

July 2024



Newsletter

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Letter from Superintendent Ryan Rieber

Endless Opportunities Await

July is a month of endless possibilities, where the warmth of summer inspires growth, change, and new adventures, much like that within our school district. July marks the beginning of the new fiscal year and preparations for the upcoming school year. July also marks when auditors will be on campus to review our books and provide a summary report to the district. These reports and the new budgeting phase will lead us to our October Annual Meeting.

With the summer in full swing, we are also working on summer projects across the district. There are flooring projects planned at the elementary school, work to replace the window wells at the high school along Hamlin Street, and resurface the tennis courts. The flooring work at the elementary school continues to replace the original carpet, which is being replaced with a more sanitary, modern-looking LTV flooring. As we move into the school year and these projects are completed, we will provide pictures of these updates in our newsletter and on

social media.

Along with changing over our fiscal year, we also have administrative changes within the district. Mr. Justin Jehn will begin as our high school principal on Monday, July 1st. I would also like to introduce our new high school associate principal, Mr. Cody Braun. He will be serving in partnership with Mr. Jehn. We are excited about our district's new leadership and the knowledge they will bring to these positions.

Last month, we shared that the School District of West Salem held its first Community Task Force meeting to look at our district facility assessment and possible capital improvements. That work has continued, and we have since held a second Community Task Force meeting about potential improvements to our district buildings and facilities. To provide some further background, in January, the District began a comprehensive process better to understand the condition and needs of all District facilities. A facility assessment was completed that evaluated each school's building systems, envelope, and finishes. In addition,

Letter continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

student capacity and the adequacy of educational spaces were analyzed. The study identified short and long-term needs in our buildings. Specifically, it showed a need to address large capital maintenance projects at the high school, update classrooms, expand and renovate the career and technical educational space, improve the music classrooms, and expand the gym and fitness space.

As stated earlier, we invited a group of community members to participate in a task force to learn about the facility assessment results, tour the schools, understand the state of the district's finances, and hear about potential projects and costs. Taskforce members provided their input and ideas, which will continue with the third meeting on Wednesday, July 31st, at 6:00 pm. A summary of these presentations can be found on our website under "District" > "Long-Range Facility Planning and Assessment." However, we are now at the point where we want to gather feedback from the greater community. The District will conduct a community-wide survey in July to help citizens understand the needs and costs and identify our community's collective tax increase threshold. The District needs your participation in this survey.

A postcard will be landing in mailboxes the week of July

8. The survey can be taken online, or a paper copy can be printed off the district website. It can also be received by calling the school district office to have a survey mailed to you. We ask that all surveys be returned or completed by July 27.

The survey results will determine if and when the district makes the next set of investments in our schools.

As we continue with the work and community efforts stated above, we can all agree that we want to provide the highest quality education to our students while respecting those we serve throughout the community. That is why we encourage and seek as much of your input as possible. Edward Everett Hale wrote, "Coming together is the beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success." Collectively, we will make a difference in the lives of our students and community.

Thank you for your thoughts and input; they are greatly appreciated!
Enjoy the warmth of summer!

Ryan Rieber
Superintendent



CLASS OF 2025: 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 Slideshow. 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 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. 15,
2024

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.

2024-2025 Registration Information and Reminders

Elementary School

Online registration through Skyward Family Access for West Salem Elementary 4K through 4th grade students will start August 1st. If you are unable to register online, an in-house registration will be held on Tuesday, **August 13th** from 12:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Jostens will be here to take student pictures at this time. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.

4K

If you have a child who will be four years old by September 1st 2024, please call the Elementary Office (786-1662) ASAP to register your child, if you have not already done so. There is a morning and an afternoon session of 4K offered Monday through Thursday each week.

Kindergarten

If you have a child who will be five years old by September 1st, 2024, please call the Elementary Office (786-1662) ASAP to register your child, if you have not already done so.

Middle School

Online registration through Skyward Family Access for West Salem Middle 5th-8th grade students will start | August 1st. If you are unable to register online, in-house registration will be held on Tuesday, **August 13th** from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Jostens will be here to take pictures at this time. Please plan on attending!

8th Grade W.E.B. Leader Training

August 12 & 13, 2024

8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

MS Gym

Meet in the gym each morning with a water bottle, a pen/pencil, and some light snacks (no nuts or peanut/peanut butter allowed). Wear comfy clothes (no skirts) for the activities. You will receive information about expectations such as report time and attire for the 5th grade orientation day during your training.

5th Grade W.E.B. Orientation

August 14, 2024

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

MS Gym

Wear comfy clothes (no skirts) and leave your bags, backpacks, hats, and phones at home...travel light! The purpose of this orientation day is to make the transition from elementary school to middle school a positive one. Eighth graders will be serving as leaders and mentors to the fifth graders. Large and small group activities are designed to address students' needs and concerns in an enjoyable manner. Students will be eating a school-provided lunch with their leaders that day.

Please do not drop your student off early as there is no supervision available

We can't wait to meet your child!

The WEB Coordinators,

Amber Coe, Nicole Shrake, Whitney Folkers and Heather Jehn

2024-2025 Registration Information- and Reminders

High School

High school registration is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, **August 6th** from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. in the high school commons. Jostens will be here to take student pictures at this time. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending!

Link Crew Freshman Orientation

Link Crew Freshman Orientation

August 27, 2024
7:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m.
WSHS Gymnasium

The purpose of this orientation is to make the transition from middle school to high school a positive one. Seniors and juniors will be serving as leaders and mentors to the freshmen. Large and small group activities are designed to address students' needs and concerns in an enjoyable manner. Students should wear comfortable shoes and clothing, as this will be an active day! Part of the day will be spent at the school forest, so please plan accordingly. Lunch will be served at this event. Students are expected to attend and stay for the duration of the event.

If you have any questions, please contact Link Crew Coordinator Jamie Olson (olson.jamie@wsalem.k12.wi.us).

Athletics

The WIAA Sports Meetings will once again be part of the online registration process. We will no longer host a large all sport meeting. However, each individual sport will still host a break out session prior to the first date of practice. Dates for individual break out sessions will be placed on the school district calendar once determined.

Students participating in athletics must have a current physical on file with the main office of the high school prior to the first day of practice. Physicals must be dated on or after April 1, 2023, to be valid. Any athletes with physicals dated between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024, must also have an alternate year card on file with the main office. All forms can be downloaded by going to the district website and clicking on "Schools >High School >Activities > Athletics."

Bus Registration

4K-12 Students

Please check your email for registration information from our Transportation Department. If you need assistance or did not receive info, please call or email Monica Quinn at 608-786-0700 ext. 2152 or quinn.monica@wsalem.k12.wi.us. Please complete your registration by July 31. Bus schedules will be mailed in mid-August.

Congratulations to our Retirees!

We are lucky to have over 300 phenomenal staff members here in West Salem, and each year we bid several of them a “see you later” as they enter retirement. Our 2024 retirees by the numbers:

- 13 retirees
- 4 buildings
- Over 280 years of combined service to our district, students, and community!
- Countless memories made and lives impacted!

Our 2024 Retirees are:

- Martha Burdick - 5th Grade Teacher
- Jane Frank - Elementary School Administrative Assistant
- Kelly Hicks - High School Cook
- Randy Hughes - High School Social Studies Teacher
- Ruby Kerkman - Elementary School Speech and Language Pathologist
- Scott Koepnick - High School Math Teacher
- Mike Lang - Middle School Counselor
- Mike Malott - High School Principal
- Inger Michael - High School Cook
- Carrie Niedfeldt - Middle School Custodian
- Kathy Stello - Elementary School Administrative Assistant
- Lynn Strong - Elementary School Kitchen Manager
- John Sullivan - Outdoor Education Center (OEC) Coordinator

Thank you for your dedication, passion and service to our students and community!

District Announcements



Camping with their Classmates

Although they had less than ideal weather, our 7th graders had another great week at the school forest for their annual end of the year camp out! The first groups had to cut their time short because of severe weather, but they were still able to fit in lots of fun activities including trail biking, pond studies, geocaching, work detail, and more.

Much of this, they did in the rain! Part of their work detail was helping to construct an observation deck in memory of retired 5th grade teacher, Michael Lyga Sr. or Mr. Lyga, who served the district for 40 years.

As they waited to do their “wolf howl” they took in some beautiful sunsets. They couldn’t leave without enjoying some delicious s’mores and the traditional pancake breakfast by the fire. The camp out is long standing tradition for seventh grade students and it continues to be a memorable experience for all who attend! Thank you to our awesome staff members who put in a ton of time to make sure this is a successful trip!



School Board Members

- Catherine Griffin, President ~~~~~ 769-1714
- Tom Grosskopf, Vice President ~~~~~ 386-0168
- Erik Peterson, Clerk ~~~~~ 792-5370
- Sean Gavaghan, Treasurer ~~~~~ 797-3585
- Bob Minard, Director ~~~~~ 786-9998
- Bob Gollnik, Director ~~~~~ (612) 720-1852
- Caitlin Wilson, Director ~~~~~ (608) 780-3836

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

District Announcements

Heider Center



Heider Center Mainstage 2024-2025 Tickets

Season Ticket ordering for the 2024-2025 season is now finished.

Individual tickets for all shows will go on sale on Monday, August 12th at noon on the heider center website (www.heidercenter.org) and they will be on sale at the box office starting at 1:30pm.

Please note our NEW box office hours.

New Box Office Hours
Monday & Thursday: 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Open Everyday 1:30-4:00 pm the WEEK before a Show
www.heidercenter.org



WSMS Hosts WASBO Custodial & Maintenance Conference

It may be summer, but that doesn't mean the learning stops for our staff! West Salem Middle School recently hosted the Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials (WASBO) Custodial and Maintenance Conference where custodial and maintenance staff from around the state learned about safety, efficiency, best practices, cost savings, facilities management, and much more!



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 2024-2025

Are you new to the district and looking to enroll your students for the 2024-2025 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 June 10, 2024

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 June 6, 2024.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Caitlin Wilson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Bob Gollnik recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Bob Gollnik, Catherine Griffin, and Caitlin Wilson. Also in attendance – Administration: Ryan Rieber, Heidi Horton, Justin Jehn (7:26), Alyssa Harlan, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Jessa Hickey and Brennon Anderson. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Tom Grosskopf, Bob Minard, Sean Gavaghan, Mike Malott, Ben Wopat, and Alex Hubing.

Approval of Agenda

C. Wilson moved, B. Gollnik seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Written and Oral Reports

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

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

Connection with the Community

Jessa Hickey, Student Representative, reported on:

1. With the school year ending, many sports and clubs wound down for the season.
2. After a good run, girls softball lost 3-4 in the sectional finals against Mount Horeb.
3. Kyle Hehli qualified for boys' tennis individual state where he took 4th place.
4. Students in the CNA program completed their final assessments and received their certifications.
5. Girls' soccer lost 1-2 in the semifinals to Rice Lake.
6. The track and field team had a very successful season, taking the boys' 4 x 100, 4 x 800 (which broke the school record), and Carter Walter in the 100 to state. The girls' 4 x 800 also competed at state. The boys' relays placed on the podium with the 4 x 100 taking 5th and the 4 x 800 taking 6th.

Brennon Anderson, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The theater department is continuing to prepare for their summer musical, Mamma Mia. The opening show is this Thursday, June 13.
2. The high school held the annual senior sports recognition assembly where many students were recognized for their participation in various activities. Juniors Kyle Hehli and Megan Johnson were named male and female athlete of the year, and Zoe Coder was nominated for the WIAA Spirit of Sports award.
3. The high school band marched in the June Dairy Days' parade and then later that day the Jazz 1 and 2 both performed their music at the gazebo.
4. The beginning of summer marked the start of Panther Portfolio projects for those seniors doing summer projects.

5. CAT program began at the start of last week. This gives students a chance to lift and better themselves in the summer.

6. This year's yearbook dedicatees were Mrs. Martinson and Mrs. Bentzen.

7. Running club started today and it runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30.

Correspondence

A thank you note from Brennan Garbers was read.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

C. Wilson moved, C. Griffin seconded to approve the Regular Board meeting Minutes of May 13, 2024. Motion carried. 3 Aye, 1 Abstain (E. Peterson abstained)

C. Wilson moved, B. Gollnik seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

a. the invoices to be paid;

b. to hire Cody Braun as the 1.0 FTE high school associate principal;

c. to accept a donation from Martha & Clark Burdick Fund within the Mielke Family Foundation, Inc. for the elementary school, for the elementary school special education department in memory of Emerson Small, from Bridget Peterson, Lynn Strong, Jane Frank, Julie Athnos, Cassandra Bramblett, Dawn Gerke, Kimberly Schmidt, Connie Hudzinski, Denise Jones, Becki Murphy, Emmy Schmidt, Amber Walter, and Wendy Whitehead for the Nutrition Services Jane Doe Fund;

d. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendations:

Becki Murphy-head girls' volleyball coach

Jamie Holst, Brianna Meyer and Jordyn Bruette-assistant volleyball coach

Amber Coe-head 8th grade volleyball coach

Sarah Weber-assistant 8th grade volleyball coach

Nicole Shrake-head 7th grade volleyball coach

Thomas Fell-head boys' soccer coach

Tyler Leren-assistant boys' soccer coach

Steve Averbek-volunteer soccer coach

Justin Stakston-head cross country coach

Cameron Robaczewski and Averie Duffy-assistant high school cross country coach

Stacy Mitchell-volunteer high school assistant cross-country coach

Heidi Propson-head middle school cross country coach

Julie Kamla-head girls' tennis coach

Brian Baker and Hailey Hudzinski-assistant girls' tennis coach

Dennis Kreuser-volunteer girls' tennis coach

Ashly Serres-head Adaptive Sports League Coach (3 seasons)

Jack Reader-Adaptive Sports League Coach (3 seasons)

e. to accept the administration's co-curricular salary schedule changes for the 2024-25 school year.

Motion carried. 3 Aye, 1 Nay (E. Peterson)

C. Wilson moved, B. Gollnik seconded to move high school football cocurricular recommendations to after closed session tonight. Motion carried unanimously.

No action was taken on the hiring of a high school biology teacher and there were no resignations to accept.

Discussion/Action Items:

Facility Needs and potential projects/costs, including current debt and borrowing options were presented by Kevin Bills from ISG, Jason Peterson from Krause/Anderson and Debby Burnett from Baird. No action was taken.

C. Griffin moved, B. Minard seconded to set the 2024 Board Retreat for July 8, 2024. The Regular Board to start at 6:00 p.m. with the Retreat happening at

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes June 10, 2024 continued... Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

the end of the meeting. Motion Carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, B. Minard seconded to set the August 12, 2024, Regular Board Meeting start time to 6:00 to accommodate the Task Force Meeting. 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.

Closed Session

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

C. Wilson moved, E. Peterson seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:44 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: C. Wilson, Aye; E. Peterson, Aye; B. Gollnik, Aye; and C. Griffin, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

E. Peterson moved, C. Griffin seconded to reconvene into Open Session at 10:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Session

E. Peterson moved, C. Griffin seconded to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendation for high school football: Ryan Olson-head coach, Bob Gorniak, Nick Seibert, Ethan Ringlien, and Mark Byom-assistant coach, and Craig Reid, Ben Wopat, Erik Mathison-volunteer assistant football coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

C. Wilson moved, C. Griffin seconded to adjourn at 10:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Peterson, Clerk



Starts 6/4

Tuesdays and Thursdays

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

Meals can be picked up at Our Savior's Lutheran Church
359 Leonard St. N (use East Ave. door)

Free meals for kids 18 and under

For more info, check the Feed Our Children - West Salem
Facebook page.

Exploring Our Nation's History

Our 8th grade students had the opportunity to learn about many different aspects of our country's history as they ended their school year on their annual trip to Washington, D.C.! As they traveled across the country, they took in some amazing sights including Gettysburg, the Flight 93 Memorial, the Skokie Holocaust Museum, Mt. Vernon, the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the

Smithsonian, Capitol Building, Library of Congress, the White House and much more! This trip is a great way to wrap up their middle school careers while learning lots along the way! A big thank you to all of our parent and staff chaperones that make this trip a successful and memorable experience for our students!



Did You Know?

Strawberries are the only fruit with the seeds on the outside!
There are on average 200 seeds per strawberry.



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/X
[@WestSalemSD](#)
and Instagram
[@schooldistrictofwestsalem](#)



For WSHS athletic events, visit our website:
*click Calendars and then
*click Coulee Conference/Mississippi Valley Conference
You can also set yourself up to receive automatic text or e-mail notifications for any of the activities listed OR subscribe to RSS.



School District of West Salem

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



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