

May 2025



# Newsletter

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## Letter from Superintendent Ryan Rieber

### Tradition, Celebration, and New Beginnings

May is here, and with it comes a season full of tradition, celebration, and new beginnings across the West Salem School District. From Panther Portfolio Presentations on Wednesday, May 7 (also an early release day), to 8th Grade Recognition, the Washington, D.C. trip, and our heartfelt Senior Sing-Out, Senior Walk-Through, and Graduation, this is a month filled with reflection, preparation, and meaningful goodbyes.

We also celebrate Staff Appreciation Week from May 5 to 9. I feel incredibly privileged to work alongside a team of such dedicated, compassionate professionals. Every adult in our buildings plays a role in shaping the lives of our students and your support as parents, guardians, and community members makes this work even more impactful. I encourage everyone to take a moment this month to thank a staff member who has made a difference in your child's life. Their dedication and care are what make West Salem such a special place to learn and grow.

As we approach summer, we recognize that some services like school meals will pause. One way we continue to care for each other is through our local food pantry, which supports families throughout the year. The pantry, located at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, is open every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If you are in need, or if you can give please reach out by emailing [wsalempantry@yahoo.com](mailto:wsalempantry@yahoo.com) or calling 608-786-0030. Even the smallest donation can make a big difference.

As the school year draws to a close, we pause to honor and thank seven exceptional individuals who are retiring from the West Salem School District. These staff members have dedicated their time, talent, and hearts to our students and community, leaving behind a legacy of care, commitment, and excellence. Please join me in celebrating: Ron Hanson, Pat Bahr, Lucy Gray, Monica Quinn, Tom Lord, Dawn Crow, and David Reeck. Your impact is immeasurable, and your contributions will be felt for years to come. As we celebrate this milestone, we're reminded of the words of Maya Angelou: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will  
Letter continues on next page...

## School District of West Salem

forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” Thank you for making West Salem a better place. Congratulations on your well-earned retirement!

One of the most meaningful milestones of the school year is just around the corner: graduation, which will take place on Friday, May 23, at 7:00 p.m. This special evening marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another, as we celebrate the hard work, resilience, and accomplishments of the Class of 2025. To our seniors, you have grown into thoughtful, driven, and capable individuals, and we are incredibly proud of you. As you prepare to take your next steps, whether it’s college, a career, the military, or a new adventure, remember the words of Henry David Thoreau, “Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.” Follow your passions, trust yourself, and never forget that you will always have a home here in West Salem. Congratulations, Class of 2025!

As we wrap up another school year, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our students, families, and the entire West Salem community for your continued support and partnership. This year was filled with meaningful

accomplishments, both big and small. From passing our operational and capital referendums to celebrating student success in academics, the arts, athletics, and beyond, we have so much to be proud of. These milestones are a reflection of what we can achieve when we come together with a shared purpose.

Schools and communities are deeply connected. Communities take on the image of their schools, and schools reflect the values and strengths of their communities. West Salem is proof of just how powerful that connection can be. Thank you for playing a vital role in the continued success of our district. Whether you volunteered your time, showed up to support an event, encouraged a student, or helped guide our vision, your contributions matter.

As Helen Keller once said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” The success of this year is a collective one, and I’m grateful to be part of a community that believes in working together for the good of all.

Wishing you a safe, fun, and restful summer!  
Ryan Rieber  
Superintendent

## Hehli & Johnson Named WIAA Scholar Athletes

Two seniors at WSHS have added an impressive accolade to the recognition they have received during their time as student athletes at WSHS. Kyle Hehli and Megan Johnson were both named WIAA Scholar Athletes for the 2024-2025 school year! This is particularly impressive as there were over 800 students nominated from the 415 high schools in Wisconsin and only four males and four females are selected from each athletic division for a total of 32 recipients. Since the award’s inception in 1984, only three other West Salem High School students have been named Scholar Athletes.

Kyle and Megan were selected for the award based on their academic and athletic accomplishments during their time at WSHS. Kyle has participated in basketball, tennis, and golf during his time at WSHS and has a 3.93 GPA. He is a State tennis doubles champion with his brother, Jack, and is a three-time team and Coulee Conference tennis MVP. He qualified individually for the sectional golf tournament his sophomore year, and as a junior, he helped his team qualify for sectionals. He was also voted Coulee Conference Basketball Player of the Year as a senior. Megan has participated in tennis, basketball, and softball during her time at WSHS and has a 3.97 GPA. She is a two-time State tennis qualifier in singles and placed 6th as a senior. She has qualified for the state basketball tournament as a sophomore and junior, is the all-time leading scorer at WSHS, a four-time all conference honor winner and was named Coulee Conference Basketball Player of the Year as a senior. In softball she has earned all-state honors as a catcher and been a member of two regional championship teams. Congratulations Kyle and Megan! You make West Salem Proud!



# Calendar of Events

## May

### Athletic Events

#### Thursday, May 1, 2025

- 4:00pm Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Wonewoc Center, Luther & Westby/Viroqua @ Ettrick Golf Course
- 4:00pm Tennis: Boys Varsity Dual Meet vs. Altoona @ West Salem High School Tennis Courts
- 5:30pm Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Westby Area High School @ West Salem High School
- 5:30pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Westby Area High School @ West Salem High School

#### Friday, May 2, 2025

- 9:30am Golf: Boys Varsity Invitational vs. Aquinas, Baldwin-Woodville Area School District, Central, Chippewa Falls, Durand-Arkansaw, Eau Claire Memorial, Eau Claire North, Elk Mound, Menomonie, Nekoosa, New Richmond, Rice Lake, River Falls, Sparta, Superior & Westby Area High School @ Lake Wissota Golf Course
- 4:30pm Track: Boys & Girls Varsity Invite vs. Arcadia, Cochrane-Fountain City, G-E-T, Independence, Logan, Luther, Melrose-Mindoro, Pepin, Providence Academy, Sparta, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ G-E-T High School
- 5:00pm Baseball: JV Game vs. Prairie du Chien @ West Salem High School
- 5:00pm Softball: JV Game vs. Holmen @ Viking Elementary School Softball Field 3
- 5:00pm Softball: Varsity Game vs. Holmen @ Viking Elementary School Softball Field 4
- 5:30pm Baseball: Varsity Game vs. Prairie du Chien @ West Salem High School

#### Saturday, May 3, 2025

- 9:00am Lacrosse: Boys Varsity Tournament vs. Verona Area @ Woodside Sports Complex

9:30am

Golf: Boys Varsity Invite vs. Aquinas, Baldwin-Woodville Area School District, Central, Chippewa Falls, Durand-Arkansaw, Eau Claire Memorial, Eau Claire North, Elk Mound, Menomonie, Nekoosa, New Richmond, Rice Lake, River Falls, Sparta, Superior & Westby Area High School @ Tanglewood Greens Golf Course

#### Monday, May 5, 2025

- 4:00pm Golf: Boys JV/Varsity Meet vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Wonewoc Center, Luther & Westby/Viroqua @ Viroqua Hills Golf Course
- 4:00pm Track: Boys & Girls JV Invitational vs. Central, Holmen, Logan, Onalaska & Tomah @ Tomah HS
- 5:30pm Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Viroqua @ West Salem High School
- 5:30pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Viroqua @ West Salem High School

#### Tuesday, May 6, 2025

- 4:00pm Tennis: Boys Varsity Match vs. Mauston @ Mauston High School

#### Thursday, May 8, 2025

- 4:00pm Golf: Boys JV Meet vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Wonewoc Center, Luther & Westby/Viroqua @ Ettrick Golf Course
- 4:00pm Track: Varsity Invite vs. Aquinas, Bangor, Cashton, Central, Chippewa Falls, De Soto, Eau Claire Memorial, Holmen & Onalaska @ Central High School
- 5:30pm Baseball: JV Game vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua High School Mason Field
- 5:30pm Baseball: Varsity Game vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua High School Park Bowl
- 5:30pm Softball: JV Game vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua High School Rooou Field
- 5:30pm Softball: Varsity Game vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua High School Park Bowl

Calendar of events continues on next page...



## School District of West Salem

### Saturday, May 10, 2025

- 9:00am Track: Boys & Girls Varsity Invite vs. Adams-Friendship, Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Luther, Mauston, Nekoosa, Prairie du Chien, Viroqua, Wautoma, Westby Area High School, Westfield Pioneer & Wisconsin Dells @ UW-La Crosse
- 12:00pm Lacrosse: Boys Varsity Doubleheader vs. Elkhorn Area @ Elkhorn Area High School

### Monday, May 12, 2025

- 4:15pm Track: Boys & Girls Varsity Invite vs. Bangor, Brookwood, Cashton, Hillsboro, Richland Center, Royall, Seneca, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ Viroqua High School
- 4:30pm Golf: Boys JV Meet vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Wonewoc Center, Luther & Westby/Viroqua @ Castle Rock Golf Course
- 5:30pm Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. G-E-T @ West Salem High School
- 5:30pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. G-E-T @ West Salem High School

### Tuesday, May 13, 2025

- 4:00pm Tennis: Boys Varsity Match vs. Black River Falls @ West Salem High School
- 4:30pm Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Wonewoc Center, Luther & Westby/Viroqua @ Castle Rock Golf Course

### Thursday, May 15, 2025

- 4:00pm Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Wonewoc Center, Luther & Westby/Viroqua @ Skyline Golf Club
- 5:30pm Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. G-E-T @ Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau Middle School
- 5:30pm Softball: JV Game vs. G-E-T @ Galesville Elementary
- 5:30pm Softball: Varsity Game vs. G-E-T @ Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau Middle School

### Friday, May 16, 2025

- 5:00pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Tomah @ Tomah La Grange Elementary

### Saturday, May 17, 2025

- 8:00am Tennis: Boys Varsity Triangular vs. East Troy & Sun Prairie West @ Sun Prairie West High School
- 9:00am Baseball: JV/Varsity Triangular vs. Baraboo & Belleville @ Belleville High School
- 10:00am Track: Boys & Girls Varsity Conference Tournament vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Luther, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ Black River Falls High School
- 12:00pm Lacrosse: Boys Varsity Triangular vs. Pulaski & Sauk Prairie @ Sauk Prairie High School

### Monday, May 19, 2025

- 9:00am Tennis: Boys Varsity Conference Tournament vs. Black River Falls, Mauston & Viroqua @ Black River Falls High School
- 4:00pm Golf: Boys JV Meet vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Wonewoc Center, Luther & Westby/Viroqua @ Skyline Golf Club

### Tuesday, May 20, 2025

- 11:00am Golf: Boys Varsity Conference Tournament vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Wonewoc Center, Luther & Westby/Viroqua @ Trempealeau Mountain Golf Club
- 5:00pm Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Logan @ West Salem High School

### Thursday, May 22, 2025

- 4:00pm Track: Boys & Girls Varsity Invitational vs. Bangor, Black River Falls, Brookwood, Onalaska, Sparta, Tomah & Westby Area High School @ Sparta High School

### Saturday, May 24, 2025

- 11:00am Tennis: Boys Varsity Quad vs. Ellsworth, Logan & Osceola @ West Salem High School

### Tuesday, May 27, 2025

- 9:30am Tennis: Boys Varsity Match vs. Altoona, Black River Falls, Ellsworth, Logan, Providence Academy, Regis & Viroqua @ Menards Tennis Center
- 5:30pm Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Tomah @ West Salem High School

## School District of West Salem

### Thursday, May 29, 2025

9:30am Tennis: Boys Varsity Match vs. Altoona, Amery, Antigo, Ashland, Baldwin-Woodville Area School District, Black River Falls, Ellsworth, Lakeland Union, Logan, Medford, Osceola, Pacelli, Providence Academy, Regis & Viroqua @ Menards Tennis Center

### Band Events

### Sunday, May 18, 2025

2:00pm Farewell Concert @ Heider Center  
5:30pm Fine Arts Banquet @ Venue TBD

### Friday, May 23, 2025

6:30pm Graduation @ WSHS Gym  
Wind Symphony

### Saturday, May 31, 2025

11:00am June Dairy Days Parade  
Marching Band Uniform Required  
2:00pm June Dairy Days  
Jazz Ensembles @ Gazebo

### Elementary School Events

### Thursday, May 1, 2025

7:20am Walking School Bus Bonus Days  
Meet at the corner of N. Tilson & W. Hamlin Streets  
8:30am 1st Grade to the OEC  
Christianson & Reedy

### Friday, May 2, 2025

8:10am 4th Grade Farm Day  
8:30am 1st Grade to the OEC  
Richling & Chambers

### Tuesday, May 6, 2025

8:30am 2nd Grade to the OEC  
Schwartz, Skaar, Pearson & Flottmeier

### Wednesday, May 7, 2025

9:00am- 4K Registration @ WSES  
11:00am  
12:20pm Early Release  
Students dismissed at 12:20pm  
Buses depart at 12:30pm  
4:00pm- 4K Registration @ WSES  
6:00pm

### Thursday, May 8, 2025

8:20am 3rd Grade to the National Eagle Center

8:30am 2nd Grade to the OEC  
Hesse, Crow & Servais

### Friday, May 9, 2025

7:20am Walking School Bus  
Meet at the corner of N. Tilson & W. Hamlin Streets

### Monday, May 12, 2025

8:30am Kindergarten to the OEC  
Hickey & Wagner

### Tuesday, May 13, 2025

8:00am 3rd Grade Slide into Safety  
8:30am Kindergarten to the OEC  
Grams & Wheeler

### Wednesday, May 14, 2025

8:30am Kindergarten to the OEC  
Christianson & Passehl

### Thursday, May 15, 2025

7:20am Walking School Bus Bonus Days  
Meet at the corner of N. Tilson & W. Hamlin Streets  
8:30am 2nd Grade to Myrick Park

### Friday, May 16, 2025

9:00am 1st Grade to Myrick & Trane Parks  
12:10pm 2nd Grade to Nick's & Village Park

### Tuesday, May 20, 2025

8:15am 1st Grade to Smith Valley School  
Chambers, Reedy & Antony

### Wednesday, May 21, 2025

8:15am 1st Grade to Smith Valley School  
Baldwin, Christianson & Richling

### Thursday, May 22, 2025

8:30am 3rd Grade to Sparta Theater

### Friday, May 23, 2025

All Day Field Day

### Monday, May 26, 2025

All Day No School-Memorial Day

### Wednesday, May 28, 2025

8:30am 4th Grade to High Rollers  
12:30pm 3rd Grade to the Pool

### Thursday, May 29, 2025

12:30pm 4th Grade to the Pool

### Friday, May 30, 2025

9:00am 1st Grade to Pineview Park  
9:00am 3rd Grade to Zanter Park  
9:00am 4th Grade to Vet's Park  
12:20pm Last Day of School  
Students dismissed at 12:20pm  
Buses depart at 12:30pm

## School District of West Salem

### Middle School Events

#### Wednesday, May 7, 2025

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

#### Tuesday, May 13, 2025

6:00pm 6th & 7th Grade Band & Choir Concerts  
@ Heider Center  
6th Grade @ 6:00pm  
7th Grade @ 7:30pm

#### Monday, May 19, 2025

All Day 7th Grade Campout at the OEC  
Half go Monday-Wednesday and half go  
Wednesday-Friday

#### Tuesday, May 20, 2025

All Day 5th Grade to the La Crosse Queen  
7:00pm 8th Grade Band & Choir Concert  
@ Heider Center

#### Wednesday, May 21, 2025

All Day 5th Grade to the La Crosse Queen

#### Thursday, May 22, 2025

7:00pm 8th Grade Promotion @ Heider Center

#### Monday, May 26, 2025

8:00am 8th Grade Depart for Washington, D.C.  
Trip  
All Day No School-Memorial Day

#### Wednesday, May 28, 2025

8:00am 6th Grade to the OEC

#### Thursday, May 29, 2025

8:00am 6th Grade to Jellystone

#### Friday, May 30, 2025

12:20pm Last Day of School  
Students dismissed at 12:20pm  
Buses depart at 12:30pm

#### Wednesday, May 14, 2025

7:00pm Scholarship Awards Night  
@ Heider Center

#### Friday, May 16, 2025

1:30pm Neshonoc Yearbook Dedication  
@ Heider Center

#### Friday, May 23, 2025

1:45pm Senior Sing Out @ WSHS Gym  
7:00pm Graduation @ WSHS Gym

#### Monday, May 26, 2025

All Day No School-Memorial Day

#### Friday, May 30, 2025

12:20pm Last Day of School  
Students dismissed at 12:20pm  
Buses depart at 12:30pm

### High School Events

#### Saturday, May 3, 2025

7:00pm Prom @ WSHS Gym

#### Sunday, May 4, 2025

6:00pm NHS Induction @ Heider Center

#### Wednesday, May 7, 2025

All Day No School for Grades 9-11  
12:00pm Panther Portfolio Presentations for Seniors



Starts 6/3

Tuesdays and Thursdays

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

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

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

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

Free meals for kids 18 and under

For more info, check the Feed Our Children - West Salem  
Facebook page or email [feedourchildrenws@gmail.com](mailto:feedourchildrenws@gmail.com)



## WSHS Teacher Named 2025 Herb Kohl Teacher Fellow

We are proud to congratulate West Salem High School Science & Agriculture Teacher Kelly Rueckheim for being named a 2025 Herb Kohl Teacher Fellow! This prestigious award recognizes teaching excellence throughout the state of Wisconsin and is only given to 100 teachers annually. As part of the award, he will receive a \$6,000 grant to use in his classroom, and WSHS will also receive a matching \$6,000 grant. As a recipient, he will also become a candidate for Wisconsin Teacher of the Year.

Rueckheim was nominated for the award by two of his current students and we are proud he is being recognized for his dedication, leadership, and ability to inspire a love of learning! In addition to teaching, he is also an advisor for FFA and the Ecology Club. Congratulations, Kelly!



## District Announcements



### Recognizing Our Amazing Artists

At the April 14 School Board Meeting, we recognized our student artists during one of our favorite meetings of the year! Each spring, school board members and administration select a piece of art from the K-12 Honors Art Show in the Heider Center to be hung in the Heider Meeting Room for the next year.

Students and their families are then invited to the board meeting where the administrators get to speak about why they selected each piece and our students get some very well-deserved recognition for their hard work! From paintings and drawings to photography and pottery, our students impress us with their talents every year! This is a cherished tradition within our district and we love taking the time to recognize our students, as well as our amazing art staff for all that they do to nourish a love of art within our students!



### School Board Members

Catherine Griffin, President ~~~~~(608) 769-1714  
Tom Grosskopf, Vice President ~~~~~(608) 386-0168  
Bob Gollnik, Treasurer ~~~~~ (612) 720-1852  
Caitlin Wilson, Clerk ~~~~~ (608) 780-3836  
Erik Peterson, Director ~~~~~(608) 792-5370  
Ben Garbers, Director ~~~~~(608) 498-9510  
Trish Harman, Director ~~~~~(608) 332-9222

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



# District Announcements

## Heider Center



### Heider Center Mainstage 2025-2026 Season Tickets

Season tickets for the new 2025-2026 Heider Center Mainstage Season will go on sale Thursday, May 29th at 1:30 pm.

Season tickets for both the 8 show and 5 show season can only be ordered through the Heider Center box office (not online). There is a 15% discount for ordering all 8 shows early.

Individual show tickets will go on sale to the general public on Monday, August 11th at 1:30 pm

### Art Gallery

West Salem High School Senior  
Art Show  
Runs April 8-May 16

Box Office Hours  
(608) 786-2550

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

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

## Youth Apprenticeship Opportunities for 2025-2026 School Year

Juniors and Sophomores are you interested in getting a head start on your career? Did you know that the State of Wisconsin has a program geared towards youth getting on the job training while still in high school?

The Youth Apprenticeship program has many different career pathways for students: Agriculture, Construction, Business Administration, Education, Finance, Health Science, Hospitality, Human Services, Information Technology, Manufacturing, Marketing, Engineering and Transportation (Auto).

Students receive credit for working at their job and are also required to take a related course at the high school to increase on the job knowledge/skills. Students are able to have Youth Apprenticeship release hour(s) where they are able to go to work during the school day. Students are required to work a minimum of 450 hours per school year that they are in the program. Summers hours will count if the student is signed up for the Youth Apprenticeship program and the paperwork is submitted.

If you already have a job or need help finding one we can help you with that. If you are feel that the Youth Apprenticeship program would be a good fit for you or if you just have questions stop by and see Mrs. Hinkel in room 008 or email her at [hinkel.nicole@wsalem.k12.wi.us](mailto:hinkel.nicole@wsalem.k12.wi.us).

## 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.

## Enrollment for 2025-2026

Are you new to the district and looking to enroll your students for the 2025-2026 school year?

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

## Looking for Important Dates?



The district school year calendar, as well as individual building events and athletic events can all be found on our district website. Go to [www.wsalem.k12.wi.us](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 March 10, 2025

### 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 March 6, 2025.

#### Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Jessa Hickey led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Brennon Anderson recited the District Mission Statement.

#### Roll Call

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

#### Approval of Agenda

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Gollnik 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 update by Tom Grosskopf: Technology Roll Over Agreement, 25/26 Budget Overview, County Farmland discussion.

CESA #4 Board of Control – C. Griffin reported that the last meeting was cancelled due to snowstorm.

Construction Project Update from Superintendent: Reported on updates from ISG.

Student Art Show in the Heider Center was reported by Quenten Brown. School Board and Administration will pick the artwork, and it will hang in the Heider Meeting Room for 1 year.

Comprehensive Pupil Services for Mental Health & Employability, Presented by Heidi Horton & Tatiana Wolf

#### Connection with the Community

Jessa Hickey, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The girls' basketball team played in the sectional final game on Saturday in Baraboo. They had a good run but fell short of Madison Edgewood in a tough game. The girls had a great season, with a record of 21-5.
2. The boys' basketball team took down Fox Valley Lutheran on Friday night before playing a close game against Central on Saturday night. They came out with a score of 66-58 in double overtime. They will take on Onalaska on Thursday night in Logan for the sectional semi-final game.
3. The girls' gymnastics team competed at the state tournament in the Wisconsin Rapids over the weekend. It was their first year competing in Division 1, and they placed 8th overall as a team. Kennedy Garbers and Hayden Rhode competed in the individual tournament on Saturday and both had great performances!
4. Junior, Katherine Townsell, was named a 2025 Shining Star by the Upper

Mississippi Manufacturing Alliance at their annual awards dinner. She was recognized for her commitment to our community and the time she has invested into service, STEM, and trades!

5. The National Honor Society hosted a blood drive last Monday in the high school library. They collected 68 units of blood, meaning over 200 lives were saved! An impressive number of high school students and community members showed up to donate.

Brennon Anderson, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Junior, Teagen Moore, competed at the individual wrestling state tournament the first weekend in March. He placed 4th place overall in the 106-weight class of division 1.
2. Track practice starts today, and they expect around 130 athletes to compete. Their first meet will be March 21st and 22nd
3. Last Thursday there was a CCLR day at the high school. Underclassmen did ACT prep while seniors worked on panther portfolios and learned about insurance from Jason Lassen of American Family Insurance. There was an all-school assembly in the afternoon that included senior recognition for winter activities and a staff vs student basketball game with an ice cream eating contest at halftime. The game resulted in a senior win with a last second half-court shot by Will Steffereud, which is still a sore subject for the staff team.
4. Today was the turn in day for senior Panther Portfolios and local scholarships. Final portfolio presentations will take place on May 7th
5. And finally, tomorrow the juniors will take the ACT.

#### Correspondence

A thank you note from the Fitzgerald family was read.

A thank you note from the family of Linda Nelson was read.

Proclamations were read: March 1-31, 2025 is Music, Art, Dance and Theatre in our schools month. March 2-8, 2025 was National School Social Work Week. March 3-7, 2025 was National School Breakfast Week. March 3, 2025 was Social Emotional Learning Day

Public Comments – None.

#### Consent Agenda

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 24, 2025;
  - b. invoices to be paid;
  - c. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendation for Lexi Hinkler as Head 8th Grade Softball, Lauren Lovely as Head 7th Grade Softball, Nicole Friell as Middle School Track Coach, Bill Jensen as Volunteer Middle School Track Coach, Joe Hess as Middle School Track Coach and Mike Sanford as Middle School Track Coach.
  - d. to accept resignation/retirement
  - e. to accept donations from Jerry Moinar of 7 boxes of photography books; Donation from Steve and Dolly Small in memory of Emerson.
- Motion Carried unanimously.

#### Discussion/Action Items:

C. Griffin moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to accept Administrator Ryan Rieber's recommendation that the Board move to Nominate and elect Jennifer Larson as the new Deputy Clerk for the School District of West Salem. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, B. Gollnick seconded to approve the Four-year renewal lease agreement with Apple for the district. Motion carried unanimously.

T. Grosskopf moved, C. Wilson seconded to submit an offer to purchase 30 acres for \$500,000 of the County Farmland. Motion carried unanimously. The list of to do items / information requests was reviewed. No action was taken.

Adjournment

## School District of West Salem

### School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes continued... March 10, 2025

#### Marie Heider Meeting Room

7:00 p.m.

C. Wilson moved, B. Minard seconded to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erik Peterson, Clerk

### School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 24, 2025

#### Marie Heider Meeting Room

7:00 p.m.

#### Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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 March 20, 2025.

#### Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Jessa Hickey led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Bob Minard recited the District Mission Statement.

#### Roll Call

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

#### Approval of Agenda

S. Gavaghan moved, C. Wilson 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.

Business Operations Committee update by Tom Grosskopf: Budgeting/Staffing for 2025/2026 was discussed.

#### Connection with the Community

Jessa Hickey, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Last Saturday the boys' basketball season came to an end in a tough game against Wausau East at Wisconsin Rapids. The boys had a great season, making it to the sectional finals.
2. This concluded the winter sports season; spring sports are now underway!
3. This past weekend the track teams competed on Friday at St. Mary's University and Saturday at UWL. They have a couple of weeks of practice before their next meet.
4. The softball team started their season last Monday and is currently preparing for their first game which will be against Central on Thursday night.
5. Baseball started practice last week with pitching and catching, and today was their first official day of practice for the season. Depending on the weather, they will scrimmage Onalaska on Saturday or have an intrasquad scrimmage.
6. Girls' soccer started practice today and will have 2 a day practices all week.

Their first game is on April 3 when they will take on Baraboo at home.

7. The drama department recently had two successful performances of their show, Sister Act. They are already preparing for their summer musical, Disney's Descendants as they had auditions last Monday. This will be the last show for the senior students.

8. Last Thursday the art department hosted a banquet to show off the great artwork that students have created over the year and to celebrate students in grades K-12 who had their piece selected for the art show. There is also a show coming up at which senior art students can display their artwork.

Correspondence – None.

Public Comments – None.

#### Consent Agenda

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

- a. minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 10, 2025, and Special Meeting of March 3, 2025;
  - b. invoices to be paid;
  - c. to accept the administration's Co-curricular Recommendations: Ryan Loeffler, Sydney Niemeier, Anna Szymanski for Volunteer Girls Soccer, Macey Tauscher and Josh Miller as Volunteer Track Coaches, Mariah Wick as Assistant Softball Coach, Isaac Olson and Cody Mehsikomer as Volunteer Baseball Coaches, and Mya Tepp as Assistant Boys Tennis;
  - d. to accept the resignation of High School Special Education Teacher Desiree Nelson;
  - e. to accept the Donations of 6 dozen cookies from Linda's Bakery, 2 cases of water from Hansen's IGA, Free scoop of ice cream tokens from Le Coulee Cheese Castle, and free pint of ice cream coupon from Culver's of La Crosse for the West Salem School District Blood Drive.
- Motion carried unanimously.

#### Discussion/Action Items:

Kelly Rueckheim gave a presentation for the High School Request for an Overseas Trip to Peru. C. Wilson moved, E. Peterson seconded to approve the High School Overseas Trip to Peru in June 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Staffing Requests for 25/26 School Year.

S. Gavaghan moved, E. Peterson seconded to approve to hire 1.0 FTE School Psychologist and 1.0 FTE Technology Education Teacher. A roll call vote was taken; T. Grosskopf, Aye; E. Peterson, Aye; B. Minard, Aye; C. Griffin, Aye; C. Wilson, Aye; S. Gavaghan, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Griffin moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to approve the Early College Credit/Start College Now requests for the fall of 25-26 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to cancel the May 26th, 2025 School Board Meeting which falls on Memorial Day.

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

C. Griffin moved, C. Wilson seconded to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erik Peterson, Clerk





# 2025-2026 4K REGISTRATION

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

9:00-11:00 a.m. or

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Questions? Contact

Mandy Piper at

[piper.mandy@wsalem.k12.wi.us](mailto:piper.mandy@wsalem.k12.wi.us)

or (608) 786-1662

For more information:

[www.bit.ly.com/WS4K](http://www.bit.ly.com/WS4K)



**JOIN US!**

## Cleaning Up Their Community

Classroom learning is important, but we also want our students to learn about serving others and their community, so recently, West Salem Middle School students and staff rolled up their sleeves to pick up trash around town as part of their annual Earth Day Clean Up! Homerooms dispersed around the village, covering areas from Lake Neshonoc to downtown and the fairgrounds to the bike trail to see how much trash

they could collect in an hour. A few groups also helped clean up some community members' yards. They did an excellent job and it was great to see the sense of pride they felt after all their hard work! This has become a great tradition for our students and staff to partake in and they look forward to it every year!



### Did You Know?

Peas are seeds! There are three main kinds of peas that we eat: green (or garden) peas, sugar snap peas, and snow peas!



Check out videos and photos of the innovative things happening in your student's classroom at our district Facebook page and X 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.



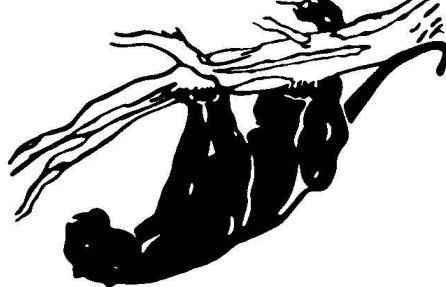


# School District of West Salem

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



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