

May 2026

# WS Newsletter

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## Letter from Superintendent Ryan

### Tradition, Celebrations & 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 6 (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 4 to 8. I am incredibly privileged to work alongside a team of such dedicated, compassionate professionals. The adults in our buildings play a role in shaping our students' lives, 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.

Letter continues on next page...

### School District of West Salem

As the school year draws to a close, we pause to honor six exceptional individuals retiring from the West Salem School District. These staff members have dedicated their time, talent, and hearts to our students, leaving behind a lasting legacy of care and excellence.

Please join me in celebrating **Deb Kendhammer, Kathleen Morgan, Dan Schroeder, Julie Kamla, Patsy Manke, and Melanie Stellner.**

Your impact on our district is immeasurable, and your contributions will be felt for generations to come. As we celebrate this milestone, we are reminded of the words of Maya Angelou: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Thank you for making West Salem a better place for us all. 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 22, 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 2026. 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. Follow your passions, trust yourself, and never forget that you will always have a home here in West Salem. Congratulations, Class of 2026!

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 has been filled with meaningful accomplishments, both big and small. From breaking ground on our construction projects to celebrating student success in academics, the arts, athletics, and beyond, we have so much to be proud of. These milestones are a direct reflection of what we can achieve when we move forward together with a shared purpose.

There is a deep, vital connection between a school and its community. Communities often take on the image of their schools, and schools,

### School District of West Salem

in turn, reflect the values and strengths of their communities. West Salem is living proof of just how powerful that bond can be. Whether you volunteered your time, showed up to cheer at an event, encouraged a struggling student, or helped guide our long-term vision, your contributions matter.

The success of this year is a collective one. I am truly grateful to be part of a team and community that believes in working together for the good of all our children. Thank you for playing such a vital role in our journey this year.

Wishing you and your family a safe, fun, and restful summer!

Ryan Rieber  
Superintendent

# Calendar of Events

## May

**Athletic Events**

**Friday, May 1, 2026**

- 4:00pm

Track: Boys & Girls Varsity Invite vs. Alma-Pepin, Arcadia, Cochrane-Fountain City, G-E-T, Independence, Logan, Melrose-Mindoro, Providence Academy, Sparta, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ G-E-T High School
- 4:30pm

Softball: Varsity Game vs. Aquinas @ Hwy 33 Fields
- 5:30pm

Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Aquinas @ West Salem High School
- 6:00pm

Softball: JV Game vs. Aquinas @ Hwy 33 Fields

**Saturday, May 2, 2026**

- TBD

Lacrosse: Boys Varsity Invitational vs. TBD @ Woodside Sporting Complex

**Monday, May 4, 2026**

- 4:00pm

Track: Boys JV Invitational vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, Central, Holmen, Logan, Onalaska, Sparta, Tomah & Viroqua @ Tomah HS

4:30pm

4:30pm

5:30pm

5:30pm

7:15pm

**Tuesday, May 5, 2026**

- 4:00pm

Tennis: Boys Varsity Match vs. Mauston @ West Salem High School
- 4:15pm

Adapted Sports League Wiffleball: Game vs. Holmen @ Holmen High School
- 5:30pm

Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Onalaska @ West Salem High School

**Thursday, May 7, 2026**

- 4:00pm

Track: Varsity Invite vs. Aquinas, Arcadia, Bangor, Cashton, Central, Chippewa Falls, DeSoto, Eau Claire Memorial, Holmen & Onalaska @ Central High School

Golf: Boys JV/Varsity Meet vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Royall, Luther & Westby-Viroqua @ Viroqua Hills Golf Course

Tennis: Boys Varsity Match vs. Onalaska @ West Salem High School

Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. G-E-T @ G-E-T Middle School

Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. G-E-T @ G-E-T Middle School

Lacrosse: Boys Varsity Match vs. Middleton @ Middleton High School

## School District of West Salem

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                              |                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4:30pm                       | Golf: Boys JV Meet<br>vs. Arcadia, Black<br>River Falls, G-E-T<br>Hillsboro-Royall,<br>Luther & Westby-<br>Viroqua @ Ettrick<br>Golf Course                                                       | 4:30pm                       | Golf: Boys JV Meet<br>vs. Arcadia, Black<br>River Falls, G-E-T,<br>Hillsboro-Royall,<br>Luther & Westby-<br>Viroqua @ Castle<br>Rock Golf Course         |
| 5:00pm                       | Soccer: Girls JV<br>Match vs. Logan<br>@ West Salem HS                                                                                                                                            | 5:45pm                       | Soccer: Girls JV<br>Match vs. Tomah HS<br>@ Tomah Veteran's<br>Park Field                                                                                |
| 5:30pm                       | Baseball: JV/Varsity<br>Game vs. G-E-T<br>@ West Salem High<br>School                                                                                                                             | <b>Tuesday, May 12, 2026</b> |                                                                                                                                                          |
| 5:30pm                       | Softball: JV/Varsity<br>Game vs. G-E-T<br>@ West Salem<br>High School                                                                                                                             | 4:00pm                       | Tennis: Boys Varsity<br>Match vs. Black River<br>Falls @ Black River<br>Falls High School                                                                |
| 7:00pm                       | Soccer: Girls Varsity<br>Match vs. Logan<br>@ West Salem HS                                                                                                                                       | 4:30pm                       | Golf: Boys<br>Varsity Meet vs.<br>Arcadia, Black River<br>Falls, G-E-T,<br>Hillsboro-Royall,<br>Luther & Westby-<br>Viroqua @ Castle<br>Rock Golf Course |
| <b>Friday, May 8, 2026</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 5:00pm                       | Soccer: Girls JV<br>Match vs. Arcadia<br>@ Arcadia High<br>School                                                                                        |
| 5:30pm                       | Softball: JV/Varsity<br>Game vs. Holmen<br>@ West Salem HS                                                                                                                                        | 5:30pm                       | Baseball: JV/Varsity<br>Game vs. Sparta<br>@ West Salem<br>High School                                                                                   |
| <b>Saturday, May 9, 2026</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 5:30pm                       | Softball: JV Game<br>vs. Tomah @ West<br>Salem HS                                                                                                        |
| 2:00pm                       | Lacrosse: Boys<br>Varsity Triangular<br>vs. Elkhorn Area<br>@ Elkhorn Area<br>High School                                                                                                         | 7:00pm                       | Soccer: Girls Varsity<br>Match vs. Arcadia<br>@ Arcadia High<br>School                                                                                   |
| <b>Monday, May 11, 2026</b>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                              |                                                                                                                                                          |
| 4:00pm                       | Soccer: Girls Varsity<br>Match vs. Tomah HS<br>@ Tomah Veteran's<br>Park Field                                                                                                                    |                              |                                                                                                                                                          |
| 4:15pm                       | Track: Boys & Girls<br>Varsity Invite vs.<br>Bangor, Brookwood,<br>Cashton, De Soto,<br>Hillsboro, Necedah,<br>Richland Center,<br>River Valley, Royall,<br>Seneca, Viroqua,<br>Wauzeka-Steuben & |                              |                                                                                                                                                          |

## School District of West Salem

### Thursday, May 14, 2026

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

4:30pm Golf: Boys JV/  
Varsity Meet vs.  
Arcadia, Black River  
Falls, G-E-T,  
Hillsboro-Royall,  
Luther & Westby-  
Viroqua @ Skyline  
Golf Club

5:00pm Baseball: JV/Varsity  
Game vs. Tomah  
@ Tomah HS

6:00pm Soccer: Girls Varsity  
Game vs. Baraboo  
@ West Salem HS

### Friday, May 15, 2026

5:00pm Softball: JV Game  
vs. Logan @ Logan  
High School Practice  
Field

5:00pm Softball: Varsity  
Game vs. Logan  
@ Logan High School  
Varsity Field

7:15pm Lacrosse: Boys  
Varsity Match vs.  
Waunakee  
@ Waunakee  
High School

### Saturday, May 16, 2026

10:00am Track: Boys & Girls  
Varsity Conference  
Tournament vs.  
Arcadia, Black River  
Falls, G-E-T, Luther,  
Viroqua & Westby Area  
High School @ Gale-  
Ettrick-Trempealeau  
High School

### Monday, May 18, 2026

9:00am Tennis: Boys Varsity  
Conference Tournament

vs. Black River Falls,  
Mauston & Viroqua  
@ Black River Falls  
High School

5:30pm Baseball: JV/Varsity  
Game vs. Arcadia  
@ West Salem  
High School

6:00pm Lacrosse: Boys Varsity  
Match vs. Wayland  
Academy @ Central  
High School

### Tuesday, May 19, 2026

12:00pm Golf: Boys Varsity  
Conference Tournament  
vs. Arcadia, Black River  
Falls, G-E-T,  
Hillsboro-Royall,  
Luther & Westby-  
Viroqua @ River Run  
Golf Course

4:00pm Baseball: JV Game vs.  
Logan @ Carroll Park

4:30pm Baseball: Varsity Game  
vs. Logan @ Logan High  
School

### Thursday, May 21, 2026

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

5:30pm Baseball: JV/Varsity  
Game vs. Arcadia  
@ Arcadia High School

7:00pm Lacrosse: Boys Varsity  
Match vs. Janesville  
Parker @ Central High  
School

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### Saturday, May 23, 2026

9:00am Tennis: Boys Varsity  
Quad vs. Ellsworth,  
Logan & Osceola  
@ West Salem  
High School

### Tuesday, May 26, 2026

4:00pm Track: Varsity  
Regional vs. Aquinas,  
Arcadia, Black River  
Falls, G-E-T, Logan  
& Viroqua @ G-E-T  
High School

5:30pm Baseball: Varsity  
Game vs. Altoona  
@ West Salem  
High School

### Band Events

### Saturday, May 2, 2026

All Day State Solo &  
Ensemble @ UW-L

### Sunday, May 17, 2026

7:00pm Farewell Concert  
@ Heider Center

### Friday, May 22, 2026

6:30pm Graduation @ WSHS  
Gym  
Wind Symphony

### Elementary School Events

### Friday, May 1, 2026

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

8:30am 1st Grade to the OEC  
Reedy & Chambers

### Monday, May 4, 2026

8:30am 1st Grade to the OEC  
Antony & Baldwin

### Tuesday, May 5, 2026

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

9:30am 3rd Grade to Sparta  
Cinema

### Wednesday, May 6, 2026

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

4:00pm- 4K Open House  
6:00pm @ WSES

### Thursday, May 7, 2026

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

8:30am 2nd Grade to the  
OEC  
Pearson, Servais &  
Wagner

### Friday, May 8, 2026

8:30am 4th Grade Farm Day

### Tuesday, May 12, 2026

8:15am 3rd Grade Slide into  
Safety

### Friday, May 15, 2026

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

9:00am 1st Grade to Myrick  
& Trane Parks

### Monday, May 18, 2026

9:30am 3rd Grade to  
Dynamic Recycling  
Center

## School District of West Salem

### Tuesday, May 19, 2026

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

### Wednesday, May 20, 2026

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

### Thursday, May 21, 2026

10:30am 2nd Grade to Myrick  
Park

### Friday, May 22, 2026

8:30am Kindergarten to Zanter  
Park  
1:45pm 4th Grade Fun Run

### Monday, May 25, 2026

All Day No School-Memorial  
Day

### Wednesday, May 27, 2026

8:30am 4th Grade to High  
Rollers

### Thursday, May 28, 2026

12:15pm 4th Grade to Pool

### Friday, May 29, 2026

8:30am 1st Grade to Pineview  
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

## Middle School Events

### Wednesday, May 6, 2026

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

### Tuesday, May 12, 2026

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

### Monday, May 18, 2026

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

### Tuesday, May 19, 2026

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

### Wednesday, May 20, 2026

All Day 5th Grade to the La  
Crosse Queen

### Thursday, May 21, 2026

7:00pm 8th Grade Promotion  
@ Heider Center

### Monday, May 25, 2026

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

### Wednesday, May 27, 2026

8:00am 6th Grade to the OEC

### Thursday, May 28, 2026

8:00am 6th Grade to Jellystone

### Friday, May 29, 2026

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

## High School Events

### **Saturday, May 2, 2026**

7:00pm Prom @ WSHS Gym

### **Sunday, May 3, 2026**

6:00pm NHS Induction  
@ Heider Center

### **Wednesday, May 6, 2026**

All Day No School for Grades  
9-11

12:00pm Panther Portfolio  
Presentations for  
Seniors

### **Wednesday, May 13, 2026**

7:00pm Scholarship Awards  
Night @ Heider  
Center

### **Friday, May 15, 2026**

1:30pm Neshonoc Yearbook  
Dedication  
@ Heider Center

### **Friday, May 22, 2026**

1:45pm Senior Sing Out  
@ WSHS Gym

7:00pm Graduation @ WSHS  
Gym

### **Monday, May 25, 2026**

All Day No School-Memorial  
Day

### **Friday, May 29, 2026**

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

## Let's Fiesta!

Profe Taurizano's 8th graders recently had a fiesta to practice expressing their likes and dislikes using the verb "gustar!" The star of the show was making homemade horchata as a team. Horchata is a popular Latin American drink that is made from soaked and blended rice and cinnamon. It is served cold over ice and they sprinkled a little cinnamon on top.

It was the perfect "taste test" for the students to practice reading recipes in Spanish and try a new drink. While many gave it a big "¡Me gusta!", others decided it wasn't for them with a "No me gusta."



## District Announcements



### Recognizing Artistic Excellence

At the April 13 School Board Meeting, we recognized our student artists during one of our favorite meetings of the year! Each year, our administration, district office staff and school board members have the opportunity to select a piece of student artwork from our K-12 Honors Art Show that will then hang in the Heider Meeting Room for the next year. At the meeting, they get to share with the students and their families about why their art was selected. It is a great way to recognize our students for their talent and dedication! From paintings and drawings to photography and pottery, our students impress us with their talents every year! 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  
Caitlin Wilson, Vice President ~~~~~ (608)780-3836  
Trish Harman, Treasurer ~~~~~(608) 332-9222  
Jennifer Hatz, Clerk~~~~~ (608) 317-3115  
Bob Minard, Director~~~~~(608)786-9998  
Ben Garbers, Director~~~~~(608) 498-9510  
Nick Walters, Director~~~~~ (608) 769-0278

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

## District Announcements

# Heider Center



### Heider Center Mainstage

#### 2026-2027 Season Tickets

Season tickets for the new 2026-2027 Heider Center Mainstage Season will go on sale Thursday, May 28th at 1:30 pm.

Individual show tickets will go on sale to the general public on Monday, August 10th at 1:30 pm

### Art Gallery

West Salem High School  
Senior Art Show

Runs April 13-May 15

Box Office Hours  
(608) 786-2550

Monday &  
Thursday:

1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

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

## WSHS Senior Named WIAA Scholar Athlete!

We are thrilled to announce that WSHS Senior Josie Brudos is a 2026 WIAA Scholar Athlete recipient, one of 16 female athletes throughout the state to be recognized with this award! Throughout her time at WSHS she has competed in volleyball, basketball, and softball.

Some of her notable accomplishments include: All-Coulee Conference First Team, Sectional Champions, and Conference Champions in all three, Coulee Conference Player of the Year (2025) in basketball, all time leading 3-point scorer, 2nd all time leading scorer and Coulee Conference Most Valuable Player (x3) in softball with over 500 career strikeouts and 100 career hits!

She was chosen not only because of her athletic talent but also her commitment to academic excellence and leadership! Congratulations, Josie!



West Salem  
Volleyball, Basketball and Softball



## Enrollment for 2026-2027

Are you new to the district and looking to enroll your students for the 2026-2027 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.

## 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.

## 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.





# REFERENDUM PROJECT UPDATES

## What is Happening with the Construction Projects?



As we head into the springtime months, we are excited to provide an update on the referendum projects that are under construction. Construction work continues to advance as planned, with a focus on modernizing and improving learning environments for all students in the West Salem School District.

### Elementary School

Construction is now approximately 45% complete. Work completed to date includes installation of roofing, setup of temporary enclosures and heating that was needed to support our Wisconsin winter conditions, thawing of the interior slab subgrade, placement of interior concrete slabs, and implementation of temporary interior partitions. Floor protection has also been added to support remodel activities in the support spaces at the elementary school.



### High School

Construction is now approximately 18% complete. Key construction milestones completed includes roof and drainage repairs in the auto shop, installation of fire walls in Area H (fitness addition), completion of foundational work in Areas H and I (including excavation, footings, foundation walls, and backfill), soil corrections in Area I (CTE addition), and installation of storm sewer site utilities.



### Work Upcoming

At the elementary school the upcoming work includes installation of the mezzanine stairs and railings, completion of overhead mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) rough ins, sealing of precast wall panels, and painting of precast walls as well as exposed ceilings and ductwork to prepare the space for final finishes.

Upcoming work at the high school site will focus on infrastructure and exterior construction in Area H, including the installation of roof drains and piping, completion of underground mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) systems, and the start of exterior metal framing, sheathing, and blocking. We are excited to continue to see both of these projects progress as we head into the end of the school year!

To stay up to date on the current project site, the District and KA have set up a time-lapse camera to catch all day-to-day updates on site. This is located on the District webpage which can be found at [bit.ly/WSconstruction](https://bit.ly/WSconstruction). Check it out!

## School District of West Salem

### School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 9, 2026

**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, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag  
Erik Peterson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Ben Garbers recited the District Mission Statement.

#### Roll Call

Present: Catherine Griffin, Erik Peterson, Ben Garbers, Bob Minard, Trish Harman and Jennifer Hatz. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Justin Jehn, Alex Hubing, Heidi Horton, Shawn Handland, Scott Johnson and Alyssa Harlan; Student representatives: Lydia Jochen and Zeke Hyer. Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson. Excused: Caitlin Wilson and Ben Wopat.

#### Approval of Agenda

B. Garbers moved, T. Harman 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.

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

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

Construction Project Update – Superintendent Rieber reported on the construction progress of the Elementary and High School projects.

Teaching and Learning Committee, – B. Garbers-Chair reported on Agenda Items: winter data for AIMS WebPlus (K-5 literacy), Personal

Reading Plans (K-3), FastBridge (K-5 math) and IReady (6-8 math and reading) and the Strategic Plan for Teaching and Learning.

Storm Ready Presentation – Scott Johnson presented along with Mark McGinnis from Skies Consulting and Michael Kurz from the National Weather Service the districts Storm Ready Plan to increase preparedness for severe weather.

Connection with the Community  
Zeke Hyer, Student Representative, reported on: The boys' basketball team is currently in the heat of the playoffs, following a recent regional final win over Onalaska. This marks the second consecutive year where our boys have knocked them out of the playoffs. The boys play this Thursday at Logan against Central for the Sectional

The girls' basketball team ended their season in a tough loss against Viroqua. State Wrestling for individuals was two weekends ago, where we had a record 5 individuals compete. Two of these 5 placed, with senior Mason Chambers taking 3rd at the 157lb weight class, and senior Caden Anderson taking 5th at the 195 lb. weight class.

The Outdoor Education class had a recent caving trip last week, where I and 4 others became the first to get lost in this cave on the trip. Nonetheless, it was a blast, and I am very grateful for the opportunities that class presents!

To end my section last Thursday the power went out in the town due to a squirrel somehow taking out power for some 4,000 people. This led to the students getting out of school early. So I wanted to formally thank this squirrel for his contributions to the student body. He will be greatly missed.

Lydia Jochen, Student Representative, reported on: Gymnastics went up to Wisconsin Rapids on Thursday after they took second as a team at sectionals. The team competed with Seniors Hayden Rhode and Olivia Maki, sophomores Brielle Moore, Candace Drury, and Anya Tenner, along with a few Bangor girls. They took 7th in D1. Individually, Hayden qualified on bars, and Olivia qualified on vault, both performing well. After the weekend they went to Mrs. Jones' parents' house and had dinner with them.

With winter sports ending, that means that spring sports are starting up. The first track practice was tonight, and several other spring sports are start-

## School District of West Salem

### School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 9, 2026 continued...

#### Marie Heider Meeting Room

7:00 p.m

ing up. The first track practice was tonight, and several other spring sports are starting open gyms and captain's practices.

NHS hosted a blood drive last week and received 62 units of blood, surpassing the 55-unit goal. Many students tried donating blood for the first time, some with better experiences than others. Each donor got a 15-dollar Amazon gift card and a free pint of ice cream at Culver's, along with a chance to win various local gift cards.

The math team competed at Eau Claire a few weeks ago. Unfortunately, only two students were able to attend, so they didn't get enough points to place as a team. However, after a grading error was uncovered, senior Katie Townsell took 2nd individually.

The play put on by high school students "Too Many Detectives in the Murder Mansion," had three showings that all went really well. There was tons of humor and the students did an amazing job portraying their famous characters such as Sherlock Holmes, Batman, and the Scooby Doo squad. Something unique about this play was the ending was different for each showing.

A few Thursdays ago, we had a unique day at the high school. We started the day with the Senior vs staff basketball game, where the staff unfortunately won. At halftime, seniors who have made an impact on their winter activities were recognized. Then we listened to Uncle Reggie speak about never giving up when life gets hard. He also played some fun tunes, had the crowd singing, and played the soprano sax. Later that day, students had the chance to pick various activities they wanted to do, such as playing cars, broom ball at the Panther Den, basketball, and many more. The school ended the day by show choir putting on their performance for us all to watch.

#### Correspondence

A thank you card was read from the Paul Huber Family.

A Department of Public Instruction Proclamation declaring Child and Adult Care Food Program Week, March 15-21, 2026, was read.

#### Public Comments

Sara Steien and Heather Hordyk spoke on the 4th grade class size increase.

#### Consent Agenda

T. Harman moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 23, 2026;
  - b. the invoices to be paid;
  - c. Co-curricular Recommendations: Odyssey of the Mind Coaches: Bruce Hart, Lauren Ellinger, Elijah Straub, Alex Straub, Nathan Eckley, Wayne Schaitel, Brooke Murphy, Michele Maland and Lindsey Gilberts; MS track coaches- Tucker Wildes, Mike Sanford, Adam Rogge, Laura Deal, volunteer girls soccer coach-Syden Jain, assistant MS softball coach-Lexi Hinker, head 8th grade MS softball coach-Lauren Lovely, head 7th grade MS softball coach-Katie Fink, volunteer baseball coaches-Isaac Olson and Jayden Beckley;
  - d. to accept the donations from Cynthia and William Innes donated \$20.00 to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund; the Piper Family Fund of Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing donated \$4005.65 to student scholarships and Donna Guepfer, Special Fester Fund donated \$1000.00 to the purchase of an adaptive bike.
- Motion carried unanimously.

#### Discussion/Action Items:

J. Hatz moved, E. Peterson seconded to approve the first reading of Special Update (see below)  
Wisconsin Local Policy Update Special Update - Act 57. 5-Aye, 1-Nay (Minard). Motion carried.  
po1213 STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE  
po3213 STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE  
po4213 STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE  
po8462 CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Director of Finance, Shawn Handland presented a Fund 46 Review presentation. No action was taken.

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

#### Adjournment

B. Garbers moved, T. Harman seconded to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erik Peterson, Acting Clerk

## School District of West Salem

### School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 23, 2026

#### 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 19, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag  
Zeke Hyer led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Lydia Jothan recited the District Mission Statement.

##### Roll Call

Present: Catherine Griffin, Erik Peterson, Caitlin Wilson, Ben Garbers, Bob Minard, Trish Harman and Jennifer Hatz. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Justin Jehn, Alex Hubing, Heidi Horton, Ben Wopat, Shawn Handland, and Alyssa Harlan; Student representatives: Lydia Jothan and Zeke Hyer. Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson.

##### Approval of Agenda

B. Garbers moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

##### Written and Oral Reports

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Superintendent's Management team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

##### Connection with the Community

Lydia Jothan, Student Representative, reported on: Last week Thursday, the Juniors took the ACT. Overall, many of the juniors said the hardest part was the math portion, but many said they liked the new format, and I know the rest of the grades enjoyed the day off.

The prom committee has been meeting for the last few months to determine the prom theme, and plan for the day. Additionally, prom court was finalized today. They will be announcing their theme and court in the following days.

Robotics had a competition where they competed their robot that shoots balls into a basket. They

started off strong and were ranked 13th, then had a computer malfunction in the last 3 rounds. This led them to finish 24th out of 38.

Forensics has been competing with speeches, poems and voice acting. This year a portion of the competition is being done online. Students participating just submitted their districts performances virtually and will receive results in the next few weeks.

Track had two meets, one on Friday, and one on Saturday. Both were indoor meets with Saturday being the more competitive one. The boys did quite well across their events, placing third.

Girls Soccer started today, and they just finished with practice a few hours ago. They are excited to start a new season with a new coach.

Zeke Hyer, Student Representative, reported on: The boys' basketball team ended its season at the Kohl Center over the weekend with a tough loss to Whitefish Bay. This concludes a memorable year, as some predicted the team would even lose the conference title, which we have held for 7 consecutive years. Despite this, the boys beat notable teams like Onalaska and Central in the playoffs, even though we lost to both substantially in the regular season. There isn't another team I would have rather supported throughout the year.

The baseball and softball teams both started their season last week in the Lion Shelter, with official practices starting today for both. The baseball team has its first game next Tuesday, and the softball team has its first game next Friday.

##### Correspondence

None.

##### Public Comments

None.

##### Consent Agenda

E. Peterson moved, J. Hatz seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 9, 2026;
- the invoices to be paid;
- Co-curricular Recommendations: MS track coach-Callie Fantz, assistant girls soccer coach-Alysandra Corona, assistant boys tennis coach-Jesse Miller, volunteer track coach-Carter Walters, assistant MS softball coach-Whitney Folkers, volunteer softball coach-

## School District of West Salem

### School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes

**March 23, 2026**

**Marie Heider Meeting Room**

**7:00 p.m.**

Mike Brudos;

d. to accept the donations from Game Getters Bow-hunting donated \$150.00 to the West Salem Trap Team, Morrie's donated \$250.00 to the West Salem Trap Team, Bruce and Dawn Eckelberg donated \$100.00 to the West Salem Trap Team, A-1 Advanced Pumping donated \$100.00 to the West Salem Trap Team, Poellinger Electric Inc. donated \$150.00 to the West Salem Trap Team and American Online Giving Foundation donated \$4816.00 towards Scholarships. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

B. Minard moved, T. Harman seconded to approve the addition of a 5th place scholarship for \$250 for the Future Ready (CCLR) video scholarship for the 2025/2026 year. Motion carried unanimously.

T. Harman moved, E. Peterson seconded to approve the Early College Credit/Start College Now requests for the fall of 2026 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, C. Griffin seconded to approve the second reading of Special Update (see below) Wisconsin Local Policy Update Special Update - Act 57. Motion carried unanimously.  
po1213 STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE  
po3213 STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE  
po4213 STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE  
po8462 CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Ryan Rieber presented the 2026-2027 CESA #4 Contract for board approval.

B. Garbers moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the 2026-2027 CESA #4 Contract. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Garbers moved, C. Wilson seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee's recommendation for staffing requests and budget adjustments regarding staffing for the 26-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, J. Hatz seconded to approve the School District of West Salem/La Crosse Area Family YMCA Agreement for Provision of School Age Care Services. Motion carried

unanimously.

The list of to do items / information requests was reviewed. R. Rieber will add Act 57 Policies: 1213, 3213, 4213, 7460, 8120 and 9150 to review and discuss at next Policy meeting.

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended at 7:38p.m., as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

Closed Session

C. Griffin welcomed the motion for closed session: The Board will discuss, consider and, if appropriate, take action pursuant to Wis. Stats §19.85(1) (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, regarding the employment and compensation of a district employee. C. Griffin moved, B. Minard seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:40 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: B. Minard, Aye; T. Harman, Aye; C. Griffin, Aye; E. Peterson, Aye; C. Wilson, Aye; B. Garbers, Aye; J. Hatz, Aye. Motion carried unanimously. Also in attendance: Ryan Rieber and Jennifer Larson.

Closed Session

Adjournment

C. Griffin moved, B. Minard seconded to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caitlin Wilson, Clerk

### School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes

**April 13, 2026**

**Marie Heider Meeting Room**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Convene**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Catherine Griffin. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee Courier, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district website, and district office on April 8, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag  
Lydia Jothsen led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Zeke Hyer recited the

## School District of West Salem

### School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes

**April 13, 2026**

**Marie Heider Meeting Room**

**7:00 p.m**

District Mission Statement.

#### Roll Call

Present: Catherine Griffin, Erik Peterson, Caitlin Wilson, Ben Garbers, Bob Minard, Trish Harman and Jennifer Hatz. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Justin Jehn, Alex Hubing, Heidi Horton, Ben Wopat, Shawn Handland, and Alyssa Harlan; Student representatives: Lydia Jothan and Zeke Hyer. Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson.

#### Approval of Agenda

B. Garbers moved, T. Harman 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.

Board President Catherine Griffin recognized student representatives Lydia Jothan and Zeke Hyer with certificates. Erik Peterson also received a certificate and plaque for his dedicated service on the West Salem School Board.

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

Construction Project Update – Superintendent Rieber reported on the construction progress of the Elementary and High School projects.

Art Department Presentations – K-12 District Honors Exhibit. Winning artwork was hung and winners were presented with a Certificate.

#### Connection with the Community

Lydia Jothan, Student Representative, reported on: HOSA had its wellness day Friday afternoon. They had been planning this for months and hosted a variety of events. They had relaxing activities like reading with cats, educating activities like presenters on nutrition, and several physical activities like hiking and biking. In the morning, the seniors attended adulting sessions and prepared for their portfolio presentation, while the juniors were introduced to the Panther Portfolio. The freshmen and sophomores

took the preACT.

The top 5% of seniors attended the honors banquet last Wednesday. The area schools were in attendance, and everyone had a nice meal while listening to some speakers.

The summer musical was recently decided, and it's going to be Grease. The roles just came out, and the cast is beginning to memorize their lines.

Track had another meet on Friday. This was their first outdoor meet. This was an open meet, so there were some fun races like the 4x100 with the throwers running, and they don't use a baton but instead use random objects like squishies, folding chairs, and rubber ducks.

Zeke Hyer, Student Representative, reported on: The baseball team has started its season with a 2-2 record, and they just had a game today against Luther.

The softball team also started its season with a 6-1 record, with Senior Josie Brudos leading the show on the mound, and at the plate with 4 home runs to start the year.

The girls' soccer team started its season as well last week with an unfortunate loss to Madison West.

Ms. Maxwell and the Prom committee are in the final stretch of planning prom as their big day is May 2nd.

The juniors are also starting to get introduced to the Panther Portfolio project, as juniors have the opportunity to do their project over the summer if they would like.

Seniors are in the midst of the Panther Portfolio presentations in class before they present in front of judges on May 6th. Shortly after that, the class of 2026 graduates! Both Lydia and I will be speaking, so I hope to see most of the board there!

#### Correspondence

A Department of Public Instruction Proclamation declaring Month of the Military Child, April 1-30, 2026, was read.

A Department of Public Instruction Proclamation declaring the 41st annual National School Library month, April 1-30, 2026, was read.

## School District of West Salem

### School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes April 13, 2026 continued...

#### Marie Heider Meeting Room

7:00 p.m.

A Department of Public Instruction Proclamation declaring Week of the Young Child\*, April 11-17, 2026, was read.

A thank you card was read from Terri Martinson.

#### Public Comments

None.

#### Consent Agenda

C. Wilson moved, J. Hatz seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 23, 2026;
- the invoices to be paid;
- Co-Curricular Recommendations: volunteer tennis coach coach-Annie Wachter-Labus, volunteer robotics coach-Ben Garbers;
- To hire Trevor Fink as a 1.0 FTE Career & Technical Education teacher;
- to accept the donations from Cynthia and William Innes donated \$20.00 to the Random Acts of Kindness Fund, Hidden Valley Designs, Inc. donated \$500 to the West Salem Trap team, an anonymous doner donated \$1000 to the Scholar Athletes Scholarship.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### Discussion/Action Items:

C. Wilson moved, E. Peterson seconded to proceed with drafting a county letter of support for school funding and a resolution in support of including voucher payments on property tax bills.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended at 8:22p.m., as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

#### Closed Session

C. Griffin welcomed the motion for closed session:

The Board will discuss, consider and, if appropriate, take action pursuant to Wis. Stats §19.85(1) (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility,” for the

following purposes:

- Consideration of issuance of a preliminary notice of non-renewal for a professional staff member

- Superintendent evaluation

- Approval of closed session minutes from March 23, 2026

C. Griffin moved, J. Hatz seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:26 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: B. Minard, Aye; T. Harman, Aye; C. Griffin, Aye; E. Peterson, Aye; C. Wilson, Aye; B. Garbers, Aye; J. Hatz, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Also in attendance: Justin Jehn, Heidi Horton, Ryan Rieber and Jennifer Larson.

#### Closed Session

#### Adjournment

B. Minard moved, B. Garbers seconded to adjourn at 10:11 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Caitlin Wilson, Clerk

## The Importance of Fire Safety

WSMS 8th grader and Miss Onalaska Teen, Emma Langrehr visited with our first grade classrooms recently to share a personal story about her own family's fire, and the importance of fire safety and resilience. She read "Don't Invite a Dragon for Tea" to help students understand how quickly a fire

can start and how to stay safe. They also talked through a simple home fire safety checklist and they wrapped up with an activity and coloring sheet to reinforce what they learned. They were also joined by special visitors Captain Johnson and Chief Hutson from the West Salem Fire Department!



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LOCAL FOODS, HEALTHY KIDS

### Did You Know?

Asparagus can be found in three colors: green, white and purple!



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

Check out our Facebook page  
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and Instagram  
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For WSHS athletic events, visit our website:

- \*click the calendar icon and then
- \*click Coulee Conference/  
Mississippi Valley Conference
- For WSMS athletic events,
- \*click the calendar icon and then
- \*Three Rivers Conference

School District of West Salem  
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