

November 2023



Newsletter

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Letter from Superintendent Ryan Rieber

Welcome to November

It has been a great start of the school year for our students and student-athletes. Our fall athletes shined brightly and continued to bring Panther Pride with their successful performances inside and outside the classroom, including conference championships and playoff victories.

Congratulations to our state qualifiers in tennis, our football team for reaching level 2 of the playoffs, the volleyball team who made it to sectionals, and our boys and girls cross-country teams for earning a third straight trip to state, with the boys finishing fourth and the girls placing eleventh this past weekend!

Our annual budget development cycle concluded on Monday, October 23rd when the school board approved the final 2023-2024 school budget and tax levy. The school board adopted the budget to include a tax levy of \$10,710,208 with a mill rate of \$7.60. The tax levy increased this year for several reasons, including inflation, rising prices, and another year of increased property values in the district, which are up an average of 13.9%.

However, the higher tax levy is paired with the lowest mill rate in over twenty years. This year's tax levy is roughly \$10.7 million, up from \$9.5 million a year ago.

The reasons for this include the continued increase of the equalized values on property in the school district and the increase in per-pupil reimbursement from the state from \$10k to \$11k per student. This increase in reimbursement coming from the state does affect our local taxes.

Another item impacting the District and our community taxpayers is our contribution to local private schools. A year ago, the District taxpayer contribution was \$595,876 and this year, that increased to \$617,541. The West Salem School District taxpayer contribution to local private schools has increased by 786% since the 2018-19 school year. For reference, our District taxpayer contribution to local private schools was \$69,694 in 2018-19, compared to the \$617,541 today. This had an approximate \$0.44 impact on our mill rate this year. Everyone needs to understand all of the areas that impact our budget.

On November 14th, our District and building report cards will be released publicly. We have had the

Letter continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

opportunity to view these internally for the past couple of weeks and have had some good discussions around their results. Preliminary results are very similar to where they were a year ago for West Salem. Several factors go into these scores, and how scores are measured is an ever-changing process. We are very proud of our students and the work that our staff does with them. We are constantly striving to be the best! As we look at our district's reading and math scores, we continue to do well compared to the rest of the state, but there is always work to be done as we strive for the highest growth and achievement for our students. More information will be shared after the public release.

Recently, we welcomed author, educator, and speaker Jimmy Casas to our staff inservice. Mr. Casas shared four core principles with us, including 1) Be a Champion for

All Kids, 2) Expect Excellence, 3) Carry the Banner, and 4) Be a Merchant of Hope. These four principles are areas that we need to focus on as a district to ensure that every child feels welcomed and is presented with opportunities to be their absolute best. I am thankful that our community entrusts the West Salem School District to work with and for their children. This is a task that everyone takes seriously. Know that we are continuously working to do our best and constantly working to get better. In this time of thanksgiving, thank you for all you do to continue making the West Salem School District and community a wonderful place to live, work, and educate our children! I wish you and all of your families a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Ryan Rieber
Superintendent



Calendar of Events November

Athletic Events

Saturday, November 11, 2023

9:00am Basketball: Girls Varsity Scrimmage vs. Altoona, Cochrane-Fountain City, Durand-Arkansaw & Fall Creek @ Fall Creek High School

Saturday, November 18, 2023

4:00pm Ice Hockey: Girls JV Game Ona/WS/Hol/Aq/Cen/Log/ vs. Middleton @ Omni Center

6:00pm Ice Hockey: Girls Varsity Game Ona/WS/Hol/Aq/Cen/Log/ vs. Middleton @ Omni Center

Monday, November 20, 2023

6:00pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Scrimmage vs. Baldwin-Woodville, Eau Claire Memorial & Elk Mound @ Eau Claire Memorial High School

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

5:00pm Ice Hockey: Girls JV Game Ona/WS/Hol/Aq/Cen/Log/ vs. Baraboo @ Baraboo - Pierce Park Hockey Rink

7:15pm Ice Hockey: Girls Varsity Game Ona/WS/Hol/Aq/Cen/Log/ vs. Baraboo @ Baraboo - Pierce Park Hockey Rink

7:15pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Holmen @ Holmen High School

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

5:45pm Basketball: Girls JV Game vs. Viroqua @ West Salem High School

7:00pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Viroqua @ West Salem High School

7:30pm Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua Community Arena

Thursday, November 30, 2023

5:00pm Wrestling: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Tomah & La Crosse @ Melrose-Mindoro High School

7:00pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Central @ West Salem High School

Elementary School Events

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

8:30am 4th Grade to Madison

Thursday, November 2, 2023

6:15pm 4th Grade Music Concert @ Heider Center

6:30pm 4K Night Hike @ West Salem Bike Depot

Friday, November 3, 2023

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

Monday, November 6, 2023

8:30am 4th Grade to Madison

Thursday, November 9, 2023

6:30pm 4th Grade P.E. Night

Friday, November 10, 2023

9:00am Veterans Day Program @ WSES Gym

Thursday, November 16, 2023

5:00pm Camp Read-a-Lot Literacy Event @ WSES Gym

Friday, November 17, 2023

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

Wednesday, November 22-Friday, November 24, 2023

All Day No School-Thanksgiving Break

Middle School Events

Friday, November 10, 2023

7:55am Veterans Day Program @ WSMS Gym

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

All Day Trimester 1 Ends

Wednesday, November 22-Friday, November 24, 2023

All Day No School-Thanksgiving Break

Calendar of events continues on next page...

High School Events

Friday, November 3, 2023

8:00am End of 1st Quarter

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

8:00am Grades Submitted for 1st Quarter

Friday, November 10, 2023

10:30am Veterans Day Ceremony @ West Salem High School

Wednesday, November 22-Friday, November 24, 2023

All Day No School-Thanksgiving Break

CAMP READ-A-LOT
November 16, 2023
5-7 p.m.
West Salem Elementary School



YOU ARE INVITED TO AN EVENING OF CAMPING THEMED FUN AS WE CELEBRATE LITERACY AT WEST SALEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

THERE WILL BE GAMES, PRIZES, TREATS, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN ABOUT SUPPORTING YOUR YOUNG READER!

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS PORTION OF THE PAGE TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER IF YOU PLAN TO JOIN US!

Student Name(s):

Two horizontal lines for writing the student name(s).

Grade Level(s):

4K K 1 2 3 4

Total Number of Family Members Attending:

A square box for entering the number of family members attending.

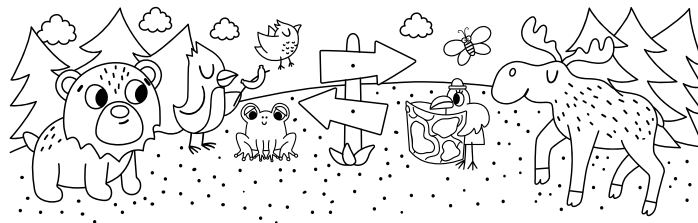
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER LA CROSSE

- CAMP RULES -

- Campers in kindergarten through 2nd grade MUST be accompanied by an adult at ALL times. Campers in 3rd or 4th grade may attend stations on their own.
- If interested, there will be food trucks available from 4:30-7:30 p.m. for you to purchase dinner from. They will be parked in front of the school. Take a break for dinner at any time or come out a little early to eat before camp starts!
- Don't forget to Follow the West Salem Way!
Be respectful, Be responsible, Be safe... and have fun!



- THE PLAN -

4:30 P.M. - FOOD TRUCKS OPEN

5:00 P.M. - CHECK IN BEGINS

5:30 P.M. - WELCOME (GYM)

5:45 P.M. - STORY TIME #1

6:05 P.M. - STORY TIME #2

6:25 P.M. - READING UNDER THE STARS (GYM)

6:45 P.M. - STORY TIME #3

7:00 P.M. - TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

7:30 P.M. - FOOD TRUCKS CLOSE

All other stations
will be open during
each story time.

CLASS OF 2024: IT IS YOUR TIME

Senior year is finally here! We have an important yearbook deadline to keep in mind. Each senior needs to submit the following photos:

1. Yearbook Portrait

This photo is a traditional, formal head and shoulders pose. You may use this same portrait for everything if you would like.

***No full-length poses, hats, props, "misty" filters, or distracting backgrounds.**



2. Times of Our Lives

This may be less formal.



3. Baby Photo

This photo will be used to morph into the "big kid" photo for the Senior Slideshow. The best morphs are created using baby photos where the baby's face is the dominant part of the photo.



4. Senior Photo for Slideshow

This photo will be the photo that the baby photo morphs into for the slide show. It can be the same photo used for the Yearbook or Times of our Lives if you would like.



Photos due:
Friday, Nov. 17,
2023

Submit **300 dpi jpeg** photo(s) via email to armstrong.andrea@wsalem.k12.wi.us

Please label photos with the student name and publication - ex. JoeSmithYearbook.

Labeled hard copy photos can be dropped off to room 241 - silver box.



WEST SALEM ATHLETICS BOOSTER CLUB Sponsorship Form

490 North Mark Street, West Salem, WI 54669

What a year for West Salem Panther Athletics!!! From Conference Championships to State Tournament appearances, this year was one to remember. The West Salem Athletics Booster Club provides a valuable service to our athletic programs by providing equipment needs to each program to keep our athletes safe and competitive. The Booster Club supports all athletic programs. This Sponsorship drive is one way the Booster Club raises money to support the athletic programs. Please consider becoming a West Salem Booster Club Sponsor today.

Board Members include:

Bryan Novy - President
Jason Lassen - Vice President

Matt Quick - Secretary
Therese Novy - Treasurer

Members: Mark Donahue, Mike Brudos, Dennis Greer

Yearly Family Sponsorship-\$40.00 (2023-2024 School year)

-----Please return bottom portion with payment-----

*With each sponsorship you will receive a Panther seat cushion,
Panther yard sign, or a T-Shirt to show your support.*

Please mark your selection. Seat Cushion ___ Sign ___ T-Shirt ___ Circle Size (M, L, or XL)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Make check payable to WS Athletics Booster Club and
send to 490 N. Mark St, West Salem, WI 54669

Adapting Their Skills

Our 6th grade students typically spend a fall day at the OEC where they participate in a variety of survival themed activities. The recent rain caused a shift in their plans, so they adapted and figured out how to do some of the activities at school! While they couldn't do everything they had planned, they tried their hand at solving mysteries, fire starting techniques (don't worry, there were no fires!), including plow, hand drill and bow, and knotting ropes, including bow-line and square knots. They ended the day with watching Holes, which Mrs. Schultz has been reading to them in Reading class. Way to make the best out of a rainy day!



District Announcements



A New Perspective

Recently, 2nd grade students from Mrs. Flottmeier's class participated in a variety of activities to celebrate White Cane Day and learn more about how those with visual impairments navigate the world. This day was established in 1964 and occurs annually on October 15th to advocate for and educate about White Cane Law and promote safe, welcoming communities for people with vision loss or blindness. While blindfolded, they practiced their morning greeting by listening for their classmates' voices and feeling their way across the classroom to give fist bumps. They also made jelly sandwiches and practiced walking through the halls blindfolded with white canes to simulate how those with vision impairment or blindness make a meal and navigate when they are out and about. These activities provided a great lesson in empathy for our students and taught them that while those with vision impairment may not be able to see everything in front of them, they utilize all of their senses and come up with creative ways to be independent!



School Board Members

- Catherine Griffin, President ~~~~~ 769-1714
- Tom Grosskopf, Vice President ~~~~~ 386-0168
- Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk ~~~~~ 792-4130
- Sean Gavaghan, Treasurer ~~~~~ 797-3585
- Erik Peterson, Director ~~~~~ 792-5370
- Chris Peterson, Director ~~~~~ 385-3103
- Bob Minard, Director ~~~~~ 786-9998

**Board meetings are held the second and fourth Monday*

District Announcements

Heider Center



Art Gallery "Nine Again"

We are excited to welcome "The Nine" back to the Heider Center Gallery. This group of highly successful and renowned artists are sharing their most recent works with the community. There will be a special reception and sale of their work on Saturday, November 4th from 1-4pm in the Heider Meeting room! Runs October 18th-November 29th

Box Office Hours
(608) 786-2550
Monday, Wednesday & Friday:
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

B2Wins

Saturday, November 18, 2023
7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$26/\$24/\$10

Fun loving twin brothers from Brazil present "Top 40 from the last 40" Music you know and love with a unique twist. This unforgettable engaging show is for all ages and features one of a kind renditions of everything from Sinatra to Ed Sheeran, Louis Armstrong to Dua Lipa.



Work Permit Changes

The main office of the high school is no longer allowed to issue work permits for students as the State of Wisconsin has shut down that service.

Parents are now responsible for the issuance of work permits. Please follow this [link](#) or go to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development website to obtain them online.

Panther Pride Staff Award for Excellence & Serving with Passion

We know that our staff members make a difference every day, but we don't always get to hear about all of the amazing things they do, which is why we have created the Panther Pride Staff Recognition Award so that you can share them with us!

Parents, community members, and students are welcome to fill out the Google form linked in the "News" section on our website to nominate a staff member that you believe exemplifies our mission of serving with passion and demonstrating excellence! Thank you for helping us show our appreciation!



**PANTHER PRIDE
RECOGNITION
AWARD**

**NOMINATE A STAFF MEMBER
THAT HAS MADE A
DIFFERENCE!**



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. Navigate by going to "Schools" > "High School" > "Students" > "Student Services" > "Transcripts."

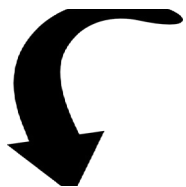
If you have questions, please call the High School Student Services Office at (608) 786-1220.

Enrollment for 2023-2024

Are you new to the district and looking to enroll your students for the 2023-2024 school year?

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

Looking for Important Dates?



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



School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes September 25, 2023 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 September 21, 2023.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Sam Stenberg led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Alyssa Harlan recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Chris Peterson, Bob Minard, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Ben Wopat, Heidi Horton, Mike Malott, Alex Hubing, Alyssa Harlan, and Shawn Handland; Student representative: Sam Stenberg. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Payton Greer

Approval of Agenda

S. Gavaghan moved, C. Peterson seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Written and Oral Reports

Business Operations Committee – T. Grosskopf reported on the agenda items: line of credit, revenue limit worksheet, debt options and a 24-25 budget outlook.

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

Human Resource updates: the hire of Diane Kriewald and Vicki Peterson in school nutrition, the resignation of Brooks Heineck-cook and Lilly Lutz-paraprofessional.

Director of Human Resources, Crystal Becker, provided a human resources update.

Connection with the Community

Sam Stenberg, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Homecoming was this past week.
 - a. Senior Homecoming court members were Zoe Coder, Payton Greer, Danica Brenengen, Elyse Bee, Taylor Burch, Sam Stenberg, Elliott Sjoquist, Evan Huth, Tamarrein Henderson, and Douglas Dillaber. Zoe Coder and Sam Stenberg were the Homecoming Royalty.
 - b. The seniors won the overall class competitions and the individual competitions of the float, hallway, skit, canvas, and school song. The juniors took 2nd and won the individual competitions of dress-up days. The sophomores took 3rd and the freshmen took 4th.
 - c. The football team won a hard-fought game 27-20. They play this Friday at Viroqua.
 - d. The dance was a huge success and the theme was Day and Night.
2. Cross country had a meet on Saturday at Maple Grove. They also helped with the middle school meet that was held here last Tuesday.
3. Volleyball had a triangular against Arcadia and Luther Thursday at home. They won both matches. They have a big game this Thursday at home against Westby.
4. Girls' tennis had a tournament on Saturday.

5. The high school band marches at the Oktoberfest parade this upcoming weekend.
6. Show choir held regular practices throughout the week.
7. Odyssey of the Mind applications are due Friday, October 8. This is a competitive creative problem-solving organization that the students at the high school participate in.
8. During Thursday's lunch, high school students got to try out samples of the school's new breakfast smoothie options.

Correspondence

A thank you note from the Arlene Oldenberg family was read.
A thank you note from Mike and Julie Schaub was read.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

- E. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:
- a. the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2023;
 - b. the invoices to be paid;
 - c. to accept a donation from the Horstmann Homestead Farm for the Random Acts of Kindness Fund and from Altra Federal Credit Union for the high school;
 - d. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendations

Elementary School

Kaylin Staebell-after school art, Kayla Wegner-Council of Kids and Krista Mead-Yearbook

Middle School

Elissa Kinstler-band assistant, Ryan Waldhart-jazz band, Abby Solberg-color guard, Elle Nimm-5/6 grades choir, Josie Hanson-show choir assistant, Elle Nimm-play director, Kim Volden-assistant play director, Amy Hanson-stage manager/technical supervisor, Heather Jehn & Amber Coe-Web Leaders, Brianna Meyer & Nicole Friell-yearbook, Nicole Friell-Forensics, Kamry Kjos-assistant forensics, Amber Coe & Sarah Weber-MathCounts, Student Council-Martha Burdick & Amber Coe, after school art-Angie Hemker, and District Odyssey of the Mind Leader-Elissa Kinstler.

High School

Color guard-Kelli Martin, jazz band-Dave Kies, pep band-Dave Kies, show choir-Amy Hanson, assistant show choir-Kelli Martin, drama club-Amy Hanson, play director first semester-Amy Hanson, play director second semester-Amy Hanson, assistant play director first semester-Kim Volden, assistant play director second semester-Kim Volden, stage manager first semester-Dan Heerts, stage manager second semester-Dan Heerts, forensics-Kim Volden, forensics assistant-Andrea Armstrong, summer theatre director-Amy Hanson, summer theatre instrumental-Dave Kies, summer theatre vocal-Kelli Martin, summer theater stage-Dan Heerts, student council-Darren Fruit and Talia Dacquisto, Neshonoc yearbook-Andrea Armstrong, Link Crew-Melissa Haas and Jamie Olson, Visual Arts Classic-Quenten Brown, ecology club-Kelly Rueckheim, math club-Chris Milne, FFA-Kelly Rueckheim, Caden Servais and Kimberly Eick, DECA-Jason Holter, assistant DECA-Brittney Hodgson and Nicole Hinkel, robotics-Austin Stalsberg, NHS-Jennifer Stenberg and Toni Key, diversity club-Kim Volden, trapshooting club fall and spring-Erik Mathison, homecoming supervisor (windows)-Quenten Brown, homecoming supervisor (parade)-Eric Borre, homecoming supervisor (Mr./Miss. WS)-Amy Hanson, homecoming supervisor (floats)-Laura Skemp-Deal, homecoming supervisor (dance)-Talia Dacquisto, freshman class advisor-Laura Deal, sophomore class advisor-David Neuman, junior class advisors-Kim Volden and Maggie Maxwell, senior class advisors-Angela Elsen, Laura Skemp-Deal, Julie Arentz, and Abby Kemp, Esports-Kimberly Eick and Austin Stalsberg, volunteer HOSA-Toni Key and Kate Brohmer, volunteer Interact-Julie Arentz, volunteer fishing-Darren Fruit and Brian Baker, volunteer Spanish club-Emily Phillips, and volunteer Trap Shooting volunteers-Barry Loging, Bryce Perrett, Dale Hewitt, Kyle Helgeson, Matthew Griffin, Patrick Burchell, Terry Loging, Tristan Johnsrude, Roger Week, Steve Bramblett, Cassie Bramblett, and Jesse Loging.

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes continued... September 25, 2023 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

Motion carried. (C. Griffin-Abstained)

Discussion/Action Items:

E. Peterson moved, C. Peterson seconded to approve the line of credit with Union State Bank for a value of up to \$5 million for the 23-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Director of Finance and Business Operations Shawn Handland reviewed a preview of the revenue limit worksheet and possible debt options. No action was taken.

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

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended, as noted on the Public Meeting Notice

Board Development

Director of Instruction Alyssa Harlan led a board development session regarding instructional initiatives. No action was taken.

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 a support staff position.

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:32 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken: R. Fitzgerald, Aye; S. Gavaghan, Aye; E. Peterson, Aye; C. Peterson, Aye; C. Griffin, Aye; T. Grosskopf, Aye; and B. Minard, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

S. Gavaghan moved. T. Grosskopf seconded to reconvene into Open Session at 8:58 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

The board, if appropriate, will return to open session following the closed session to take action on the items discussed in the closed session.

E. Peterson moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the reclassification of a maintenance position to a lead maintenance position. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

E. Peterson moved, B. Peterson seconded to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes October 9, 2023 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 October 5, 2023.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

Roll Call

Present: Chris Peterson, Bob Minard, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Ben Wopat, Mike Malott, Alyssa Harlan, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Payton Greer and Sam Stenberg. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Erik Peterson, Robin Fitzgerald, Alex Hubing, and Heidi Horton.

Approval of Agenda

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

Written and Oral Reports

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

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

Bob Gollnik, from WSB, provided an update on the upcoming traffic study that will take place the week of October 16, 2023.

PR Specialist/Grant Writer Samantha Pederson and Superintendent Rieber presented a report on Open Enrollment/Third Friday Report.

Director of Instruction Alyssa Harlan shared presented a report on the 2023 Summer School.

Connection with the Community

Sam Stenberg, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Football had a game against Black River Falls on Friday where they won (49-8). They play against Aquinas this Friday at home where they have a chance to share the Coulee Conference Title.
2. Volleyball had games last week at Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau and Black River Falls where they won both in three. They play at home against Viroqua tomorrow and at Luther on Thursday.
3. Tennis sectionals were on Wednesday; Taylor Burch and Natalie Graham qualified for the state tournament as a double, and Megan Johnson qualified for the state tournament as a single. The state tournament starts this Thursday and is in Madison.
4. Cross County had a meet on Saturday in Arcadia. Both teams took first place. For the boys Carson Gronemus, Carter Quackenbush, Tom Stenberg, Brennan Garbers, Brennon Anderson, and Drew Anderson, all placed top 15. For the girls Mia Olson, Kennedy Garbers, Maria Cannon, and Payton Greer got top 15.
5. Dance performed on Friday at the home football game.

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem

Regular Board Meeting Minutes continued...

October 9, 2023

Marie Heider Meeting Room

7:00 p.m.

Payton Greer, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The high school band marched in the Oktoberfest parade last Saturday. This Friday they will perform during the football game's half-time, where they honor the senior band members.
2. Show Choir had a performance at Viterbo Thursday night.
3. DECA has a regional event on October 28th. This is a practice competition with many teams in the area participating.
4. The math team is starting to organize. Sign-ups for the team are due by October 11th and their first competition will be on November 1st at UW Platteville.
5. HOSA club also met this past Friday.

Correspondence

Two proclamations by Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction State Superintendent Jill Underly were read: National School Lunch Week-October 9-13 and Gifted Education Month-October.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

C. Peterson moved, T. Grosskopf seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2023;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. to accept the donations from Union State Bank, Kristen Fox and Erin Miller for the Jane Doe Fund, and from Tom Wegner for the Technology Department;
- d. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendation for winter dance coach-Brianna Kruser, volunteer dance coach-Claire Schrader, head boys' basketball coach-Mark Wagner, head girls' basketball coach-Matt Quick, head wrestling coach-Josh Brewer, head gymnastics coach-Carrie O'Hearn, boys' hockey coach-Richie Brown-boys' hockey coach, Heather Jehn-head 7th grade girls' basketball coach, Heather Jehn-head 7th grade boys' basketball coach, Heidi Propson-head 8th grade girls' basketball coach, and Lauren Lovely-assistant 8th grade girls' basketball coach.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

C. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to approve the amendment to the high school student handbook for the 23-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended, as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

Board Development

Principal Malott provided information for the upcoming facilities planning session at the Special Board Meeting on October 11, 2023. Director of Finance and Business Operations Handland provided financial information for the upcoming Business Operations Committee Meeting on October 11, 2023, on the following: revenue limit, tax levy, and Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB). No action was taken.

Adjournment

C. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Minard, Acting Clerk

School District of West Salem

Special Board Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2023

Marie Heider Meeting Room

4:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 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 October 5, 2023. This meeting was at the request of a board member.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson (5:27), Chris Peterson, Bob Minard, Tom Grosskopf (4:02), Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Mike Malott, and Shawn Handland. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: N/A Also in attendance: Scott Johnson, Erik Mathison, Toni Key, Kelli Martin, Amy Hanson, Jamie Olson, David Neuman, Nick Seibert, Scott Martin, Dave Kies, and Dan Heerts.

Approval of Agenda

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

Board Development

District facilities planning session based upon community survey results.

Representatives from the various departments/areas provided a strategic outlook for facility and space needs.

Adjournment

C. Peterson moved, B. Minard seconded to adjourn at 5:32 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes October 23, 2023 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 October 19, 2023.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Sam Stenberg led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Payton Greer recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Bob Minard, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Heidi Horton, Mike Malott, Alex Hubing, Alyssa Harlan, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Payton Greer and Sam Stenberg. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Chris Peterson and Ben Wopat.

Approval of Agenda

S. Gavaghan 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 Cabinet Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Business Operations Committee – No report was given.

Human Resource updates: the employment of Danya Das as a bus driver and Katherine Boehlke as a high school LMC paraprofessional.

Connection with the Community

Payton Greer, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Both the boys' and girls' cross-country teams qualify for the state championship meet in Wisconsin Rapids this Saturday. The boys are Sectional Champs with Tom Stenberg as their top finisher in 3rd place. The girls are Sectional Runner-Ups with Mia Olson as their top finisher in 4th place. They run at the Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids.
2. The football team won Friday against Adams-Friendship in level 1. They play in their level 2 game against the #1 seed Lodi at Lodi.
3. The volleyball team became Regional Champs on Saturday. They beat #3 seed Portage 3-0. They play against the #1 seed Sauk Prairie on Thursday in Sauk Prairie.
4. Natalie Graham and Taylor Burch made it to tennis state as a double team and Megan Johnson also made it to state as a single. They lost but it was exciting they made it.
5. Soccer ended their season with a hard-fought game against Edgewood on Thursday.

Sam Stenberg, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The ski and snowboard team will be having a meeting this Wednesday to discuss their season.
2. There is a winter lifting program being organized by Fitness Center Director Mr. Seibert. He is looking to increase the strength, power, and mobility of all athletes at West Salem.
3. The Drama Department put on a play last week - Back to the 80's, and it was a great success.

4. Band had their auditions this week to decide where they get placed into Wind Symphony or Concert Band.
5. DECA will hold their regular meeting this Thursday. They are also putting on a highway clean up.
6. Robotics started with an informational meeting today.

Correspondence – None.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

S. Gavaghan moved, R. Fitzgerald seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2023, the Special Board Meeting Minutes of October 11, 2023;
 - b. the invoices to be paid;
 - c. to accept the donation from Morrie's Auto Group for the Elementary School Random Acts of Kindness Fund.
 - d. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendations for assistant gymnastics coach-Brittney Hodgson, assistant girls' basketball coach-Whitney Folkers, Payton Steiner, Jared Hauser, Tanner Gibbons, assistant wrestling coach-Tyler Shrake, head middle school wrestling coach-Jason Raasch, assistant middle school wrestling coach-Warren Frank, assistant 8th grade girls' basketball coach-Heidi Propson, head 8th grade girls' basketball coach-Lauren Lovely, assistant 8th grade boys' basketball coach-Nick Schultz, and head 8th grade boys' basketball coach-Tony Schultz;
 - e. to accept the resignation of winter dance team head coach Claire Schrader.
- Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

R. Fitzgerald moved, E. Peterson seconded to adopt the 2024-2025 school calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Gavaghan moved, T. Grosskopf seconded to approve the Early College Credits (4-year universities)/Start College Now (technical colleges) for the spring of 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to set the budget for the 2023-2024 school year as presented at the Annual Meeting – proposed Fund 10 revenues at \$29,888,950 and proposed Fund 10 expenses at \$29,168,653. Motion carried unanimously.

R. Fitzgerald moved, E. Peterson seconded to set the 2023-2024 school year Tax Levy at \$10,710,208 with a Mill Rate of 0.00760290. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Grant volunteers to review the Board Grant applications are E. Peterson, Robin Fitzgerald and Sean Gavaghan.

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

Adjournment

R. Fitzgerald moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk



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Lending a Hand

After the July 28th rain and hail storm that came through town, several homes and businesses sustained significant damage to their roofs, siding, and outdoor fixtures. Just down the road from us, the fence at CESA 4 was completely demolished. Knowing that it needed to be repaired, they recently reached out to Mr. Mathison's high school Technology Education class to see if they would be interested in replacing it. The stu-

dents have been hard at work putting their skills to the test to build a brand new fence. From measuring and cutting to installation, they have done a great job so far! They are truly fulfilling our mission of serving with passion and we know that their hard work is appreciated by many! Way to go, Panthers!



Did You Know?

Cranberries are the state fruit of Wisconsin! 62% of the cranberries grown in the United States come from Wisconsin!

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...

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For WSHS athletic events, visit our website:
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*click Coulee Conference/Mississippi Valley Conference
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School District of West Salem

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