rd Grade Music Concert @ Heider Center

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

6:15pm Kindergarten Music Concert @ Heider Center

7:15pm 2nd Grade Music Concert @ Heider Center

Friday, March 13, 2020

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

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

6:30pm PTO Meeting @ ES Assembly Room

Thursday, March 19, 2020

8:00am 4th Grade Field Trip to State Capitol in Madison

Friday, March 27, 2020

All Day No School

Monday, March 30, 2020-Friday, April 3, 2020

All Day Forward Testing for 3rd & 4th Grade

Middle School Events

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

12:20pm Early Release
Students released at 12:20pm
Buses depart at 12:30pm

Friday, March 6, 2020

All Day Trimester 2 Ends

All Day State MathCounts @ Sheboygan

8:30am- Rescheduled Winter Wellness Day Field

3:00pm Trips

Saturday, March 7, 2020

All Day Tri-State Honors Band @ Decorah High School

Thursday, March 12, 2020

All Day Trimester 2 Grades Due

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

Friday, March 13, 2020

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

Calendar of events continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

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

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

8:00am Piano Solo & Ensemble @ Onalaska
Luther High School

Monday, March 23, 2020-Friday, March 27, 2020

All Day Forward Testing for 5th Grade

Friday, March 27, 2020

All Day No School

High School Events

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

All Day ACT Testing for Juniors

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

12:20pm Early Release
Students released at 12:20pm
Buses depart at 12:30pm

Friday, March 13, 2020

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

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

8:30am- NHS Blood Drive @ HS LMC
2:30pm

Thursday, March 26, 2020

All Day End of 3rd Quarter

Friday, March 27, 2020

All Day No School

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

All Day Grades Submitted for 3rd Quarter

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 to the Coulee Conference calendars which can be found at couleeconference.org as well as the home page of the district website under "News and Announcements." Best of luck Panthers!

Ecology Club Visits Trees for Tomorrow

A group of six students from WSHS, led by Mr. Rueckheim and Mr. Sullivan, spent four days learning about winter ecology at Trees For Tomorrow in Eagle River, Wisconsin. On their first evening, they had an interesting lesson on human survival skills. Students got to practice some of the skills they learned, including building a survival fire in challenging conditions. Day two included lessons on large carnivore management and wildlife signs. The highlight of the day was a 2 mile ski at Anvil Lake. On day three students learned about the history of logging in northern Wisconsin, and also all got to try their hand at lighting a match with a hatchet. Students also learned how to conduct wildlife transects at the press forest just outside of town. Their four day adventure wrapped up by learning and practicing some tree measuring techniques on Saturday morning. They had a great time at TFT and can't wait to go back again next year!



District Announcements



WSMS Mathcounts Competes at Regionals

The regional Mathcounts competition was held on Friday, February 7th in Onalaska. There were 68 competitors representing eight different schools. West Salem's team consisting of Celia Mitchell, Reece Sackett, Haley Chandler and Kate Fechner placed 2nd. Seven students also placed individually; Sam Stenberg (10th), Kammel (9th), Rylan Riste (8th), Fechner (7th), Chandler (6th), Jovey Morrison (4th), and Mitchell (2nd). Also competing for West Salem were Reece Sackett (11th-tie) Braeden Dolle and Luke Jambois (16th-tie). Along with their four person team, Morrison, Riste, Kammel and Stenberg advance as individuals to the State Competition on March 7 in Sheboygan. West Salem's coaches are Tammy Bentzen and Sarah Weber.

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

2020-2021 Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment into the School District of West Salem runs February 3-April 30, 2020. 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

Syl Clements ~~~~~ 786-1491
Jane Halverson ~~~~~ 786-1067
Ken Schlimgen ~~~~~ 786-4382
Catherine Griffin ~~~~~ 769-1714
Tom Grosskopf ~~~~~ 386-0168
Robin Fitzgerald ~~~~~ 792-4130
Sean Gavaghan ~~~~~ 797-3585

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

District Announcements

Heider Center



Uptown Girls
Saturday, March 14, 2020
7:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$24/\$22



Uptown Girls is an explosive new female vocal trio, performing some of the most dynamic, top-of-the-charts pop hits from the 1970's to present day. These three fierce, powerhouse vocalists deliver legendary, show-stopping songs every audience will know and love with an infectious energy all their own. Performing music of iconic artists from Donna Summer to Adele, some of their songs include Pink's "Get the Party Started", Wilson Phillips' "Hold On", and Cyndi Lauper's "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun"

Art Gallery
K-12 West Salem District
Honors Show
Runs March 2-31, 2020

Art Reception
Thursday, March 19, 2020
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Box Office (608) 786-2550
Monday: Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Friday: Noon to 4:00 p.m.
www.heidercenter.org

News from the Middle School LMC

In February, middle school readers enjoyed the "Books are Like a Box of Chocolates..." promotion. LMC staff picked some of their favorite reads to share with students as wrapped up Valentine's Day surprises. With the covers of the books concealed, students chose a new read based on clues which appeared on the cover of the books. During the first week and a half of February over a hundred students participated in the promotion and many new favorite books were found! The LMC has been a hot spot for students creating new content with technology in Ms. Dederich's classes as well! Fifth graders have been learning about the national parks and making greenscreen news videos about a favorite national park. Eighth graders in Computer Science have been learning the basics of computer science through Scratch and creating their own video games and animations. Fifth graders in Panther Time have been learning coding and robotics by making Sphero mazes. Earlier this year, 5th graders also learned about inputs, outputs and sensors using LittleBits to create their own electronic devices. As always, the LMC has been a place for students to come when they need research or tech support (or sometimes just a friendly face!). The LMC has been supporting the NHD research project as well as Mrs. Martinson's argument project by providing resources and research help to students. Mrs. Bradley and Ms. Keyser have been here to troubleshoot iPad issues for students and staff so they can do their best work.

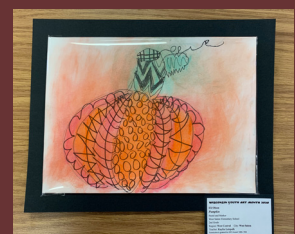


March is Youth Art Month!

March is Youth Art Month in Wisconsin and to celebrate the West Salem District Art Department presents the Annual K-12 Honors Art Exhibit. This exhibit showcases the talents of our art students from Kindergarten through their Senior year. Over 100 works will be in the Marie W. Heider Gallery from March 1st through the 31st.

There will be a public reception on Thursday, March 21st from 6-7:30pm in the gallery.

The West Salem District Art Department is proud to announce that 12 of our students will have artwork featured at the State Youth Art Month exhibit at the Capitol Rotunda in Madison on March 6th! In addition, WSMS student Adelyn Burt had her artwork selected to be a part of the Youth Art Month flag. These students displayed work at the West Central Regional exhibit at Valley View Mall and were chosen to advance to the State Exhibit. The Capitol Rotunda exhibit is an annual event that celebrates the best student artists in the state of Wisconsin. It is attended by artists, teachers, politicians and dignitaries, and features approximately 500 works of student art.



School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 13, 2020 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Jane Halverson. 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, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on January 13, 2020.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

Roll Call

Present: Syl Clements, Jane Halverson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Ben Wopat, Eric Jensen, Mike Malott, Ryan Rieber, and Deanna Wiatt; Student representative: Summer Houck. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Liam Sjoquist and Shawn Handland.

Approval of Agenda

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

Connection with the Community

Summer Houck, Student Representative, reported on:

1. DECA had a successful weekend at their district's competition at UW-Stout. 34 students have moved onto the state competition in Lake Geneva from March 10-12.
2. Finals start on Wednesday with the senior class is trying something new with their finals time in finance and seminar by doing 45 minutes in one class and 45 minutes in the other. Neither of the two classes will be having an exam during that time.
3. The dance team had a rough competition this weekend placing 5th for D2 Jazz and 9th for D4 Pom. Regionals are January 25th.

Correspondence

A thank you card from Gary Trudeau was read.

A thank you card from Mary Meyer was read.

A Proclamation by Carolyn Stanford Taylor, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Adult School Crossing Guard Recognition Week, January 13-17, 2020, was read.

Public comments

Tanner Holst, parent, expressed his thoughts on the events of the resignation of Susan Holm.

Susan Holm, high school math teacher, expressed her thoughts around her resignation.

Terri Martinson signed up, but passed on her chance to speak.

Ryan Waldhart and Heather Jehn, West Salem Education Association Co-Presidents, expressed their thoughts on Susan Holm's resignation.

Written and Oral Reports

Business Operations Committee – Mrs. Griffin reported on the agenda items: 5-year facility plan, specific look at work for 2020, selection of contractor(s).

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

Mr. Gunderson included in his report the resignations of Christina Keller and Kristen Trautsch-paraprofessionals and Vicki McVey-bus driver.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2019. Motion carried. (Jane Halverson and Catherine Griffin abstained)

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

a) invoices to be paid;

b) donations from the La Crosse County Dairy Promotions-Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin for the High School Family and Consumer Education class, from Mississippi Welders, Coulee Region RV and NAPA and Wisconsin Building Supply for the Skills USA Club, from Duane and Ana Schaper for the Angela Labus Memorial Scholarship Fund, from Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations for the middle school computer science students, from Altra Federal Credit Union, Our Savior's Lutheran Church and La Crosse County Jeans Day Committee for the Nutrition Services Jane Doe Fund, from Stephen and Deborah Kraus for the Horace Moran Memorial Fund, from Ken Schlimgen for an SEP, from the La Crosse County Jeans Day Committee for the Middle School Random Acts of Kindness Fund, from Walmart Tomah Distributing Center for the school district, and from Shelly Gentry for the high school band department.

c) co-curricular recommendation, Justin Running-7th grade basketball head coach

d) the resignation of high school math teacher, Susan Holm.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Gunderson outlined a proposed timeline for the Strategic Planning process for 2020.

Board members should communicate their thoughts with Mrs. Fitzgerald. Consensus was given that WASB Delegate Assembly Representative Robin Fitzgerald be able to vote her conscience at the Delegate Assembly during the 2020 Education Convention in Milwaukee.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to adopt the School District of West Salem Unusual Hazardous Area Transportation Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed preliminary enrollment, staffing and budget information for the 2020-2021 school year.

Mrs. Fitzgerald moved, Mr. Clements seconded to approve the designation of regular and special education Open Enrollment spaces for the 2020-2021 school year as follows:

Elementary School Cross Categorical: 2

Middle & High Schools Cross Categorical: 0

Elementary, Middle & High Schools Emotional Behavioral

Disability: 0

Elementary, Middle & High Schools Intellectual Disability/

Autism: 0

Elementary, Middle School Specific Learning Disabilities: NA

High Schools Specific Learning Disabilities: 0

Elementary Early Childhood: 1

Speech and Language: 0

4K: 12

Kindergarten: 13

Grade 1: 6

Grade 2: 0

Grade 3: 0

Grade 4: 12

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mrs. Halverson 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

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School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 13, 2020 continued... Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility," regarding a professional staff employee.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:19 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Clements, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Adjournment

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 27, 2020 continued... Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Jane Halverson. 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, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on January 23, 2020.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

Roll Call

Present: Syl Clements, Jane Halverson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Eric Jensen, Mike Malott, Ryan Rieber, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representative: Summer Houck. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Ben Wopat and Liam Sjoquist

Approval of Agenda

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

Connection with the Community

Summer Houck, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The boys' and girls' basketball played on Saturday at the La Crosse Center against Onalaska Luther in the annual Coulee Classic.
2. Both high school show choirs performed at La Crosse Central over the weekend. Vivace took 2nd runner up out of 5 groups and Singations finished 8th out of 15. Both show choirs will compete at Eau Claire Memorial next weekend.
3. The dance team competed at the Hudson regionals last Saturday placing second for D4 Pom and 6th for D2 Jazz and will be competing at state this Saturday at 9:35 a.m. at the La Crosse Center.

Correspondence

Thank you notes were shared from Mrs. Antony's first grade class.

Public comments

Ryan Waldhart and Heather Jehn, West Salem Education Association Co-Presidents, express their thoughts on Susan Holm's liquidated damages, presented the check for the liquidated damages and spoke about staff relations.

Written and Oral Reports

OPEB report summary the Shawn Handland, Director of Finance.

Board members Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Jane Halverson, Robin Fitzgerald, Ken Schlimgen, Deanna Wiatt, and Troy Gunderson shared highlights from the 2020 Education Convention.

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Business Operations team and from the Superintendent were reviewed. Mr. Gunderson announced: the hiring of Emily Rogge and Sabrina Flood as limited-term employment paraprofessionals.

Elementary School Principal Ryan Rieber reviewed the layout of classroom usage in the building.

Senior Exit Project (SEP) information was provided and questions were answered by Principal Mike Malott, Social Studies Teacher Ryan Nelson, English Teacher Kim Volden, and Technology Integrationist Kathy Hilby.

Consent Agenda

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

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2020;
- b) invoices to be paid
- c) donations from Oma Java, LLC, Michael & Rosalie Lilla and Mary & Lynn Kaiser for the random Acts of Kindness fund, and from Ledegar Roofing Co., Inc for the Nutrition Services Jane Doe Fund;
- d) the resignation of Volleyball Coach Brett Thompson and lead custodian James Kindschy.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TERMINATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL PENSION BENEFIT PLAN AND EXCESS ASSET TRANSFER

WHEREAS, the School District of West Salem (the "District") provides for the welfare of its eligible employees, former employees and their dependents by maintaining one or more post-employment welfare benefit plans including, without limitation, the Other Post Employment Benefit Plan (the "OPEB Plan") and a supplemental pension benefit plan (the "Supplemental Pension Benefit Plan")(collectively the "Plans");

WHEREAS, the District's obligation to provide such post-employment benefits and its liability with respect to the cost of funding such benefits accrue and has accrued during the period of employment of such eligible employees and former employees;

WHEREAS, in guidance it has provided, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (the "Department") has acknowledged that it is fiscally appropriate to have the cost of funding such post-employment benefits recognized and provided for as such benefits accrue;

WHEREAS, the District created a segregated, irrevocable trust fund (the "Trust") pursuant to a trust agreement (the "Trust Agreement") and Wisconsin law in order to establish and maintain a trust which will hold title to the assets set aside by the District to fund all or a portion of the District's accrued liability with respect to the cost of funding the OPEB Plan and the Supplemental Pension Benefit Plan;

WHEREAS, the Trust holds the assets of the OPEB Plan and the

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 27, 2020 continued... Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

and the assets of the Supplemental Pension Benefit Plan in designated accounts within the Trust;

WHEREAS, the Trust Agreement appoints a Trustee Committee (the "Trustee Committee") to act as directed Trustee at the direction of the District;

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Uniform Financial Accounting Requirements ("WUFAR") for school districts provide for a separate accounting fund, the "Employee Benefit Trust Fund (Fund 73)," for reporting resources set aside and held in trust to pay such post-employment and other employee benefits;

WHEREAS, the District intends for the Trust to continue to qualify as a Fund 73 employee benefits trust fund within the meaning of WUFAR in compliance with applicable requirements promulgated by the Department;

WHEREAS, the Trust is separate and independent from any other segregated account of the District which may hold or be used to account for assets used to pay post-employment benefits or fund accrued liability associated with employee benefits as required under section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and section 66.0603 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and under no circumstances may any assets in any such other account be commingled with assets of the Trust;

WHEREAS, the Supplemental Pension Benefit Plan liability has been completely paid to each eligible Plan participant as verified by an independent third-party actuary;

WHEREAS, the District intends to terminate the Supplemental Pension Benefit Plan and transfer excess assets, if any, to the OPEB Plan account within the Trust;

WHEREAS, the Trust Agreement, Article V, Section 1.11(e) and Article VI, Sections 1.18 and 1.20, authorizes the conveyance or transfer of Trust assets at the District's direction;

WHEREAS, effective January 8, 2020, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has reviewed and approved the District's proposed transfer of excess Supplemental Pension Benefit Plan assets within the Trust.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the District that:

1. Termination of the Supplemental Pension Benefit Plan. The termination of the Supplemental Pension Benefit Plan is hereby approved. The Superintendent and the Director of Finance are hereby authorized and directed to execute all required permissions, agreements, policies and related records on behalf of the District to effectuate the Plan termination.
2. Transfer of Excess Assets. The Trustee Committee is directed to complete the transfer of excess assets, if any, from the Supplemental Pension Benefit Plan account within the Trust to the Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Plan account within the Trust effective June 30, 2019, or any valuation date thereafter as determined by the District.
3. Terms of the Plans to Govern. The terms of the Plans shall continue to govern the payment and disbursement of the funds accumulated in the Trust. Payments shall be made from the Trust only to provide benefits offered in the Plans in accordance with the terms of the Plans. Funds held

in the Trust may not be used for any other purpose other than to (a) pay operating and administrative expenses of the Trust, (b) make investments permitted under applicable Wisconsin law, (c) pay benefits in accordance with the terms of the Plans, and (d) make a distribution to a trust or entity whose income is exempt from federal income taxation under section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as specified by the District upon termination of the Trust Agreement as provided in the Trust Agreement.

4. Payment of Fees and Expenses. The Trustee Committee is hereby authorized to pay reasonable service fees and expenses associated with administration of the Plans including the actions authorized herein.

5. Filing and Reporting Requirements. The District has determined and hereby declares that the Trust has met applicable filing and reporting requirements, if any, required by the Internal Revenue Service, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction or other regulatory agencies in connection with the establishment of the Trust, and covenants that the Trust will meet any applicable filing and reporting requirements which may be required to keep it in good standing going forward.

6. Definitions. Terms that are defined in the School District of West Salem Post Employment Benefit Trust Agreement adopted June 18, 2007, and renewed August 14, 2012, shall have the same meaning in this Resolution.

7. Further Authorizations. The officers, employees and agents of the District are hereby authorized and directed to do any and all things reasonable and necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Resolution.

8. Conflicting Actions Rescinded; Severability; Effective Date. All prior resolutions, rules or other actions of the District or any parts thereof in conflict with the provisions hereof shall be, and the same are, hereby rescinded insofar as the same conflict. In the event that any one or more provisions hereof shall for any reason be held to be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any other provisions hereof. The foregoing shall take effect immediately upon adoption and approval in the manner provided by law.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to adjourn at 8:53 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk
Convene

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes February 10, 2020 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Jane Halverson. 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, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on February 6, 2020.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Sean Gavaghan led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Robin Fitzgerald recited the District Mission Statement.

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes February 10, 2020 continued... Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Syl Clements, Jane Halverson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Ben Wopat, Mike Malott, Ryan Rieber, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Summer Houck and Liam Sjoquist. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Eric Jensen.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Griffin moved, Mr. Clements seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Summer Houck, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Recently, the Panther Plaza, was rated “Gold Certified” by National DECA. Ethan Heger, Collin DuMars and Connor Koepp will be traveling to Nashville in April to present our school store and compete for the honor of being one of the best in the country.
2. The design of one of our 8th graders, Adelyn Burt has been selected for the 2020 Wisconsin Art Education Association's Youth Art Month Flag. This flag and her original design will be on display in Madison at the capitol as well as representing Wisconsin at the National Art Education Association conference in Minneapolis in March.

Liam Sjoquist, Student Representative, reported on:

1. On February 1st, both show choirs competed in Eau Claire at the Winterfest Invite. The women's show choir, Vivace, won the prep division and finished the evening finals in 6th out of 7 competing teams. Salem Singations received a well-earned 2nd place award. This past weekend, both show choirs competed at Logan. Vivace finished in 2nd place in the unisex division and Singations finished 9th out of 12 varsity teams. The Show Choir's next performances will be at our home extravaganza on February 21-22.
2. Last Friday, the boys' basketball team beat G-E-T, a long-time rival, in their home gym for the first time in many years.
3. The seniors are currently wrapping up their SEP paper presentations in their senior seminar class.

Correspondence – None.

Public comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Business Operations Committee – Mrs. Griffin reported on the agenda items: 5-year fiscal plan, technology plan and transportation plan; sale of the chiller; transportation to daycare; and estimate for LED upgrade.

CESA #4 Board of Control – Mrs. Halverson reported out on the Board of Control's last meeting.

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

Mr. Gunderson updated the Board on a possible property attachment from the Onalaska School District.

Consent Agenda

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

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2020;
- b) the invoices to be paid;
- c) donation from Stephanie Sharp for summer school classes, from an

anonymous donor for the middle school band department, and from a grant from the Martha & Clark Burdick Fund for the 5th graders;

- d) hire Emily Klunk as the Director of School Nutrition;
- e) high school co-curricular recommendations, assistant baseball coach-Nick Schultz, Darren Fruit, Josh Maliszewski, Scott Koepnick, varsity golf coach-Jim Klos, assistant golf coach-Shaun Borre, assistant girls' soccer coach-Darwin Carranza, varsity softball coach-Brian Babiash, assistant softball coach-Brittney Hodgson, volunteer assistant softball coach-Rod Hamilton, Jeanne Babiash, Michelle Babiash, assistant track and field coach-Samantha Reilly, Laura Deal, Tommy Friday, Makala Teske, Cameron Robaczewski, and volunteer track and field coach-Hannah Robaczewski.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Sue Peterson from School Perceptions reviewed the parent and community survey that will be sent out to the community.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to adopt the following resolution: Be It Resolved that the School District of West Salem will borrow on a short-term basis the sum of \$500,000 for the operation of the schools of the district from February 14, 2020, until February 21, 2020.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mrs. Halverson 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 performance of the superintendent and other professional staff employee(s).

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:31 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Clements, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk

**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 7, 2020, 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 – Newburgs Corner Hwy 33
VILLAGE OF WEST SALEM	Community Center – 175 South Leonard Street, West Salem

The School District of West Salem Board of Education Candidates are Thomas Helgeson, Erik Peterson and Catherine Griffin.

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"/>	Thomas Helgeson
<input type="radio"/>	Erik Peterson
<input type="radio"/>	Catherine Griffin
<input type="radio"/>	write-in:
<input type="radio"/>	write-in:

Spreading Love from Afar

One of our employees and a father to two of our students, Sgt. Tim Schaller is currently stationed overseas serving our country. In order to spread a little cheer and love to him and his fellow troops, Mrs. Macdonald's kindergarten class and Ms. Macha's 4K class sent over care packages full of goodies to help them celebrate Valentine's Day. The troops loved the packages and were very grateful for the students' generosity. Both classes were also able to Skype with him to say hello and learn a little bit about what he does.

The kids thought it was so cool that they were able to chat with him even though he was many hours ahead and many miles away on the other side of the world. The power of technology is amazing and we are grateful for such wonderful tools that allows our students to connect with others in meaningful ways. We are proud to have Sgt. Schaller as an employee and thank him for his service to our country! We are sending him our well wishes and hope for a safe and speedy return!



Did You Know?

The average ear of corn has 800 kernels, arranged in 16 rows!

Check out videos and photos of the innovative things happening in your student's classroom at our district Facebook page and Twitter page. Our social media features videos of student activities, teacher features, classroom selfie photos, etc...

Check out our Facebook page
@SchoolDistrictofWestSalem
and
Follow us on Twitter
@WestSalemSD
and Instagram
@schooldistrictofwestsalem



For WSHS athletic events, visit our website:

- *click Calendars and then
- *click Coulee Conference

You can also set yourself up to receive automatic text or e-mail notifications for any of the activities listed OR subscribe to RSS.

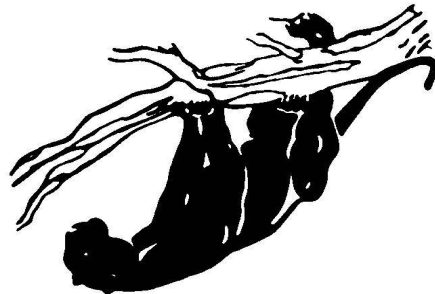


School District of West Salem

“Serve with Passion to Ignite Creativity,
Innovation and Excellence.”



#WeAreWS



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