

November 2020



Newsletter

School District of West Salem

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Letter from Superintendent Ryan Rieber

Budget and Annual Meeting Updates

Happy November,

We recently had our Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting for our school district. The projected budget numbers that we had going into the 20-21 school year came in almost as expected. A couple of changes that came in this year's budget. One being the school district will be receiving \$160k because of a declining enrollment exemption. This is an exemption that districts are given for one year when their third Friday count in September drops. The enrollment in West Salem and across the area and state are down this year. The enrollment in West Salem is down 3% from last year, which matches the state average. A large part of this has to do with our current situation. The second area of change is additional dollars going toward private schools and private school special education voucher aid deduction to the tune of a \$200k increase. This is money that our district needs to provide to our local private schools. This will be absorbed within our budget for a total of \$450k to our local taxpayers. Taking this into account, the tax

levy was set at \$9.54, which is a penny below the \$9.55 that the school district promised upon passing the referendum in the spring of 2018.

Recently, the author Jon Gordon wrote an article about three things that a crisis will reveal about people. He said that a crisis will reveal who you are, what you value, and what you believe. I want to thank the community for how we all worked together in cooperation in order to have our students in school and participate in co-curricular activities during the month of October. The work that we have done together has allowed our students opportunities that others around us have not had.

As we move forward and with the statewide increase in COVID numbers, we are again asking for your help and support. West Salem and our surrounding communities values and supports the education of our children. Now more than ever every person plays a critical role in their education by ensuring the health and safety of our community. Our goal is to promote safety for everyone to ensure a greater likelihood of keeping our schools open. We ask that you follow health and safety guidelines. As fall transitions to winter more activities will move indoors. Please approach the upcoming

Letter continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

community and family events with caution and care. Our individual actions have large implications; the education of our students relies upon a healthy and safe community.

Stay healthy and stay safe!
Panther Proud!

Ryan G. Rieber
Superintendent

School Nutrition Updates

Breakfast and Lunch are FREE to ALL students for the entire school year! USDA has extended the waiver for free meals for all children for the entire 2020-21 school year. This means all students regardless of their free/reduced status can receive a free breakfast and lunch daily when learning at school or virtually. This is exciting news that can save families time and money! Please see the details below about how each school's meal service operates so parents can feel confident sending their children to school knowing they will get a nutritious breakfast and lunch.

*Please note that second meals, extra entrees, morning milk, and ala carte items still require payment. Procedures on adding funds to the family food service account can be found on the nutrition service page on the school website. We are still accepting cash at ala carte.

Ala carte items and pricing can be accessed on the nutrition services page on the school website. Menus can be accessed on the website or through the Nutrislice App.

Lunch times may vary based on schedule being followed.

Elementary School

Breakfast: Breakfast in a grab and go format is available from 7:30 - 8:15 each morning. Breakfast bags are located on carts in each hallway for students to grab on the way to their classroom. If your child would like to eat breakfast, please try to arrive at school no later than 7:45 to allow ample time to enjoy breakfast. Morning supervisors are available to assist students with breakfast.

Lunch: Students walk down to the cafeteria with their class to pick up their pre-assembled lunches.

Grade	Lunch Line (each class in 2 minute increments)	Lunch in Rooms (Kindergarten eats in the cafeteria)
3rd Grade	10:40 - 10:48	10:50 - 11:20
1st Grade	10:55 - 11:03	11:05 - 11:35
2nd Grade	11:15 - 11:23	11:25 - 11:55
4th Grade	11:30 - 11:38	11:40 - 12:10
Kindergarten	11:45 - 11:55	12:00 - 12:30

School Nutrition Updates

Middle School

Breakfast: Breakfast is served in the cafeteria from 7:30 - 8:15 each morning in a grab and go format. Students take their breakfast with them to their homeroom and consume it in the classroom.

Lunch: Lunch is served out of the cafeteria and a second service area in the basement Boys and Girls Club space. Meals are consumed in the cafeteria, basement, and Boys and Girls Club gym to allow for social distancing. There are plexiglass barriers installed and extra hand sanitizer is available and expected to be used before and after going through the lunch line. There are no self-serve options available, except where items are individually wrapped or plated. Students are expected to practice social distancing and wear masks at all times except for when eating/drinking.

Grade	Early Release Group	Lunch Start Time
5th Grade	10:25	10:27
8th Grade	11:00	11:02
7th Grade	11:33	11:35
6th Grade	12:21	12:23

High School

Breakfast: Breakfast is served out of the a la carte window from 7:00 - 8:15 each morning. A la carte will be open the first 10 - 15 minutes of each period and breakfast remains available up until lunch.

Lunch: Students will pick up and eat their lunch in the cafeteria during their scheduled lunch period. There are plexiglass barriers installed and extra hand sanitizer is available and expected to be used before and after going through the lunch line. There are no self-serve options available, except where items are individually wrapped or plated. Students are expected to practice social distancing and wear masks at all times except for when eating/drinking.

Lunch Period	Lunch Start Time
1st Period	11:16
2nd Period	12:07

General Building Information

For the latest information on individual building activities, please refer to the school emails sent via Skyward. These are the most up-to-date and accurate with many of our current changes. Now is a great time to check and make sure all of your information is correct in Skyward so that you receive our communications! If you notice that any of your information is incorrect, please contact the school offices at the following phone numbers and they will correct your information for you.

West Salem Elementary School: 608-786-1662

West Salem Middle School: 608-786-2090

West Salem High School: 608-786-1220

Community Event Updates

39TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER / CHILI SUPPER

The All-Volunteer West Salem Emergency Medical Team invites you to this year's event:



What: Chili Supper

When: Thursday, November 8th from 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Where: West Salem High School

Menu: chili, cheese, crackers, bread,
milk/coffee and Ice Cream.



Donation of \$8.00 for adults & \$5.00 for children under ten is requested.

CANCELLED

Every year, we look forward to connecting with the community we serve. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, our concerns are for the health and welfare of everyone involved. The difficult decision has been made to cancel our annual fundraiser this year. We will accept all donations at the location below.

West Salem Emergency Medical Team

567 Brickl Road

West Salem, WI 54669

Phone: (608) 786-2501

E-Mail: WSEMS@hotmail.com

The West Salem First Responders Need Your Help!

With call volume at an all-time high and membership at a critically low level, the All-Volunteer West Salem First Responders are looking for individuals who want to give back to their community. Being a first responder is a challenging but very rewarding way to do just that. If you live in West Salem or its surrounding areas (Barre Mills and Hamilton) and can donate some spare time, let us know!

Registered Nurses are able to join without taking additional classes. If you would like to learn about our ride along program, please contact us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON:

- Becoming a First Responder
- Speakers for your clubs or organizations
- CPR/First Aid Instructions for your club or business
- Contributing time, talent or resources



Important Info for 2021 Seniors

CLASS OF 2021: 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.**



3. Baby Photo

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



2. Times of Our Lives

This may be less formal.



4. Senior Photo for Slide Show

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. 13,
2020

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

District Announcements

Special Education Department Receives Transition Grant

The Special Education Department recently received a Transition Readiness grant from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction that allowed them to purchase a new van for their transition program! We were one of 41 districts throughout the state that received a portion of \$1.5 million in grants. The program is designed to support Wisconsin students with disabilities and to help them successfully transition to competitive work and post-secondary education environments after high school.

The van will be used to transport our middle school and high school students to job shadowing experiences, volunteer work, work experience, and other independent living activities. We are so grateful to have received this grant, and we know it will help us to enrich our student's experiences outside of the classroom. Pictured with the new van is Mrs. Wilson-Smith, our Transition Coordinator and High School Special Education teacher.



Welcome SRO Ganrude!

We recently welcomed Officer Nate Ganrude to our district as our new school resource officer. He comes to West Salem after serving six years as a Sergeant in Bangor. We are very excited that he has joined our team and we can't wait to see how he connects with our students, staff, and families. Our SRO is such an important member of our staff, helping with a variety of issues including everything from truancy to tobacco/drug violations and meeting with students about their concerns to being present as a friendly face in the buildings or out at recess. If you see him around town, or on campus, be sure to stop and say hello!

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

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.

2020-2021 New Student Enrollment

Enrollment for new students can be completed at the District Office, 405 E. Hamlin St., Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit our website at www.wsalem.k12.wi.us and click on "Enrollment" at the top of the page or call the District Office at (608)-786-0700.

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

District Announcements

Panther Athletics

Despite seasons that started later and looked different than many in the past, our fall athletics teams have had great success so far this year. Girls tennis had three athletes qualify for the WIAA State Tournament. Madigan Freng competed in #1 singles and Bailee Peterson and Josie LaJeunesse competed in #1 doubles. They gave it their all, but were eliminated in the first round of competition. Our Football team has successfully won three games in a row, marching past the Tomah Timberwolves with a 28-14 win, sealing a homecoming victory over Aquinas and earning a road win over Nekoosa. Girls volleyball successfully continued their unbeaten streak in the Coulee Conference with 52 straight conference wins and moved on to the WIAA sectionals with a #1 seed, but fell to Aquinas in the third round. Boys soccer grabbed a #3 seed in playoffs and beat Berlin, Wautoma/Wild Rose, and Mosinee in sectionals before falling to Sauk Prairie in the Sectional Championship. Last, but not least, our Boys and Girls Cross Country teams have had a very successful season, with the Boys team qualifying for the WIAA State Meet in Colby, along with sophomore Macey Tauscher, who qualified as an individual in the Girls meet. The Boys finished 8th as a team, and Tauscher finished 23rd as an individual.



The Great Apple Crunch

On Wednesday October 7 and Thursday, October 8 students across the district participated in the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch. They joined over a million others across the Midwest in celebrating National Farm to School Month by enjoying yummy local apples from Ecker's Apple Farm in Trempealeau. The Great Apple Crunch has become a tradition here and students and staff alike enjoy the opportunity to "crunch" every year.





WEST SALEM ATHLETICS BOOSTER CLUB Sponsorship Form

490 North Mark Street, West Salem, WI 54669

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. Some recent examples include: Football Guardian Helmet Caps, Panther Den Ice Machine, Wrestling Mats, Soccer Hudl program, Girls Basketball Hudl program, and State Championship banners in the gymnasium. The Booster Club supports all athletic programs. This Sponsorship drive is one way the Booster Club raises money to support the athletic programs.

Board Members include:

Bryan Novy - President
Kim Dummer - Vice President
Emily Rogge - Secretary
Therese Novy - Treasurer
Members: Matt Quick, Mark Ziegler

Yearly Family Sponsorship-\$25.00 (2020-2021 School year)

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

With each sponsorship you will receive a Panther yard sign or a Panther window cling to proudly display. Please put a check mark next to your selection. _____ Sign _____ Cling

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

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes September 28, 2020 Marie Heider Meeting Room 6:00 p.m.

As noted on the Public Meeting Notice: The health and safety of district employees, Board of Education and the community is our number one priority. Therefore, the district is taking precautionary measures consistent with the CDC and the La Crosse County Health Department recommendations. *Board members may participate via remote access. The room will be open to limited spectators. Live streaming of this meeting was available on our District's YouTube page. Face coverings were required to be worn when attending the meeting and social distancing measures should be followed.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe's Country Market, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on September 24, 2020.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Shawn Handland led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Jane Halverson recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Jane Halverson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Ryan Rieber, Ben Wopat, Mike Malott, Tami Bagstad, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Madisyn Haun (remote access) and Maxwell Goetz (remote access).
Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Eric Jensen.

Approval of Agenda

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

Connection with the Community

Maxwell Goetz, Student Representative, reported on:

1. This morning the high school had some technical issues this morning, but they were able to solve that problem within 20 minutes.
2. Mid-quarter is this Friday.

Madisyn Haun, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Off to a slow start on the SEP, but we're starting to dive into it and really get started.
2. All sports are on pause, but many are having scheduled remote meetings to talk about workouts, game tape, or anything else

Correspondence

A thank you note from Our Savior's Lutheran Church/Feed Our Children was read.

A thank you note from the family of Conrad Miller was read.

Public comments

Tricia Johnson spoke on virtual learning.
Jennifer Black spoke on virtual learning.

Written and Oral Reports

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

Human Resource updates: the resignation of Kenny DeRossiers as the assistant boys' basketball coach; the hiring of Emily Rogge as a 4K paraprofessional, Gerald Every as a van/bus driver, Sandy Carlson as a bus paraprofessional.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a) minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 14, 2020;
 - b) invoices to be paid;
 - c) to accept the donation from Callie Helgeson for the high school;
 - d) elementary council of kids-Kayla Wegner, elementary after school art-Kaylin Lotspaih, elementary yearbook-Krista Mead, color guard-Kelli Martin, jazz band & pep band-Dave Kies, show choir-Amy Hanson, show choir assistant-Kelli Martin, drama club-Amy Hanson & Rhonda Andres, play director 1st and 2nd semester-Rhonda Andres, assistant one-act play 1st semester-Amy Hanson, Assistant one-act play 2nd semester-Elle Nimm, stage manager 1st and 2nd semester-Dan Heerts, forensics-Kim Volden, forensics assistant-Andrea Armstrong, summer theatre director-Amy Hanson, summer theatre instrumental-Dave Kies, summer theatre vocal-Rhonda Andres, summer theater stage-Dan Heerts, student council-Darren Fruit, Neshonoc Yearbook-Andrea Armstrong, Link Crew-Missy Haas & Jamie Olson, Visual Arts Classic-Quenten Brown, quiz bowl-Jim Klos, ecology club-Kelly Rueckheim, math club-Chris Milne, FFA-Kelly Rueckheim, Skills USA-Carrie Wilson-Smith, DECA-Jason Holter, DECA assistant-Brittney Hodgson, robotics-Erik Mathison, robotics assistant-Dave Halverson, pep club-Rhonda Andres, NHS-Jenny Stenberg, diversity club-Kim Volden, trapshooting club-Paul Liethen, Youth Frontiers-Ryan Nelson, homecoming supervisor windows-Quenten Brown, homecoming supervisor parade-Eric Borre, homecoming supervisor Mr/Mrs WS-Amy Hanson, homecoming supervisor floats-Laura Deal, homecoming supervisor dance-Rhonda Andres, freshman class-Eric Borre, sophomore class-Jim Klos, junior class-Kim Volden & Sydney Prom, senior class-Rhonda Andres, Laura Deal, Julie Arentz, Jessica Tripp, volunteer Health Occupation Student of America-Toni Key, volunteer interact club-Julie Arentz, volunteer fishing club-Darren Fruit & Brian Baker, volunteer Spanish club-Becky Tower & Shelly Helland, volunteer DECA-Josh Maliszewski, volunteer trapshooting-Patrick Burchell, James Schmitz, Terry Logging, Michael Larson, Lucas Miholovic, Kyle Helgeson, Ryan Rasmussen, Bryce Perrett, David Komay, Barry Logging, Dale Hewitt, Andrea Modlin, Chris Modlin, Dave Bohnsack, Tom Garbers, Erik Mathison, Bob Schuppel, & Jeff Busse, middle school band assistant-Mardeana Glasel, middle school jazz band-Ryan Waldhart, grades 5/6 choir-Elle Nimm, middle school show choir-Elle Nimm, middle school show choir assistant-Alexandra Burch, WEB Leader Heather Jehn, Alyssa Jarosh & Ben Tashner, middle school student council-Ben Tashner, middle school yearbook-Jenny Morgan & Nicole Friell, middle school forensics-Nicole Friell, middle school forensics assistant-Mary Czajka, Mathcounts-Tammy Bentzen & Sarah Weber, and middle school council of kids-Martha Burdick;
 - e) hire Kathleen Richardson as a limited-term registered nurse.
- Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

School Board Grants will continue as normal. Jane Halverson, Robin Fitzgerald and Erik Peterson will review grant applications and make a recommendation at the November 9, 2020, Regular Board Meeting.

Mr. Handland provided an update on the proposed 20-21 budget, mill rate and tax levy.

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to accept the administrations recommendation to eliminate the early release day on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, and make it a full-day of school. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schlimgen moved to adopt the matrix based on municipality numbers (7-day look) with the caveat, would not to exceed the higher of 8 persons or 4 households, and with the approval of our insurance carrier and our legal counsel. Mr. Schlimgen rescinded his motion. Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to use the municipality numbers on the West Salem Decision Matrix. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes September 28, 2020 continued... Marie Heider Meeting Room 6:00 p.m.

unanimously.

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

Board Development Session
Mr. Rieber led the Board and administrators through the review of the Board Development Tool Report.

Mrs. Griffin assigned the Board and administration to the Intro and Chapter 1 of The Governance Core: School Boards, Superintendents and Schools Working Together for the next Board Development Sessions.

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

Adjournment
Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Halverson, Clerk

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

School District of West Salem

April 6, 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the School District of West Salem, on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, the following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. The term of office for school board member is three years beginning on Monday, April 26, 2021.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Term</u>
School Board Member	Robin Fitzgerald	3 years-Expire April 21, 2024
School Board Member	Jane Halverson	3 years-Expire April 21, 2024

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that a Campaign Registration Statement and a Declaration of Candidacy, must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, in the office of the school district clerk. The office of the school district clerk is located at 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI 54669

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that if a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

A description of the school district boundaries can be obtained from the school district office.

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

Done in the School District of West Salem on October 26, 2020

Enjoying the Outdoors

Throughout the month of October, our elementary and middle school students had a chance to get outdoors and enjoy the OEC, also known as the school forest. These trips are a highlight for students and staff in the fall and spring, and it was a great opportunity to get some fresh air while learning about various aspects of the outdoors. Our students learned so much in their outdoor “classroom.” Our younger students learned about habitats and how animals prepare for winter while also looking for signs of

animals in the forest. They got to take a hike to the forest spring where they found some frogs, and completed a habitat and nature scavenger hunt too. Our older students tried geocaching, collected macroinvertebrates while doing a pond study, hiked through the woods, read by the fire and had quiet reflection time. Despite some rainy and cool weather, students and staff made the best of it. We are so fortunate that we have the school forest where our students have an opportunity to get out in nature and learn.



HARVEST OF THE MONTH
NEWSLETTER 11/2020



Did You Know?

Wisconsin is the nation's #1 cranberry producer!

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.

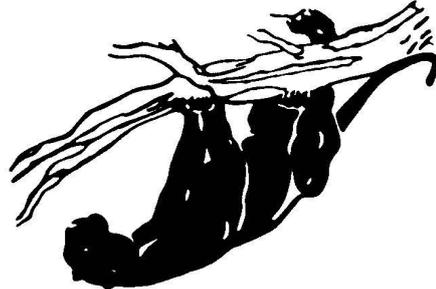


School District of West Salem

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



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