

June 2024



Newsletter

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Letter from Superintendent Ryan Rieber

A Time of Change

As we move into the summer of 2024, the District is in the midst of a good deal of change. From those staff members that have retired with over two-hundred eighty years of experience to the change in our graduation, this time in our District reminded me of a quote by Prince Phillip of England. Prince Phillip stated, “Change does not change tradition. It strengthens it. Change is a challenge and opportunity, not a threat.”

An example of this change was the celebration of the class of 2024. This year’s graduating class was the first graduation ceremony that took place on a Friday. Everyone involved in this preparation did an outstanding job! Graduation marks a significant milestone for our students, families, and community. The ceremony celebrated the achievements and wished them well on their future endeavors. This senior class had experienced a great deal during their time as students, and I am excited to see what this class continues to accomplish as they enter the next phase of their lives. We are proud of all of you and

wish you all the best!

On Wednesday, May 29th, the District held its first of three Community Task Force sessions to gain input on our facilities and possible future needs. The time and thought of the roughly thirty people that attended was invaluable to us! We will be having another meeting on Monday, June 24th, at the elementary school beginning at 6:00 pm. The District invites all community members to attend as we continue to discuss our district facility assessment. These meetings will continue to provide an overview of the current state of our facilities, proposed improvements, and future plans to enhance our learning environments. Your feedback and ideas are crucial as we work together to create a safe, efficient, and inspiring space for our students and staff. We encourage everyone to participate and share their perspectives.

As we wrap up another school year, I want to extend deep gratitude to our incredible staff. Their unwavering commitment and dedication to our students and community have been the driving force behind our success. From early mornings to late evenings, they have shown resilience,

Letter continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

passion, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. Thank you staff for all that you do – you are truly the heart and soul of our school.

As we head into the summer break, the District wishes everyone a season filled with relaxation, joy, and new adventures. Take this time to recharge, spend quality moments with loved ones, and enjoy the sunshine. Remember to stay safe and healthy, and we look forward to welcoming you back for another exciting school year in August! Stay up-to-date with all our news and events by following us on social media and visiting our website at <https://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us/>.

Just because school is out for the summer, does not mean that there will not be exciting events occurring in and around campus.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with our school community. Have a fantastic summer!

Ryan Rieber
Superintendent



 **CONGRATULATIONS,
CLASS OF 2024!**

 SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
WEST SALEM



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.



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.

SWARTHOUT POOL



OPENING DAY | JUNE 5

Pool Hours Monday through Friday

Early Risers: 6:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.

Adult Lap Swim: 12:45 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Open Swim: 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Pool Hours Saturday and Sunday

Open Swim: 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

For admission and membership prices, visit the district website at www.wsalem.k12.wi.us and then go to "Community" > "Swarthout Pool".
Other Questions? Call the pool at (608) 786-5309

A Sweet Reward

Mrs. Baldwin's first grade class set a goal for the month of April to read 400 books outside of school and they knocked it out of the park! We're proud to tell you they not only met, but exceeded their goal by reading 465 books, which meant that they earned the opportunity to pie both Mrs. Baldwin, and their principal, Mr. Hubing in the face! They had a perfect sunny day to pull out the whipped cream and they had a blast participating in their reward! Great job completing your challenge!



District Announcements



The Next Step in Their Future

We are proud to offer a variety of courses and opportunities to our students to prepare them for life after high school, whether they choose to move on to a college or university or enter the workforce or military. One of the options available to our students is a Youth Apprenticeship, which allows them to earn course credit, as well as obtain on the job training and earn wages at the same time. We recently held a "signing" for six of our graduating seniors who will continue employment with their YA employers after graduation. Some will continue on as registered apprentices, while others will continue technical training while working in a variety of fields including electrical, plumbing, transportation, and more. Thank you to Olson Solar Energy, Maxwell-White Plumbing, Inc., Gerke Excavating, Inc and Kwik Trip for offering these opportunities to our students and to Mrs. Hinkel, our Business Education teacher and YA Coordinator for all her hard work! We know they are Career and Life Ready and we are excited to see where their futures take them!



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 Season Tickets

Season tickets for the new 2024-2025 Heider Center Mainstage Season will go on sale Wednesday, May 29th at 1:30 pm. and end Friday, June 28th at 4:00 pm.

Season tickets for both the 8 show and 5 show season can only be ordered through the Heider Center box office (not online). There is a 15% discount for ordering all 8 shows early.

Individual show tickets will go on sale to the general public on Monday, August 12th at 1:30 pm

**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

Food for America

Our 4th grade students recently attended “Food for America” a yearly event where West Salem and Bangor High School FFA students teach them about where their food comes from. The students traveled between Holthaus Dairy Farms, Old Oak Farm, the West Salem High School Aquaponics lab, and the La Crosse County Fairgrounds where they were able to interact with the animals including goats, sheep, pigs, chickens, horses, beef and dairy cattle, fish, ducks, and a bunny! Special thank you to St. Joe’s Equipment who brought machinery and Premier Co-Op who brought a lime/ fertilizer spreader to the fairgrounds as well as the Bangor and West Salem Alumni who served lunch and Culvers by the Onalaska High School who donated custard for 250!



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.’

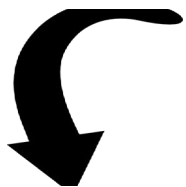
If you have questions, please call the High School Student Services Office at (608) 786-1220.

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 May 13, 2024

Marie Heider Meeting Room

7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Catherine Griffin. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee Courier, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district website, and district office on May 10, 2024.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

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

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

T. Grosskopf 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, Directors' Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

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

Workforce Engagement and Development Committee – Tom Grosskopf reported on the agenda item: negotiations with the West Salem Education Association.

Superintendent Rieber shared information from Employee Appreciation Week in the district.

Superintendent Rieber and Board Members Bob Minard and Tom Grosskopf traveled to Eleva-Strum School District's Cardinal Manufacturing to understand what happens in their facility.

Human Resource updates: the hiring of Nicole Hurtz-cook/administrative assistant, Lance Loeffelholz-custodian, Miranda Piper-administrative assistant; and the resignations of Jessica Ghaith and Megan Rheame-Brand – paraprofessionals.

Connection with the Community

Jessa Hickey, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The seniors had their Panther Portfolio presentations this past Wednesday
2. The Sports and Entertainment Marketing Class put on May-Mayhem this past week where there were giveaways at the tennis match, softball game, and baseball game.
3. The dance team held tryouts last week and will begin their season in June.
4. Prom was Saturday, May 4th. King and Queen were Gideon Wolbrink and Sydney Quick.
5. The National Honor Society inducted 32 new members on May 5th
6. The track team had their conference meet on Saturday in Arcadia. The boys' took home their 4th conference title in a row, and the girls' took 3rd.

7. The softball team won conference and received the number-3 seed for playoffs; they will have a first-round bye this Thursday.

8. The boys' tennis team has conference on Thursday and will be competing against Viroqua, Black River Falls, and Mauston.

9. Students have been rehearsing for the summer musical, Mamma Mia. The opening show is on June 13th.

10. The baseball team is 6 and 12, they will begin playoffs next Thursday.

11. This Wednesday is the senior sports awards ceremony, and Friday is the yearbook dedication.

Correspondence

*A thank you note from Toni Key was read.

*Wisconsin Department of Instruction Proclamations were shared: School Lunch Hero Day-May 3, Children's Mental Health Week-May 5-11.

*Many thank you notes, regarding the new book vending machine, from multiple classrooms at the elementary were shared.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda

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

a. the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2024, and the Special Board Meeting of May 6, 2024;

b. the invoices to be paid;

c. the resignation of Caden Servais-high school science teacher, Kris Marquez-middle school resource teacher; and Jill Gunderson-high school English teacher;

d. to hire Tatiana Wolf as a 1.0 FTE School Social Worker;

e. to accept the donation from the La Crosse Area Autism Foundation for the elementary school special education classroom and physical education department, from Mayo Clinic/Sydney Laursen's Panther Portfolio Project for the District health office, and from Morries Automotive Group-West Salem for the staff of the district.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

T. Grosskopf moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve policies for a second reading:

Po0100 – Definitions, Po0122 - Board Powers, Po0144.3 – Conflict Of Interest, Po0171.3 – Clerk, Po2250 – Innovative And Pilot Programs, Po2413 – Health Education, Po2460.03 – Independent Educational Evaluation (LEE), Po3431 – Employee Leaves, Po4431 – Employee Leaves, Po5517 – Student Anti-Harassment, Po5610 – Suspension And Expulsion, Po6325 – Procurement - Federal Grants/Funds, Po6611 - New Policy - District-Supported/Sponsored Student Activity Accounts, Po7440 – Facility Security, Po7540 – Technology, Po8120 – Volunteers, Po8330 - Student Records, Po8407 – School Resource Officer Program, Po8431 – Preparedness For Toxic Hazards, Po8700 – Lactating Employees, Po9130 - Public Requests, Suggestions, Or Complaints, Po9140 – Citizens' Advisory Committees, Po7544 – Social Media, Po5461 - Children At-Risk Of Not Graduating From High School, and Po8310 - Public Records. Motion carried unanimously.

T. Grosskopf moved, B. Gollnik seconded to approve rescinding policy 7544.01 – District Use of Social Media. Motion carried unanimously.

Director of Pupil Services Heidi Horton presented the 5-Year Pupil Nondiscrimination Report. No action was taken.

B. Gollnik moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve the Open Enrollment requests for the 2024-2025 school year, with the exceptions of students 6, 35, 36, 37, 40, 51, 52, 55, 56, and 59. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Rieber provided a Facility Assessment/campus project recap from the May 6, 2024, Special Board Meeting with members from ISG/Krause

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes May 13, 2024 continued... Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

Krause Anderson. No action was taken.

Superintendent Rieber provided an update on the communication with the Department of Public Instruction on the 4K Model 3 offering. No action was taken.

T. Grosskopf moved, B. Minard seconded to adopt the budget adjustments for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

T. Grosskopf moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the staffing request for an additional vehicle driver for the 24-25 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

Superintendent Rieber reviewed the Procedure for Parent Request for Alternative Learning. 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 salaries for individual district and administrative staff member(s) for the 24-25 school year; and Wis. Stats §19.85(1) (e) deliberating or negotiating or bargaining reasons require a closed session; for the purposes of discussing the employee compensation with the West Salem Education Association for the 2024-2025 school year.

B. Minard moved, C. Wilson seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:37 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: C. Wilson, Aye; B. Gollnik, Aye; C. Griffin, Aye; T. Grosskopf, Aye; and B. Minard, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

T. Grosskopf moved, B. Gollnik seconded to reconvene into Open Session at 9:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Session

Discussion/Action Items:

T. Grosskopf moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the following:

- a. setting the wages for the support staff for the 24-25 school year;
- b. setting the wages for all the district staff and administration for the 24-25 school year;
- c. setting the wages on the miscellaneous wage-sheet for the 24-25 school year;
- d. setting the wage for the co-curricular salary schedule for the 24-25 school year;
- e. adopting the agreement with the West Salem Education Association for the 24-25 school year.

Adjournment

C. Wilson moved, T. Grosskopf seconded to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Motion

carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Minard, Acting Clerk

West Salem High School presents

MAMMA MIA!

THE MUSICAL

Thursdays & Fridays, June 13-14 & June 20-21

7:00 pm

Marie W. Heider Center for the Arts

Tickets \$10.00

Produced with permission from Music Theatre International, New York, NY

Row, Row, Row Your Boat!

With sunshine, blue skies, and calm waters on Lake Neshonoc, our 7th grade Panther Time students had a perfect day for their cardboard boat races! Students were tasked with creating a boat out of cardboard that could carry two of them 45 yards out into Lake Neshonoc and back to shore. They used a variety of unique construction methods to create their boats, and while some had more success than others, they all

had a blast with the project! Almost half of the boats successfully completed their mission, and several were very close! The winners of the day were “The Duckling” with the fastest time, “The Floater” with the best design, and “Coconut Crushers” with the best theme. Regardless of their success on the water, the students did a great job exhibiting creativity and innovation!



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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