

May 2020



Newsletter

School District of West Salem

Contents

- Letter from Superintendent Troy Gunderson.....1-2
- Panther Den Update.....2-3
- School Updates.....4-7
- District Announcements.....8-9
- School Board Minutes.....10-14
- Thank You to Essential Workers.....15



Letter from Superintendent Troy Gunderson

Stay well, stay safe, stay home, and dream big!

First, I hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe and well during this unprecedented time. It is truly breathtaking to think of how much COVID-19 has changed our lives in just a few short months.

The recent “Safer at Home” orders from Governor Evers included a provision closing all school buildings through the end of the school year. In response, the School District of West Salem launched a comprehensive approach to serving our students, families, and communities in a different way. Here are some of the most commonly asked questions:

What is the school district doing to complete the current school year? Our staff is providing both on-line and extended learning opportunities for our students. Students in grades 3 through 12 are connecting with their teachers through the Internet using a device provided by the school district. The students in pre-school through second grade receive packets of extended learning activities delivered by our team. In addition, the district provides school lunch for those families in need. The nutrition staff prepares the meals and the transportation staff makes the deliveries. We are very

appreciative of our entire staff. They willingly stepped up in service to our students and families. Well done!

What work is currently being done to the high school building? The Business Operations team leveraged the school closure to accelerate replacement of the roof on the older section of the high school. Rather than the original plan of working around both school year and summer activities, the roofing company can now complete this project in less time and at a lower cost. The operations team is also planning to complete some additional work on exterior doors and restrooms at the high school.

What about HS Graduation? The high school has tentatively rescheduled graduation for Saturday, July 25th. The ceremony will be adapted to comply with any social distancing restrictions in place at the time. The high school staff will work directly with students and families.

Will the swimming pool open this summer? The current restrictions on school-owned facilities and the current “Safer at Home” guidelines prevent the school district from opening the swimming pool. Unless these restrictions are lifted or significantly altered, the pool will remain closed

Letter continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

for the summer. The district will await further guidelines before reaching a final decision. Stay tuned.

Will the district host summer school? Yes/maybe. At this time the district is tentatively planning to host summer school on-site beginning July 27th as originally planned. This is dependent upon the state allowing schools to reopen their facilities and upon the district's ability to meet the protocol and standards necessary to ensure the safety of the students and staff.

What about next fall? While no one can truly predict what school will "look like" in the fall, the most common assumption is that schools across the country will resume in the fall with an updated set of social distancing guidelines, daily protocols, and plans for intermittent school closures. Preparations are already underway.

The novel corona virus known as COVID – 19 will no doubt change the world including the enterprise of public education. While the virus is cause for helplessness and fear, it also affords each one of us with an incredible opportunity for innovation and progress. We cannot avoid many of the uncontrollable or unpredictable impacts of the virus, but we can control our response. A calm, measured, thoughtful approach may yield new and exciting ways to serve students and their families. So, stay well, stay safe, stay home, and dream big!

Thank you for reading and thank you for your continued support of public education.

Troy M. Gunderson, Superintendent

Panther Den Update

Recent headlines detailing the issues surrounding the Green Island Ice Arena in La Crosse caused a West Salem resident to ask about the costs associated with hosting operating the new Panther Den and how these costs are shared with the West Salem Hockey Association.

First, here are the utility costs for the 2019 – 2020 "Ice Season" are as follows:

Electricity	\$38,758
Natural Gas	\$7,165
Water	\$1,501
Propane	\$1,384
Total Utility Cost	\$48,809

The agreement between the School District of West Salem and the West Salem Hockey Association requires the hockey association to contribute an annual fee equal to 60% of the utility costs from the previous ice season. Note, the "Ice Season" is defined as the period of time when the facility is making ice. This

generally occurs from October 15th through March 15th. Due to incomplete data from the inaugural 2018 – 2019 partial ice season, the parties agreed to an estimated fee of \$25,000 for the 2019 – 2020 ice season. Therefore, subtracting the hockey association payment of \$25,000 from the total utility cost of \$48,809 leaves \$23,809 in utility cost paid by the school district during the 2019 – 2020 season. Per the agreement, the hockey association will now contribute 60% of \$48,809, or \$29,285 during the upcoming 2020 – 2021 ice season.

Other school district operational costs incurred during the 2019 – 2020 ice season total approximately \$25,000. This includes custodial/maintenance time, equipment repair, additional equipment, and supplies and brings the total school district cost of hosting an "ice season" to approximately \$48,809. Of note, prior to construction of Panther Den, the school district paid approximately \$20,000 per year to rent ice from the hockey association in the village shelter.

School District of West Salem

Looking ahead, the district recently completed an agreement with Multistack from Sparta, WI to replace and upgrade the chiller at the Panther Den. The team from Multistack reached out to the school district to offer a slightly used chiller at a significant discount. The new chiller will replace the current unit which was donated by the hockey association as part of their contribution to the Panther Den. The new chiller will be installed this summer and will significantly decrease annual electric consumption and cost.

The agreement between the school district and the hockey association also calls for three annual payments of \$50,000 as part of start-up costs for the new Panther Den. The first payment was received in the fall of 2018 and was applied to a variety of equipment costs connected to opening the new facility. The second payment was received in 2019 and was applied to the purchase of new bleachers for the ice arena. The third and final payment is scheduled to be received in the fall of 2020 and will be applied to the purchase of the new chiller from Multistack.

The school district has additional costs connected to the Panther Den unrelated to the “ice season.” As you may or may not recall, the Panther Den also hosts a gymnastics practice facility. The estimated utility and maintenance cost connected to the gymnastics facility is \$5,000. The Panther Den is also utilized as a concession and restroom area for a number of outdoor sporting events that take place outside of the “ice season.” Estimates for the additional mainte-

nance and utility costs connected to the Panther Den for the seven months without ice total approximately \$10,000.

In conclusion, the estimated annual operation cost to the school district for the operation of the Panther Den includes \$49,000 for the “ice season,” \$10,000 for the months without ice, and \$5,000 for gymnastics bringing the final estimate to \$64,000 per year.

Looking forward, it is a goal of the school district to further leverage this facility to generate additional revenue for the district or to increase economic impact for the community. A great example of the latter was the hockey association hosting a state tournament in March and a jamboree in February. Each event drew large numbers of skaters and family members having a significant impact on the local economy and in regards to positive “word of mouth” advertising about our community. We encourage any and all suggestions regarding how the district may better utilize the Panther Den during the time without ice. Please let us know your ideas.

The question prompting this article involved concern over long term costs connected to the new Panther Den. The strong relationship between the school district and the local hockey association, the many energy efficiencies built into the facility, a district commitment to regular maintenance, and your ideas for alternative uses will result in the new Panther Den serving as a positive asset to our community for many years to come.



Above: Spectators and players from around the state attend the Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association Girls 14U State Tournament at the Panther Den on March 7 and 8, 2020.

West Salem Elementary

An Update From Principal Rieber

Our elementary team has been working together to provide our students with continuous learning opportunities. We have focused our Extended Learning on essential skills for the grade levels that would have been taught to complete the year. This is not replacing the quality instruction received if school were still in session, but it is introducing key concepts to our students to lessen the effect of our time away.

The support staff has been writing notes home, sending coloring pictures, and postcards to students to keep in touch with them. Many of our teachers are holding online meetings with their classrooms to continue the connection, and are using a closed “social media” platform to continue connections, communication, and maintain relationships with our kids. We miss them greatly! Our intervention team is continuing to providing intervention to our students who are in need of extra reading and math support. They are meeting with students weekly to help support and continue to build the foundational skills for our students.

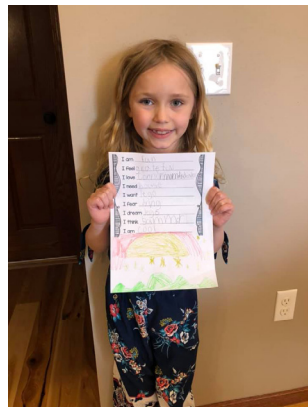
Our Pupil Service team continues to reach out to our families in need by communicating with staff and families. They are assisting to ensure that our families that need help and support are receiving it, making sure that any food needs are met, and also providing social/emotional support.

Our team is rallying together to help support our students, families, and each other during these difficult times. We really miss our students and want to ensure that we can help when and where it is needed! We are in this together and the elementary school is living our district vision of “Serving with Passion” during these difficult times!

Below are just two examples of feedback that we have received from our families:

“I think the packets have been great. I really love the word work instruction videos. They are so well done and I like that the instruction is familiar to her from what was done in the classroom. Also, I think the amount of work is perfect. It is doable in our day but not overwhelming. Thanks to each of you for the work you put into these!”

“Thanks for laying such a great foundation for her this year! She is a delight to homeschool because of the work ethic she learned in school with you this year!”



West Salem Middle

An Update From Principal Wopat

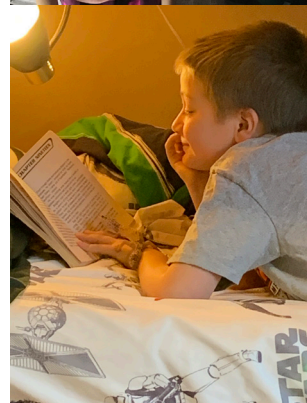
Our middle school team has done a phenomenal job serving our students throughout the new journey of virtual learning. Our teachers, paraprofessionals, and support staff are all working together to ensure our students are supported and continue to learn while away from school.

Students have regular opportunities to connect with staff via online office hours and have a consistent schedule to follow regarding the posting and submission of assignments. In addition, every Friday our students have a check-in with their homeroom teachers to make sure they are on track for the week.

Our Student Council put together a virtual Spirit Week for our students, and they had the chance to dress up for PJ Day, Tie Dye Day, Sports Day, Crazy Hair Day, and Panther Pride Day. Although it wasn't the same as celebrating a regular spirit week with our students, it was a fun way for our staff to connect with them.

The finish line for the school year is within reach, and I am so impressed by the way our students, families, and staff have worked together under such difficult circumstances. The cooperative commitment to move forward with the best interest of our children in mind is not surprising, but it also shouldn't be taken for granted. Good people committing to do the right thing, regardless of the circumstances. That's what we do. That's who we are.

We're Panthers.



"I wanted to take a moment to send a big 'Thank-you' for your leadership with our children throughout these unknown times! Please know that the efforts of you, along with the amazing teachers in this district, do not go unnoticed! I wouldn't pick a different district or community to live in! You've truly created such an amazing place to raise our children!"

**Congratulations
to our Top 5% of
the Class of 2020!**

**Sara Ziegler
Joslyn Hanson
David Lattos
Taylor Sackett
Abby Solberg
Carson Koenen
Samara Wheeler**



**Congratulations
to our CNA
Students on
Passing Their
State Exams!**

**Emma Clements
Kirstyn Larson
Matthew Leahy
Amelia Marshall
Jade Turnipseed**



West Salem High

An Update from Principal Malott
High School Families,

Thank you for your partnership in our necessary adventure into online learning. I hope you are well. I want to thank our students and families for being flexible and adaptable. Online learning is hard because it is different from what we know. Students learning at home is hard because it is uncommon to have less structure and to work from home, potentially with parents and other siblings. We understand that each family has a unique situation, which is why my message to our staff about instruction continues to be "less is more". We are passionate about our content, but we are passionate about our students as well. This is hard for the staff to not be able to connect and support your child in the same manner. We won't give up! Join us in online learning. The end is in sight.



*While
we are very
disappointed about the
cancellation of spring sports,
we want to honor our athletes,
and especially our seniors, by hold-
ing #BeTheLight events every Friday
night through May 29. Stadium lights
will be turned on from 8-8:20 p.m. to
honor each week's respective sport.
Stay tuned to Facebook and the
district website for an up-
dated schedule each
week.*

*As
a reminder,
all school facilities,
including outdoor fields
and playgrounds are
closed through June 30 in
accordance with the
Wisconsin DHS order.*

Graduation Rescheduled

In order to properly send off our seniors and give them the graduation they deserve, the school board and administration have decided to reschedule graduation to **Saturday, July 25, 2020** pending any further instruction from the state limiting gatherings. Please stay tuned to our website, social media, and further newsletters for more updates.

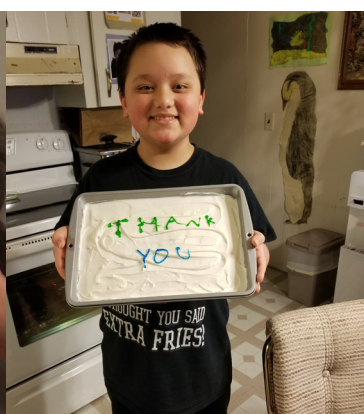


Food Service

The School District of West Salem has been providing FREE breakfasts and lunches to students and families that need a little extra help during the COVID-19 pandemic. Meals are available for pick-up or delivery on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday every week between 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Students receive 2 days' worth of meals on Mondays and Wednesdays. Orders for meals can be placed on an online ordering form, which can be found on the district website under "COVID-19 Resources for Students and Families" or can be called in by dialing (608)-786-5301 by 6 p.m. the night before pick-up or delivery. Lunches are picked up at the West Salem Middle School in the loop off East Avenue. Pick-up is drive-thru style and families are asked to not exit their vehicles. School Nutrition Services staff hands the meals to them or places the meals in the trunk.

If families don't have access to transportation, our wonderful Transportation staff has been delivering approximately 50 meals daily within the school district-boundaries. Participation has varied, but we have been providing approximately 75 breakfasts and 75 lunches daily or 750 meals per week. Everyone that has picked up meals has been so grateful and appreciative and the Nutrition Services staff has been happy knowing they are making a difference for the families that need the meals. A huge thank you goes out to our Nutrition Services Staff, our new Director of School Nutrition Emily Klunk, and our Transportation Staff for their hard work in making all of this happen and ensuring our students are fed during the school closure.

We also want to celebrate our wonderful school nutrition staff as May 1 was School Lunch Hero Day! This day was created to recognize them for their hard work and commitment to our students and making sure they are fed a nutritious meal every day. Our students sent us some great thank you signs to recognize these wonderful ladies!



WSMS Students Compete in National History Day Competition

Even though schools are closed, our 8th graders were able to virtually participate in the National History Day Competition. National History Day is a national competition where students get to practice the skills of a historian by researching and presenting their research related to an annual theme.

This year's theme was "Breaking Barriers in History". Participants could choose to present their projects as a documentary, an exhibit, a performance, a website, or a historical paper. Eighth graders in West Salem have participated for over 20 years! Three events were selected to move on to the state virtual competition in early May, including Reece Sackett & Sidney Flack with a website on Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first female doctor in the US, Braedon Dolle & Elliot Sjoquist with a performance on the life of George Edwin Taylor, the first black candidate for president who was raised by Nathan Smith in West Salem, and Cole Everson & Sam Stenberg for a documentary on Jackie Robinson.

The best entries from the middle school advance to the regional competition typically held at UW-L. From there the best entries move on to the state competition at UW-Madison and the best of the state participate at the national competition in College Park, MD. This year all NHD competitions will be held virtually. Best of luck to our student qualifiers!



District Announcements



Coming Together to Help Others

The West Salem Education Association, West Salem Lions Club, senior Justin Kettner, and the West Salem community have come together to raise over \$17,000 to assist those in need by providing them with giftcards to purchase groceries at Hansen's IGA. Over 100 donors contributed to the cause, including Kettner, who donated \$1,700 he raised from his SEP project. During the first round of giving, 240 gift cards will be distributed to families within the district. WSEA Co-President and WSMS Band Teacher Ryan Waldhart said, "It just gives me great hope for humanity in a time where there's not a lot of good news right now. It's very heartwarming to know that there's so many generous people right now in this difficult time."

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

Summer School Info

At this time the district is tentatively planning to host summer school on-site beginning July 27th as originally planned. This is dependent upon the state allowing schools to reopen their facilities and upon the district's ability to meet the protocol and standards necessary to ensure the safety of the students and staff. Please keep an eye on our website, social media, and future newsletters for more information.

The West Salem School District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the Pupil Services Director at (608) 786-0700. To file a complaint of discrimination write to: Eric Jensen, Pupil Services Director at 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI 54669 or call 608-786-0700. The West Salem School District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

School Board Members

Jane Halverson ~~~~~ 786-1067
 Ken Schlimgen ~~~~~ 786-4382
 Catherine Griffin ~~~~~ 769-1714
 Tom Grosskopf ~~~~~ 386-0168
 Robin Fitzgerald ~~~~~ 792-4130
 Sean Gavaghan ~~~~~ 797-3585
 Erik Peterson ~~~~~ 792-5370

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

School Board Updates

Welcome Erik Peterson!

The School District of West Salem welcomes Erik Peterson to the School Board. Peterson began his term at the April 27 Board Meeting. We asked Erik a few questions to get to know the newest member of the Board.

Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself

A: "I am married to Bridget and I have two children, Samantha and Drew, and all four of us are West Salem graduates. I come from a family of educators. My Great Grandfather taught at UW-L for over 30 years, my Grandmother taught P.E. in Black River Falls, my Father taught in the Speech Pathology program at The College of St. Theresa, and my mother taught second grade in West Salem for 31 years.



I have lived in the village for over 45 years and am a UW-L graduate with a Bachelor's of Science in Public Administration and Political Science. I have worked at Kwik Trip for over 25 years and I am currently the Director of the Store Engineering department."

Q: Why did you choose to run for the school board?

A: "West Salem has an amazing school district with a great reputation. Our teachers, staff and administrators do an exceptional job at getting our students college and career ready. Our community has invested in top notch facilities and programs and our Board has a strategic plan for the future. I look forward to working with the community and our district to continue to improve our educational offerings and opportunities."

Q: What are you most looking forward to as a school board member?

A: "I am most looking forward to being part of the Board that is setting the vision and goals for our school district. It will be a great opportunity to learn and grow personally and I hope to be able to share some of my knowledge, skills and abilities as well."

Q: What are your hopes for the future of the district?

A: "I hope to continue efforts to become the schools and employer of choice for our area and in the state."

Q: What do you believe are the most important characteristics of a successful school board?

A: "The most important characteristics of a successful school board are focusing on what is best for all students, providing strategic direction (especially in times of uncertainty), and representing and engaging with the community."

Clements Retiring after 8 Years on School Board

Syl Clements, a lifelong member of the West Salem community, former politician, and local farmer, is retiring after eight years of serving on the West Salem School Board. Clements began serving on the board in April 2012, and was one of the longest serving members currently on the board. During his time on the board, he served as both President and Vice President, and the district saw many changes, including the implementation of 1:1 technology, numerous referenda that resulted in the renovation of the Swarthout Pool and bus garage, the addition and renovation of West Salem Middle School, the construction of the Panther Den, and much more.

Superintendent Troy Gunderson says, "We all enjoyed working with Syl during his service on our school board. He proved to be a thoughtful and caring board member dedicated to serving our students and employees. Syl brought a wealth of local knowledge and government experience from his many years on the county board and from his time in the Wisconsin Assembly. We are honored to be a part of Syl's long career of public service and thank him for his time on the school board. On a personal note, I offer my appreciation to Syl for his counsel, leadership and support. I will be forever grateful for his help." We thank Syl for his many years of service to our district and community, and wish him the best in his new adventures!



School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes February 24, 2020 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Jane Halverson. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee Courier, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe's Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on February 19, 2020.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Ryan Rieber led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Ben Wopat recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Connection with the Community

Summer Houck, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The choir had their Disney auditions in the Heider Center on February 18.
2. The math team competed at UW-Eau Claire on February 15. The team took 2nd place out of 14 teams in their division. Brennan Holst came in first place individually out of 84 students in West Salem's division and Ryley Rasmussen who tied for 4th place. The other members that filled out the team were Chayce Pettis, Ava Huth, Elsa Mitchell, and Alyssa Kruse.

Liam Sjoquist, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The juniors take their ACT on March 3rd.
2. Gracie Greiner is hosting a lip dub for her SEP next Wednesday, March 4.
3. Last Thursday a group of eighth graders took a trip to Trane for an engineering-day field trip.
4. The high school spring sports meeting was tonight at 6:30 followed by breakout sessions for each individual sport.

Correspondence

A Proclamation by Carolyn Stanford Taylor, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, National School Breakfast Week, March 2-6, 2020, was read.

Public comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Workforce Engagement and Development Committee – Mr. Clements reported on the agenda items: comparable compensation/benefit and conditioning data from neighboring schools, and preliminary review of 20-21 district salaries.

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Business Operations Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Mr. Gunderson announced: the resignations of Travis Seigenthaler-high school custodian.

Danielle Temp from the auditing firm Tostrud and Temp, S.C. provided a

summary of the 18-19 audit report.

Consent Agenda

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

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2020;
- b) the invoices to be paid;
- c) donations from the Aquinas Booster Club for the high school gymnastics program and from James Michelson for the high school National Honor Society.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Deanna Wiatt, Director of Instruction, lead the Board Development session regarding district goals for Teaching and Learning. The topics included: Senior Exit Project, Standards-based reporting, the state report card, and Redefining Ready. No action was taken.

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

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

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:49 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Clements, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Adjournment

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 9, 2020 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Jane Halverson. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee Courier, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe's Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on March 5, 2020.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 9, 2020 continued... Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

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

Connection with the Community

There were no Board reports by high school student representative.

Correspondence

A thank you note from Kathy Beshensky was read.

Public comments –

Steve Martin inquired about being able to participate on a citizen committee for during the superintendent search.

Written and Oral Reports

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

Business Operations Committee – Mrs. Griffin reported on the agenda items: high school/district office renovations, solar grant, lighting project, negotiations, and staffing.

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

Mr. Gunderson announced: the resignations of Stuart Hass-part-time custodian.

Quenten Brown, Angie Hemker, Kaylin Lotspaih, and Nicole Finch from the district's Art Department invited the board to select artwork from the gallery to be displayed in the Heider Meeting Room for the following year.

Consent Agenda

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

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2020;
 - b) the invoices to be paid;
 - c) from the UW-L Cooperating Teacher Appreciation Mini Grant for Lisa Jones-elementary music teacher, from the La Crosse Community Foundation/Zielke Fund Grant for the high school baseball program, and from Taylor Feyen and her SEP for the district flag display at the Panther Den;
 - d) the hiring of Robyn Ferrian as a high school math teacher for the remainder of the 19-20 school year;
 - e) co-curricular recommendations: high school assistant tennis coach-Lisa Hehli, high school baseball volunteer assistant coach-Adam Krause, Rick Schultz, Ryan Rieber, Dan Schneider, Randy Schultz, Kyle Helgeson; middle school softball head coach-Ethan Ringlien; middle softball assistant coach-Katie Fink and Makenzie Becker; middle school track and field head coach-Sarah Weber, Nicole Friell, Amber Coe, and Bill Jensen; and
 - f) the resignation of Speech and Language Pathologist Lisa Ruddock and the resignation of middle school special education teacher Andrea Alvin.
- Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mrs. Griffin left the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mr. Clements seconded to approve the staffing requests for the 2021 school year as presented, which includes: paraprofessional support for kindergarten, additional 1.0 FTE middle school math teacher, reduction of .55 FTE middle school social studies teacher, reduction in paraprofessional support in the success center, additional 1.0 FTE high school English Teacher, additional 1.0 FTE high

school social studies teacher, .67 FTE additional high school physical education; additional time for nursing coverage, maintenance/custodial, building secretarial; and adding a Lead Teacher Support in Special Education. Motion carried. 3-Aye, 1-Nay (Schlimgen)

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

Mrs. Halverson welcomed the motion for closed session: The Board will discuss, consider and, if appropriate, take action pursuant to Wis. Stats §19.85(1) (c) "Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility," and e) Deliberating or negotiating...conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session" regarding the contract and planning for the employment of a new superintendent.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:23 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Clements, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Mrs. Griffin returned to the meeting which was in closed session at 7:45 p.m.

In Closed Session, the Board took action on the agenda item "Contract with superintendent search firm." Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to approve a contract with Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) for superintendent Search Services. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Schlimgen, Acting Clerk

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 23, 2020 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Jane Halverson. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee Courier, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe's Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on March 19, 2020.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Mr. Grosskopf led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Mrs. Fitzgerald recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Jane Halverson (remote), Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrator: Troy Gunderson. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Syl Clements

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to approve the agenda as presented. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan,

School District of West Salem
School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2020 continued...
Marie Heider Meeting Room
7:00 p.m.

vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye.
Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Correspondence

A thank you note from Rita Schwartz was read.

Public comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Workforce Engagement & Development Committee – Mr. Grosskopf reported on the agenda items: negotiations with the West Salem Education Association and review comparison data from other districts.

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Business Operations Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Mr. Gunderson announced: the hiring of Andreas Pessl-Bauer and Maribeth Norcross as part-time custodians.

Consent Agenda

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

- a) the Regular Board Meeting minutes of March 9, 2020;
 - b) the invoices to be paid;
 - c) a donation from Barbara and Dennis Manthei for the middle school band program.
 - d) the hiring of Laura Imming as a Speech and Language Pathologist, Robyn Ferrian as the high school math teacher, for the 20-21 school year;
 - e) the resignation of Athletic Director Geoffrey Baumann;
 - f) to approve the WIAA cooperative agreements for the 20-21 school year;
 - g) to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendation for a high school track and field volunteer coach – Grant LeDoux.
- A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to issue a preliminary non-renewal notice to part-time teacher Ashley Swanson, due to the elimination of the position. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mrs. Halverson welcomed the motion for closed session: The Board will discuss, consider and, if appropriate, take action pursuant to Wis. Stats §19.85(1) (c) "Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility," regarding the search and employment of a new superintendent. The Board will review focus group questions and prepare for the next steps of the application process.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:35 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf,

Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk

School District of West Salem
Special Board Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2020
Marie Heider Meeting Room
6:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Jane Halverson. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee Courier, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe's Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on March 24, 2020. This meeting was at the request of a Board Member. The noticed included information on how to view the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Jane Halverson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Patrick Bahr recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Jane Halverson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Syl Clements.

Approval of Agenda

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

Discussion/Action Items:

Mrs. Griffin moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to approve for a first reading of policy #171.4 Remote Participation in Board Meetings as amended. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to adjourn at 6:27 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2020

Marie Heider Meeting Room

7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Jane Halverson. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee Courier, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe's Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on April 9, 2020.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Connection with the Community

Student Representatives Summer Houck and Liam Sjoquist reported on:

1. The seniors will be doing their SEP final presentations from home.
2. The spring sport seasons are currently on hold until further notice.
3. Students are starting their third week of online classes. Students' daily schedules vary across grade levels, but all are given off on Fridays. Zoom has been an excellent resource to allow students to connect with their teachers and receive lessons, homework, and personal help if needed.

Correspondence – None.

Public comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Business Operations Committee – Mrs. Griffin reported on the agenda items: solar grant project, lighting project, construction/renovations, and school bus bid.

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

Mr. Gunderson announced: the hiring of Kurt Knoll as Lead Custodian and the retirement of administrative assistant Antia Jagodzinski.

Student Representative and WASB (Wisconsin Association of School Boards) acknowledgements: Summer Houck and Liam Sjoquist were recognized for their year of service as Student Representatives to the School Board and will receive certificates from the WASB for their service to the children in Wisconsin Public Schools. Syl Clements was recognized for his service on the School Board and will receive a certificate and plaque from the WASB. Syl Clements will also receive a certificate and pin for obtaining WASB Level 3 Recognition. Tom Grosskopf will receive a certificate and pin for obtaining WASB Level I Recognition.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to approve the following

Consent Agenda items:

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2020, and the Special Board Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2020;
 - b) invoices to be paid;
 - c) a donation from Bridget & Erik Peterson for the High School Scholar Athlete Scholarship fund;
 - d) there were no resignations or retirements to accept.
- A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to approve for a second reading of policy #171.4 Remote Participation In Board Meetings. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to approve for a first reading of policy #186 Citizen Participation at Board Meetings. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Griffin moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee recommendation and accept the bid from EPL (Energy Performance Lighting) for the LED Lamp and Driver proposal for the district's energy saving light replacement project. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to accept the Business Operations Committee recommendation to purchase the 2021 Thomas Built 74 passenger bus from Nelson's Bus Service. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously. This bid was accepted because of the warranty and the gas mileage as the deciding factors.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to approve the new base wage of \$38,404 (CPI-1.81%) and the agreement with the West Salem Education Association (WSEA), which included an increase of \$683 per cell, an additional of 0.5% per cell and allowing teachers to advance on steps. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Pay for exempt & non-exempt staff during the emergency school closure due to COVID-19. No action was taken.

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to approve the issuance of a final notice of no-renewal to part-time teacher Ashley Swanson as a result of the elimination of the position at the middle school. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to approve the six requests for Early College Credits for the fall of 2020. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to approve the cancellation of the Washington DC trip for the 19-20 school year. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

School District of West Salem

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

Mrs. Griffin moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to cancel the summer 2020 Panama trip. The motion was withdrawn as the Board is seeking more information.

The Board had a discussion regarding the final details of the upcoming superintendent interviews. No action was taken.

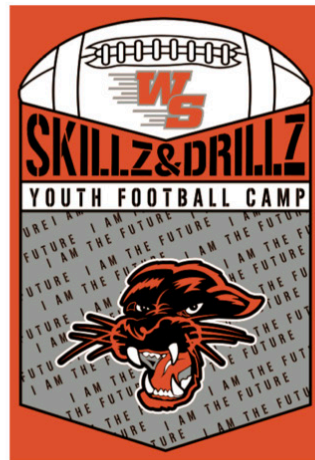
The list of to do items / information requests was reviewed. No action was taken.

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk

Event Update



Football camp is rescheduled for July 21-23, immediately following summer school.

All ages will be from 1:00-2:30, but will be divided, grades 2-4 and 5-8.

Bring a sack lunch for between summer school and camp.

A Message from Coach Jehn regarding Summer Camp

Our annual youth summer camp has been rescheduled to July 21-23. Sessions will begin right after summer school in hopes of being more convenient for you. We will supervise lunch between summer school and camp. Campers should bring their own lunch.

All ages will go from 1:00-2:30 PM. We will still divide campers by age.

Registration forms can be found by going to the district website, and scrolling down to News and Announcements and then clicking on Skillz and Drillz Football Camp. Camp registration should be post-marked by July 1. Refunds will be offered if the camp needs to be cancelled all together.

Coach Jehn

Our Everyday Superheroes

In April, we put out a call on our social media, for our followers and fans to nominate Panther alumni that are serving as essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic to recognize them for their sacrifice and hard work. We have been blown away by the number of responses we have received recognizing everyone from nurses to social workers, and truck drivers to police officers. We are proud to recognize these everyday heroes, and we thank them for their dedication to serving others!



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

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



For WSHS athletic events, visit our website:

- *click Calendars and then
- *click Coulee Conference

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

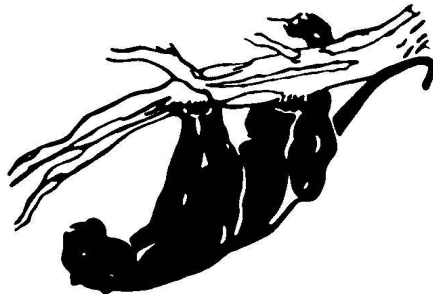


School District of West Salem

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



#WeAreWS



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WEST SALEM, WI
PERMIT NO. 38

School District of West Salem
405 East Hamlin Street
West Salem, WI 54669