

March 2022



# Newsletter

School District of West Salem

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## Letter from Superintendent Ryan Rieber

### Trust and Transparency

Mike Paul wrote, “Trust, honesty, humility, transparency and accountability are the building blocks of a positive reputation. Trust is the foundation of any relationship.” By now, most if not all are aware that our district is in need of our community’s help and support again as we are asking for a three-year non-recurring operational referendum. It is our desire to be fully transparent throughout this process so that everyone can make an educated decision on April 5th. In an effort to build this transparency and trust, the District is going to be holding community listening sessions on March 9th, 22nd, and 31st in the Heider Meeting Room beginning at 6:00 pm. Through these, we hope to educate and provide all the information needed along with answering questions from our community to provide full transparency. As you continue, please reference the frequently asked questions below. This information can also be found by visiting our referendum webpage at [bit.ly/WSalemReferendum](http://bit.ly/WSalemReferendum). My hope is that this will help to provide you some further insight and information.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: When is the non-recurring operational referendum?**

A: The School District of West Salem non-recurring operational referendum will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. Vote in the village or township in which you live. Polling locations can be found on page 7 and all polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. You will need a photo ID to be able to vote.

**Q: What is the question on the non-recurring operational referendum ballot?**

A: “Shall the School District of West Salem, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$2,500,000 for the 2022-2023 school year, \$2,500,000 for the 2023-2024 school year and by \$2,750,000 for the 2024-2025 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of maintaining educational programming, facilities and buses and paying salary and other operational expenses?”

Letter continues on next page...

## School District of West Salem

**Q: Why do we continually have to go to referendum every three years? Where does the money go?**

A: Once a district begins an operational referendum cycle, as we did in April 2019, it must continue as long as the state has the same funding formula. At the end of each three year cycle, the previous referendum dollars must be removed from the budget and a new referendum may be placed on the ballot, asking for revenues for the next three years.

**Q: Are there school districts in the state that do not have to go to operational referendum?**

A: Yes, there are districts that do not have to go to referendum. This is because their enrollment is increasing and they receive much more state aid than other districts, and some of this is based on the per-pupil rate that they receive. The current state funding formula happens to work for their districts.

**Q: What other school districts in the state of Wisconsin have gone to operational referendums? Is there a referendum study that shows historical referendums for school districts?**

A: Yes, since 1993 there have been 1,061 operational referendums to exceed revenue caps in the state of Wisconsin. From February through April 2022, 49 school districts, including the School District of West Salem are holding operational referendums. Historical data on referendums in Wisconsin can be found by visiting the Department of Public Instruction page at <https://sfs.dpi.wi.gov/Referenda/CustomReporting.aspx>

**Q: The district received federal ESSER funding, so why do you need funds for a referendum?**

A: The federal ESSER dollars that the district received have a focus on keeping schools open during the pandemic, which we have done. Some of the funds were used last year and the current fiscal year to offer a virtual learning option to students (CRVA), purchase cleaning materials, and provide resources to allow students to continue to learn throughout the pandemic. Using the federal dollars is challenging because there are many stipulations. We cannot use the funds for general operations, rather, they need to be used on making up for learning loss and keeping schools open now and into the future during the pandemic. Another aspect of the dollars is that they are a one-time funding source. We have until 2024 to use them, however, after that they expire and the district will have to go back to using only local and state funds. Thus far, we have used the dollars to positively impact learning and keep our doors open.

**Q: What would happen if the referendum would fail?**

A: If the April 5 non-recurring operational referendum does not pass, the School Board will need to consider various options to reduce the 2022-2023 budget.

Actions could include the following:

- Increase class sizes K-12 to reduce teaching and support staff
- Reduction in co-curricular offerings K-12
- Reduce funds for staff supplies, equipment, and training
- Reduce custodial, maintenance and clerical budgets and staffing
- Reduce the supervisor/administrative team
- Reduce field trips K-12
- No additional capital improvements
- No replacement of school buses

Any reductions the School Board and district may make, including the items listed above, would negatively affect the quality of education our students receive and deserve.

**Q: If the SDWS mill rate has been stable at \$9.15, why does my property tax bill show an increase?**

A: The increase on the school district portion of residents' property tax bill is due to annual increases in the estimated fair market value of the property, which is calculated by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. Over the last five years, the average fair market value increase for School District of West Salem property owners is 5.54%.

**Q: If the school district mill rate decreases with this referendum plan does that guarantee that my school property tax bill will decrease?**

A: The proposed lower \$8.32 mill rate does not guarantee that property tax bills will decrease, but it does lessen any potential increase in taxes due to rising fair market value of your property. Please continue reading for additional details and some examples.

As noted in the answer above, the fair market value of the property, determined annually by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, affects school property taxes. Using the five year average from the answer above as a reference, we can project a range of possible outcomes of a lower \$8.32 mill rate on individual tax bills.

Continued on next page...

## School District of West Salem

The current \$9.15 mill rate equates to \$915 in property taxes per \$100,000 of fair market property value. The School Board referendum plan to lower the rate to \$8.32 would mean a drop of \$83 on your tax bill for every \$100,000 of fair market property value. This scenario is based on a 0% increase in the fair market value from 2021-2022. We can use that as the lower point of our range of possible outcomes.

If we instead base a scenario on the School District of West Salem's fair market value average annual increase of 5.54%, that would mean a mill rate drop from \$9.15 to \$8.32 would change a potential school property tax impact from an increase of \$50.69 per \$100,000 of property value (for a \$9.15 rate) to a decrease of \$36.91 per \$100,000 of property value (for an \$8.32 rate). In this example, the new, lower \$8.32 mill rate doesn't

lower your property taxes, but it does lessen the increase in taxes due to rising fair market value of your property.

This is a key moment for our district and community as we move forward. We are so proud of the programming and opportunities that we get to provide for our students. We are also so fortunate to have the best staff around to help our children grow and become the best versions of themselves. As Henry Ford stated, "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." I look forward to us all continuing to work together for the success of our community and district!

Ryan G. Rieber  
Superintendent



NON-RECURRING OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM

# COMMUNITY INFO SESSIONS

*Vote April 5*

MARCH 9, 22, AND 31 | 6 P.M.  
MARIE HEIDER MEETING ROOM  
DISTRICT OFFICE  
405 EAST HAMLIN ST. WEST SALEM, WI

Come join us as we share information regarding the non-recurring operational referendum that will be on the ballot on Tuesday, April 5th. We will discuss some frequently asked questions and will be open to take your questions as well.

# Calendar of Events March

## Athletic Events

### Saturday, March 26, 2022

3:00pm Track: Girls Varsity Invitational vs. Aquinas, Central, G-E-T, Holmen, Logan, Mauston, Nekoosa, Onalaska & Reedsburg @ University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

### Thursday, March 31, 2022

4:30pm Baseball: JV Game vs. Tomah @ Tomah HS

4:30pm Baseball: Varsity Game vs. Tomah @ West Salem High School

## Band Events

### Friday, March 4, 2022

6:50am Marching Band Rehearsal  
Florida Marching Band

### Thursday, March 10, 2022

6:50am Marching Band Rehearsal  
Florida Marching Band

### Wednesday, March 16, 2022

TBA Depart for Florida

### Monday, March 21, 2022

TBA Return from Florida

### Wednesday, March 23, 2022

TBA Piano Solo & Ensemble

### Saturday, March 26, 2022

2:00pm Spring Concert Rehearsal  
Wind Symphony  
7:00pm Spring Concert @ Heider Center  
Concert Band & Wind Symphony  
Students arrive @ 6:45

### Thursday, March 31, 2022

6:10pm 5th Grade Beginner Night  
@ MS Band Room  
Jazz Ensemble I

## Elementary School Events

### Tuesday, March 1, 2022

8:30am Kindergarten to the OEC  
Wheeler & Christianson  
5:30pm-8:00pm 4K Registration @ ES Assembly  
Room

### Wednesday, March 2, 2022

8:30am Kindergarten to the OEC  
Grams & Mashak/Richling

### Thursday, March 3, 2022

5:30pm-8:00pm 4K Registration @ ES Assembly  
Room

### Monday, March 7, 2022

6:15pm Grade 1 Music Concert  
@ Heider Center  
7:15pm Grade 3 Music Concert @ Heider  
Center

### Tuesday, March 8, 2022

6:15pm Kindergarten Music Concert @ Heider  
Center  
7:15pm Grade 2 Music Concert @ Heider Center

### Friday, March 11, 2022

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

### Friday, March 18, 2022

All Day No School-Staff Inservice

## Middle School Events

### Friday, March 4, 2022

All Day Trimester 2 Ends  
3:30pm End of Trimester Dance for 6th-8th  
Grade @ MS Commons

### Saturday, March 5, 2022

All Day Tri-State Honors Band @ Decorah High  
School

### Tuesday, March 8, 2022

All Day 5th Grade Field Trip to the La Crosse  
County Courthouse

### Thursday, March 10, 2022

8:00am Trimester 2 Grades Due  
1:15pm 5th Grade DARE Graduation @ Heider  
Center

### Friday, March 11, 2022

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

### Tuesday, March 15, 2022

7:00pm Band Extravaganza Concert featuring  
Jazz Band and 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade  
Bands @ MS New Gym  
Students report at 6:30pm

### Friday, March 18, 2022

All Day No School-Staff Inservice

Calendar of events continues on next page...

## School District of West Salem

**Wednesday, March 23, 2022**

TBA WSMA Piano Solo & Ensemble  
@ Onalaska Luther High School

**Thursday, March 31, 2022**

6:30pm 5th Grade Beginner Band Parent  
Meeting @ MS Commons  
Music & Ice Cream @ 6:00pm

### High School Events

**Tuesday, March 1, 2022**

8:45am- NHS Blood Drive @ HS LMC  
2:00pm

**Wednesday, March 2, 2022**

12:00pm Early Release - HS Only  
Students dismissed at 12:00pm

**Tuesday, March 8, 2022**

All Day ACT State Assessment for Juniors

**Friday, March 11, 2022**

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

**Friday, March 18, 2022**

All Day No School-Staff Inservice

**Friday, March 25, 2022**

All Day End of 3rd Quarter

**Tuesday, March 29, 2022**

8:00am 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 on the WIAA website at [wiaawi.org](http://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. Best of luck to all of our student-athletes! Go Panthers!



NOTICE OF ELECTION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEST SALEM  
APRIL 5, 2022

**Referendum Details**

At an election in the School District of West Salem on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, the following question will be submitted to a vote of the people:

"Shall the School District of West Salem, La Crosse County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$2,500,000 for the 2022-2023 school year, by \$2,500,000 for the 2023-2024 school year and by \$2,750,000 for the 2024-2025 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of maintaining educational programming, facilities and buses and paying salary and other operational expenses?"

A copy of the entire text of the resolution directing submission of the question set forth above to the electorate and information concerning District boundaries can be obtained from the District Clerk at the School District offices located at 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, Wisconsin.

**Additional Information**

Acceptable photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Persons with questions regarding the referendum election should contact Ryan Rieber, District Administrator.

**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 5, 2022, in the County of La Crosse, the following polling place locations will be used for the Municipalities and Districts

<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
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 St, West Salem

The School District of West Salem Board of Education Candidates are Tom Grosskopf, Bob Minard and Sean Gavaghan.

**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.



# SUMMER SCHOOL 2022

It's time to start thinking about summer school!

Summer school for grades K-8 will be held July 18-August 5 8:30 a.m.-11:35 a.m.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

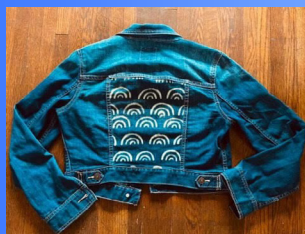
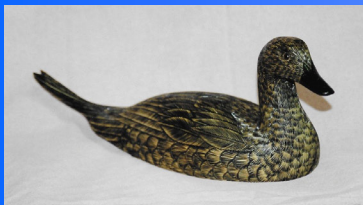
The school district will again be offering swimming lessons. Please note that swimming lessons are not held during the July-August Summer School Session.

Dates and times will be announced soon.





# Mayfair 2022 ART FAIR



Saturday,  
May 21st  
10:00 AM—2:00 PM  
West Salem  
Lion's Shelter  
240 East Avenue

**A celebration of the Arts**

Art Fair  
Silent Auction  
Pulled Pork Dinner

**Pulled Pork  
Sandwich Dinner**

11:00 AM—1:00 PM

Tickets—\$10.00  
(beverage included)

**Advanced Tickets available on  
Heider Center website at:  
[www.heidercenter.org](http://www.heidercenter.org)**

**Sponsored by: Heider Center Arts Board**

# District Announcements

## Mathcounts Students Compete at Regionals

WSMS students competed in the regional Mathcounts virtual competition on Thursday, February 17th. There were 48 competitors representing six different schools, including Holmen, Ithaca, Onalaska, Providence Academy, Viroqua, and West Salem.

Students competed as individuals and as teams. West Salem's individual results were as follows: Henri Schlecht (28th), Tula Mitchell (24th), Dillan Riste (21st), Kate Townsell (20th), AJ Cruz Lambert (14th), Elliot Wolf (11th), Isaiah Laack (9th), Breanna Smith (7th), Lydia Jochen (6th), Isabel Krueger (4th), and Sam Adams (1st). West Salem's team of Sam Adams, Izzy Krueger, Lydia Jochen and Elliot Wolf placed first overall!

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. Adams, Krueger, Jochen, Wolf, and Smith advance to the state competition in Sheboygan on March 12. Good luck, everyone! West Salem's coaches are Tammy Bentzen and Sarah Weber.



## Adapted Sports League Kicks off First Season!

An Adapted Sports League has recently been created at West Salem and our students were so excited to kick off their floor hockey season! The Adapted Sports League was created as an option for differently abled students in grades 6-12 to be able to participate in co-curricular athletics, similar to their peers. They have had a great start to their season, taking on several schools throughout the area including Onalaska, Central, Logan, and Holmen and bringing home a few victories along the way! The formation of this team has been in the works for several years and we are so excited to be able to offer this opportunity to our students. Students will also be able to participate in soccer and softball in other upcoming seasons. Special thank you to Coach Ashly Serres and Coach Jack Reader for all of their hard work in getting this team up and running and for providing this opportunity for our students!



## School Board Members

- Catherine Griffin, President ~~~~~ 769-1714
- Tom Grosskopf, Vice President ~~~~~ 386-0168
- Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk ~~~~~ 792-4130
- Sean Gavaghan, Treasurer ~~~~~ 797-3585
- Ken Schlinggen, Director ~~~~~ 786-4382
- Erik Peterson, Director ~~~~~ 792-5370
- Chris Peterson, Director ~~~~~ 385-3103

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

# District Announcements

## Heider Center



### Colleen Raye & Bobby Vandell- “Country Duets, Hits, and More”

Friday, March 18, 2022

7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$24/\$22

Enjoy the great country duets and hits through the years with Bobby Vandell and Colleen Raye. These two talented performers have a perfect vocal blend and natural rapport with the audience. You’ll hear songs from Johnny & June, Loretta & Conway, Lady Antebellum, Kenny & Dolly, Allison Kraus, The Traveling Willburys, The Everly Brothers and more.



### Art Gallery & Display Cases

K-12 West Salem School  
District Honors Art Show

Runs March 1-31, 2022

### Art Reception

Thursday, March 24, 2022

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Box Office Hours  
(608) 786-2550

Monday, Wednesday &  
Friday: 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

[www.heidercenter.org](http://www.heidercenter.org)

## Being a Difference Maker

On Wednesday, February 16, the district welcomed motivational speaker and author Joe Beckman to campus to speak with our students, families, and community members about the importance of human connection.

Joe spoke with our students about how they can be a ‘Difference Maker’ instead of a “Difference Faker” or a “Difference Taker” by doing small things such as picking someone for their team that might not get picked, or offering some words of encouragement when someone is having a bad day. As he said, “It’s not about changing the world, it’s about changing one person’s day.”

He also shared about the importance of resiliency, and how sometimes there will be really tough moments in life, but that we have the power to push through them, find the good, and change our perspective to make the best of these situations. Thank you to Joe and the entire team at Till360 for sharing your message with our students, families, and community!



## 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](http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us). Navigate by going to ‘Schools’ > ‘High School’ > ‘Students’ > ‘Student Services’ > ‘Transcripts.’

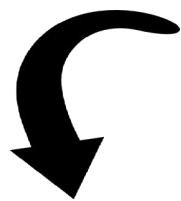
If you have questions, please call the High School Student Services Office at (608) 786-1220.

## Open Enrollment for 2022-2023

Open Enrollment into the School District of West Salem runs February 7-April 29, 2022. Open Enrollment is for any nonresident student that wishes to attend our schools. Students that are currently open enrolled do not need to reapply.

All open enrollment information can be found by going to our website [www.wsalem.k12.wi.us](http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us) and clicking on “Enrollment” at the top of the page and then “Open Enrollment” on the right hand side. If you have questions, please call the District Office at (608)-786-0700.

## Looking for Important Dates?



The district school year calendar, as well as individual building events and athletic events can all be found on our district website. Go to [www.wsalem.k12.wi.us](http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us) and navigate to the top right corner and click on the calendar icon. From here, you can view the school year calendar, Coulee Conference Athletic calendar, Mississippi Valley Athletic calendar, and individual building events.



# School District of West Salem

## School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 24, 2022 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

### Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Catherine Griffin. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee Courier, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district website, and district office on January 21, 2022.

### Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

### Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Chris Peterson (Remote Access), Ken Schlimgen (Remote Access), Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Ryan Rieber, Ben Wopat, Heidi Horton, Mike Malott, Tami Bagstad (Remote Access), Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representative: Krish Patel. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Rachel Stein

### Approval of Agenda

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to approve the agenda as presented. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. E. Peterson, Aye; Mr. C. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

### Written and Oral Reports

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) – Mr. Schlimgen reported on the recent meeting of the TIF District.

Policy/Communication and Engagement – Mr. Schlimgen reported on the process for updating the policies to Neola.

Business Operations Committee – Mr. Grosskopf reported on the agenda items: interest information from Baird and capital 5-year plans.

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

Mr. Rieber provided a district update.

Board members Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin and Erik Peterson, and administrators Ryan Rieber and Deanna Wiatt shared highlights from the 2022 Education Convention.

### Connection with the Community

Krish Patel, Student Representative, reported on:

- Two players from the Esports team were named to the All-State Overwatch Team: Adam Chandler and Michael Harding. They played in a competition last Saturday at Madison Technical College. There were 13 colleges in attendance; scouting and giving seminars on collegiate Esports.
- In show choir news, Vivace won 1st place in the women division and Salem Singstations won 4th runner up in a pool of 13 teams at their last competition.
- The dance team is headed to Hudson, Wisconsin for a regional competition.

### Correspondence

A thank you picture card was shared with the Board from Mrs. Antony's class thanking them for the Board Grant for flexible seating.

A thank you card from Sherry Kneifl was read.

Public Comments – None.

Citizen Participation at Board Meetings speaker was Kortney Getter

### Public Hearing

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR EARLY START OF THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR PER WI STATUTE 118.045(3) – REQUEST WAIVER FOR EARLY START OF SCHOOL YEAR DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.

The hearing started at 7:30 p.m. and ended at 7:30 p.m.

### Consent Agenda

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

- the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2022;
- the invoices to be paid;
- to accept donations from Jon & Lynette Labus for the Angela Labus Memorial Scholarship Fund, and from an anonymous donor for the Random Acts of Kindness Fund;
- to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendations for Lionel Karyea-head girls soccer coach, Jamie Olson-head baseball coach, Stacy Mitchell-head girls' track coach, Justin Stackston-head boys' track coach, and Brian Babiash-head softball coach;
- to hire Kris Marquez as a limited-term middle school special education teacher; and
- to accept the resignation of Jamie Olson as a high school assistant football coach.

A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. E. Peterson, Aye; Mr. C. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

### Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to approve the designation of regular and special education programs' Open Enrollment spaces for the 2022-2023 school year as presented.

4-Year-Old Kindergarten: 0  
Kindergarten: 2  
Grade 1: 1  
Grade 2: 5  
Grade 3: 0 (with 5 sections) or 15 (with 6 sections)  
Grade 4: 11  
Seats in the following programs  
Elementary Early Childhood: 0  
Elementary Cross Categorical: 2  
Elementary Emotional Behavioral Disability: 0  
Elementary Intellectual Disability: 0  
Elementary Speech and Language: 0  
Middle School Cross Categorical: 0  
Middle School Emotional Behavioral Disability: 0  
Middle School Intellectual Disability: 0  
Middle School Speech and Language: 0  
High School Cross Categorical: 0  
High School Emotional Behavioral Disability: 1  
High School Intellectual Disability: 0  
High School Speech and Language: 0

A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. E. Peterson, Aye; Mr. C. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mr. C. Peterson seconded to approve the following resolution:

SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION FOR THE WAIVER OF CERTAIN SCHOOL BOARD OR SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO WIS. STAT. §§ 118.38(1) AND (1M)

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §118.38(1) and Wis. Admin. § PI 8.01(4) authorizes school boards to request the Department of Public Instruction to waive any school board or school district requirement in Wis. Stat. chs. 115 to 121 or in the administrative rules promulgated by the Department under the authority of those chapters; and  
WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. §118.38(1)(b) requires that, before requesting a waiver, a school board shall hold a public hearing in the school district on the request for a waiver of any requirement in Wis. Stat. chs. 115 to 121; and

# School District of West Salem

## School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes continued... January 24, 2022 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 118.38(1m) requires that “the school board shall specify in its request for a waiver its reason for requesting the waiver,” due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly a large spike in student cases due to the Omicron variant, our students have experienced a loss of instructional time and inconsistency in learning modes. Being able to return our students prior to September 1, 2022, would allow us to limit the summer slide our students experience from extended learning breaks due to the effects of the pandemic. This would benefit our students by allowing for a quicker and smoother transition from summer school into the regular school year. In addition, this will allow the district to provide additional days during the year for breaks in our calendar, which will benefit the mental health of our students and staff, and allow for the deep cleaning of our district’s facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. On January 24, 2022, the Board of Education held a public hearing, in satisfaction of Wis. Stat. §118.38(1)(b), concerning requests for waivers of the requirements identified herein; and
2. In compliance with Wis. Stat. §§, 118.38(1) AND (1M) and for the reasons set forth herein, the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent or his/her designee to apply, on behalf of the Board, to the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction for the waiver of the following:

Waiver of the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 118.045 Commencement of school term due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a large spike of the Omicron variant. The district is seeking reduce the amount of time students will be without in-person instruction.

A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. E. Peterson, Aye; Mr. C. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Samantha Pederson, Public Relations Specialist/Grant Writer, and Mr. Rieber share drafts of referendum communication. No action was taken.

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

### Adjournment

Mr. C. Peterson moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. E. Peterson, Aye; Mr. C. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Fitzgerald, ClerkConvene

## School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes February 14, 2022 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

### 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, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district website, and district office on February 10, 2022.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag  
Krish Patel led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and

Rachel Stein recited the District Mission Statement.

### Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Chris Peterson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Ryan Rieber, Ben Wopat, Heidi Horton, Mike Malott, Tami Bagstad, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Krish Patel and Rachel Stein. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: N/A.

### Approval of Agenda

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

### Written and Oral Reports

Policy/Communication and Engagement Committee – Mr. Schlimgen reported on the Neola policy review.

Business Operations Committee – Mr. Grosskopf reported on the agenda items: refinancing and sample resolution, ESSER Funding, summer school wages, and audit report.

CESA #4 Board of Control – Mrs. Griffin reported on the events of the Board of Control’s meeting.

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

Mr. Rieber provided a district update.

### Connection with the Community

Rachel Stein, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Girls’ Hockey ranked 6th in the state
2. Boys’ basketball ranked 1st in the state
3. Tanea Henderson had her “Pink Out” basketball game last Tuesday that supported cancer awareness and raised about \$1,200.
4. Girls basketball: 18-3, on the way to win the conference, senior night is tonight!! Go support!!
5. SEP Projects are due in March.
6. Boys swimming and the wrestling team will be competing in sectionals.

Krish Patel, Student Representative, reported on:

1. There will be a Winter Dance this Saturday, as well as dress up days all week. Today was wearing Valentine’s Day colors, and tomorrow is jersey day.
2. DECA state is next week February 22-24 in Lake Geneva. There will be 22 competitors competing for a spot to ICDC in Atlanta, GA.
3. The dance team went to state two weekends ago: 12th for jazz (out of 14 teams), 7th for pom (out of 14 teams).
4. The high school band is taking a trip to Disney in March. While they are there, they will be performing in the parade.

Correspondence – None.

Public Comments – None.

### Consent Agenda

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

- a. the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2022;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. to accept the donation from Burton and Jane Bangsberg for the elementary LMC;
- d. to accept the administration’s co-curricular recommendation for assistant track coach-Tommy Friday, Tony Weilandt, Laura Deal, Ashley Miner, Cameron Robaczewski, volunteer track coach-Averie Duffy and Grant LeDoux, head boys’ tennis coach-Julie Kamla, assistant baseball coach-Jared Hauser, Nick Schultz, Adam Krause, and volunteer baseball coach-Kyle Helgeson and Scott Koepnick;
- e. to accept the retirements of Middle School General and Instrumental

## School District of West Salem

### School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes continued... February 14, 2022 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

Music Teacher Mardeana Glasel, and Middle School Math Teacher Tammy Bentzen.

#### Discussion/Action Items:

Mrs. Fitzgerald moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee's recommendation to increase the summer school teacher hourly rate from \$25 per hour to \$30 per hour. Motion carried unanimously.

Exception to School Board Policy 370-Rule B, High School Co-Curricular Activity Eligibility Requirements and Code of Conduct. 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 Session

The Board and Administration reviewed the draft of the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan document.

#### Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. C. Peterson seconded to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk

## Annual Winter Wellness Day is a Success!

On Friday, February 11, our West Salem Middle School students got to enjoy their annual Winter Wellness Day field trips. Students get to go off campus for the day to participate in a variety of fun activities designed to get them physically active and enjoying time with their classmates. They could choose from several fun options including tubing at Fort McCoy, skiing and snowboarding at Mount La

Crosse, ice skating at the Panther Den, swimming in Wisconsin Dells, ice fishing, archery, bowling, and more! For many students, this is one of the highlights of their middle school experience and leaves them with wonderful memories! There is a lot of work that goes into coordinating events and making the day successful, and we'd like to give a huge thank you to our staff for all of their hard work!



HARVEST OF THE MONTH  
NEWSLETTER 03/2022



MARCH



Green Beans

### Did You Know?

“Green” beans can actually be green, yellow, purple, or speckled in these colors!

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/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.

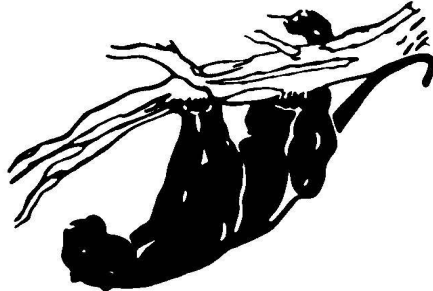


# School District of West Salem

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



#WeAreWS



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