

May 2024



Newsletter

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Letter from Superintendent Ryan Rieber

Celebrating Endings and Making New Beginnings

May brings many exciting events and traditions across the district. From Panther Portfolio presentations, to 8th grade recognition and the Washington D.C. trip, to senior sing-out, senior walk-through, and graduation, this is a month of preparation, fun, and goodbyes. In addition, the week of May 6th is Staff Appreciation Week. I am incredibly privileged to work with a staff like ours! Our children get a fantastic education here in the West Salem School District, and this is due to the staff throughout all of our buildings and, of course, your support as parents/guardians and community members. Every adult that comes in contact with a child is a teacher, and everyone plays a role in educating our children. Our staff in West Salem genuinely cares about our kids! I encourage you to find an opportunity this month to reach out to an educator in our district and thank them for all of their time, effort, and dedication in supporting our kids getting an education that is second to none.

As we prepare to enter the summer months, we know that

some of the services that we provide students throughout the school year will not be present. This includes providing our students meals through our school lunch program. One of the cornerstones of our community is coming together to support those in need. With the summer months quickly approaching, please remember our local food pantry. Our local food pantry is open for those looking to donate or receive food items. The food pantry is located in Our Savior's Lutheran Church and is open every Saturday morning from 10 AM to noon. For questions, please email wsalempantry@yahoo.com or call 608-786-0030. Your donations, big or small, can make a significant difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Exciting news is sprouting within our district! Recently, the district was approached by a community member requesting the use of district property to establish a community garden. Details are still being worked out; however, the plan is for a garden to be established on school property adjacent to our bus garage. The garden will be available for community members to volunteer, spend time outside, cultivate fresh produce, and foster a sense of unity and sustainability within our community.

Letter continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities and ways to get involved in this endeavor!

The next steps of our district's long-range facility plan are underway. We are taking a detailed look at our current and future maintenance needs as well as envisioning the future of our educational infrastructure. We are in the process of reviewing the results of our long-range facility study, as well as looking at educational needs for our students throughout the district. One area that we are looking at is expansion of our Career and Technological Education learning areas. We will soon be looking for your input, and the engagement of our community is invaluable. Together, we will continue to ensure that our facilities support the growth and success of our students for years to come. Stay tuned for updates on community forums and feedback sessions.

T.S. Elliot once said, "What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a new beginning. The end is where we start from." As we speed towards the end of the school year, we reflect on the truth that the end certainly does make a new beginning. As we approach the end of the year, it is also a new beginning for those staff members who will be retiring. This year we have thirteen staff members retiring after serving with passion for over two-hundred eighty combined years for the West Salem School District. As these retirees prepare to enjoy their lives after education, please take a moment to celebrate their dedication and contributions to our district. Their impact on the lives of students and colleagues alike will be cherished and remembered. Please join me in thanking them for their years of service and wishing them well in their future endeavors. Thank you to Martha Burdick, Jane Frank, Kelly Hicks, Randy Hughes, Ruby Kerkman, Scott Koepnick, Mike Lang, Mike Malott, Inger Michael, Carrie Niedfeldt, Kathy Stello, Lynn Strong, and John Sullivan for your years of service and dedication to West Salem and for the impact you have made on our students and community! It is the hope that they look back on their years here with fondness, and in the words of Dr. Suess, "Don't be sad that it's over, be happy that it happened."

Another end with an exciting new beginning is graduation for our seniors. This momentous occasion marks the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance, and achievement. We invite you to join us in celebrating their accomplishments and wishing them success as they

embark on the next chapter of their lives. A reminder that the graduation ceremony will take place on Friday, May 24, starting at 7:00 pm. As our seniors are preparing to exit the West Salem School District, I want to share with everyone a quote that I received from one of our graduating seniors. This student shared with me, "In life, you have to make many important decisions that will always disappoint at least one person. Make sure that the one person is not yourself." As you are about to embark on your journey, go and do what your heart tells you to do, seek happiness, and remember that you always have a home here in West Salem!

As we look to conclude the year, I also want to thank our parents and community partners for their continued support and collaboration. Together, we have created a nurturing environment where our students can thrive and a district we can all be proud of! Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in our school district. Together, we are building a brighter future for our community and our students.

Congratulations to our retirees and our graduating seniors, and I wish you all a wonderful summer ahead!

Ryan Rieber
Superintendent

Calendar of Events

May

Athletic Events

Thursday, May 2, 2024

- 3:30pm Track: Varsity Invitational vs. Aquinas, Bangor, Cashton, Central, Chippewa Falls, De Soto, Eau Claire Memorial, Holmen & Onalaska @ Central High School
- 4:30pm Golf: Boys JV Match vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Wonewoc Center, Luther, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ Ettrick Golf Course
- 4:30pm Tennis: Boys Varsity Match vs. Black River Falls @ Black River Falls High School
- 5:00pm Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Prairie du Chien @ West Salem High School
- 5:00pm Soccer: Girls JV Match vs. Holmen @ West Salem HS Soccer Fields
- 7:00pm Soccer: Girls Varsity Match vs. Holmen @ West Salem HS Soccer Fields

Friday, May 3, 2024

- 3:30pm Track: Varsity Invitational vs. Adams-Friendship, Aquinas, Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Luther, Mauston, Nekoosa, Osseo-Fairchild, Prairie du Chien, Viroqua, Wautoma, Westby Area High School, Westfield & Wisconsin Dells @ University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
- 5:30pm Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. G-E-T @ West Salem High School
- 5:30pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. G-E-T @ West Salem HS Softball Fields

Monday, May 6, 2024

- 4:15pm Track: Varsity Invite vs. Bangor, Brookwood, Cashton, Dodgeville, Hillsboro, Necedah, Royall, Seneca, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ Viroqua HS/MS Track
- 4:30pm Golf: Boys JV Match vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Wonewoc Center, Luther, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ Castle Rock Golf Course
- 5:00pm Baseball: C-Team Game vs. Westby Area High School @ Westby Area High School

- 5:00pm Baseball: Varsity Game vs. Prescott @ Firehall Field- Prescott

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

- 4:30pm Golf: Boys Varsity Match vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Wonewoc Center, Luther, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ Castle Rock Golf Course
- 4:30pm Tennis: Boys Varsity Match vs. Mauston @ West Salem High School
- 5:00pm Baseball: C-Team Game vs. Holmen @ West Salem High School
- 5:30pm Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Black River Falls @ Black River Falls High School
- 5:30pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Black River Falls @ Black River Falls High School

Thursday, May 9, 2024

- 4:30pm Baseball: JV Game vs. Central @ Central High School
- 4:30pm Baseball: Varsity Game vs. Central @ Copeland Park
- 4:30pm Golf: Boys Varsity Match vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Wonewoc Center, Luther, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ Skyline Golf Club
- 5:30pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Viroqua @ West Salem HS Softball Fields
- TBD Soccer: Girls Varsity End of Season Round Robin vs. Aquinas, Arcadia, Central, Holmen, Logan, Onalaska, Sparta & Tomah

Friday, May 10, 2024

- 9:00am Tennis: Boys Varsity Quad vs. Altoona, Logan & River Falls @ Altoona Tennis Courts
- 4:00pm Soccer: Girls JV Conference Tournament vs. Aquinas, Arcadia, Central, Holmen, Logan, Onalaska, Sparta & Tomah @ Tomah Schools Soccer Complex - SW Field
- 4:30pm Softball: Varsity Game vs. Sparta @ Sparta Memorial Park Field
- 5:30pm Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Viroqua @ West Salem High School
- 6:00pm Softball: JV Game vs. Sparta @ Sparta Memorial Park Field

School District of West Salem

Saturday, May 11, 2024

- 9:00am Tennis: Boys Varsity Quad vs. Marshfield, Tomah & Viroqua @ Tomah La Grange Elementary
- 9:00am Soccer: Girls Varsity/JV Quad vs. Belleville @ Belleville High School
- 10:00am Track: Varsity Conference Tournament vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Luther, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ Arcadia High School Track & Field Complex

Monday, May 13, 2024

- 3:30pm Track: JV Conference Tournament vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Luther, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ G-E-T High School
- 4:30pm Golf: Boys JV Match vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Wonewoc Center, Luther, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ Skyline Golf Club
- 4:30pm Tennis: Boys Varsity Match vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua High School Tennis Courts
- 5:00pm Baseball: C-Team Game vs. Onalaska @ West Salem High School

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

- 11:00am Golf: Boys Varsity Conference Tournament vs. Arcadia, Black River Falls, G-E-T, Hillsboro-Wonewoc Center, Luther, Viroqua & Westby Area High School @ Drugan`s Castle Mound
- 5:30pm Baseball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Luther @ Luther High School
- 5:30pm Softball: JV/Varsity Game vs. Luther @ Luther High School
- TBD Soccer: Girls Varsity End of Season Round Robin vs. Aquinas, Arcadia, Central, Holmen, Logan, Onalaska, Sparta & Tomah

Thursday, May 16, 2024

- 9:00am Tennis: Boys Varsity Conference Tournament vs. Black River Falls, Mauston & Viroqua @ West Salem High School
- 4:00pm Track: Varsity Invitational vs. Bangor, Black River Falls, Brookwood, Onalaska, Sparta, Tomah & Westby Area High School @ Sparta HS Track
- 5:00pm Baseball: C-Team Game vs. Aquinas @ West Salem High School
- TBD Soccer: Girls Varsity End of Season Round Robin vs. Aquinas, Arcadia, Central,

Holmen, Logan, Onalaska, Sparta & Tomah

Friday, May 17, 2024

- 5:00pm Baseball: C-Team/Varsity Game vs. Sparta @ West Salem High School
- 5:00pm Soccer: Girls Varsity Game vs. Reedsburg @ Reedsburg Area High School

Saturday, May 18, 2024

- 10:00am Tennis: Boys Varsity Quad vs. Ellsworth, Logan & Osceola @ West Salem High School Tennis Courts

Monday, May 20, 2024

- 9:00am Tennis: Boys Varsity Invitational vs. Amery, Aquinas, Baldwin-Woodville, Ellsworth, Logan & Osceola @ Green Island Tennis Complex

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

- 5:00pm Baseball: C-Team Game vs. Tomah @ Tomah HS
- 5:00pm Baseball: JV Game vs. Tomah @ West Salem High School
- 5:00pm Baseball: Varsity Game vs. Tomah @ Tomah HS
- TBD Soccer: Girls Varsity End of Season Round Robin vs. Aquinas, Arcadia, Central, Holmen, Logan, Onalaska, Sparta & Tomah

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

- 4:30pm Softball: JV Game vs. Adams-Friendship @ West Salem HS Softball Fields

Thursday, May 23, 2024

- TBD Soccer: Girls Varsity End of Season Round Robin vs. Aquinas, Arcadia, Central, Holmen, Logan, Onalaska, Sparta & Tomah

Band Events

Saturday, May 4, 2024

- All Day State Solo & Ensemble @ UW-L

Sunday, May 19, 2024

- 2:00pm Farewell Concert @ Heider Center
- 5:30pm Fine Arts Banquet Venue TBD

Friday, May 24, 2024

- 6:30pm Graduation @ WSHS Gym
- Wind Symphony

School District of West Salem

Elementary School Events

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

8:30am 1st Grade to the OEC
Antony, Baldwin & Richling

Thursday, May 2, 2024

7:20am Walking School Bus Bonus Days
Meet at the corner of N. Tilson &
W. Hamlin Streets
8:30am 1st Grade to the OEC
Stencel & Christianson

Friday, May 3, 2024

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

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

8:00am 3rd Grade Slide into Safety
12:20pm Early Release
Students dismissed at 12:20pm
Buses depart at 12:30pm

Thursday, May 9, 2024

7:20am Walking School Bus Bonus Days
Meet at the corner of N. Tilson &
W. Hamlin Streets
8:30am 2nd Grade to the OEC
Skaar, Hesse & Crow

Friday, May 10, 2024

7:20am Walking School Bus
Meet at the corner of N. Tilson &
W. Hamlin Streets
8:30am 2nd Grade to the OEC
Servais, Pearson & Flottmeier

Monday, May 13, 2024

8:30am Kindergarten to the OEC
Christianson & Passehl

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

8:30am Kindergarten to the OEC
Wagner & Hickey

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

8:30am Kindergarten to the OEC
Wheeler & Grams
9:00am 1st Grade to Myrick & Trane Parks

Thursday, May 16, 2024

7:20am Walking School Bus Bonus Days
Meet at the corner of N. Tilson &
W. Hamlin Streets

Friday, May 17, 2024

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

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

8:15am 1st Grade to Smith Valley School
Reedy & Chambers

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

8:15am 1st Grade to Smith Valley School
Antony, Baldwin & Richling

Thursday, May 23, 2024

8:15am 1st Grade to Smith Valley School
Stencel & Christianson
8:30am 4th Grade to High Rollers
3rd Grade to Sparta Theater
11:55am 2nd Grade to Village Park & Nick's

Friday, May 24, 2024

All Day Field Day

Monday, May 27, 2024

All Day No School-Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

12:30pm 3rd Grade to the Pool

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

12:30pm 4th Grade to the Pool

Thursday, May 30, 2024

9:00am 1st Grade to Pineview Park
12:20pm Last Day of School
Students dismissed at 12:20pm
Buses depart at 12:30pm

Middle School Events

Thursday, May 2, 2024

8:30am 5th Grade to the International Crane
Foundation
Half of Class

Friday, May 3, 2024

8:30am 5th Grade to the International Crane
Foundation
Half of Class

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

12:20pm Early Release
Students dismissed at 12:20pm
Buses depart at 12:30pm

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

6:00pm 6th & 7th Grade Band & Choir Concerts
@ Heider Center
6th Grade @ 6:00pm
7th Grade @ 7:30pm

School District of West Salem

Monday, May 20, 2024

All Day 7th Grade Campout at the OEC
Half go Monday-Wednesday and half go
Wednesday-Friday

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

7:00pm 8th Grade Band & Choir Concert
@ Heider Center

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

All Day 5th Grade to the La Crosse Queen

Thursday, May 23, 2024

All Day 5th Grade to the La Crosse Queen
7:00pm 8th Grade Promotion @ Heider Center

Monday, May 27, 2024

8:00am 8th Grade Depart for Washington, D.C.
Trip

All Day No School-Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

8:00am 6th Grade to the OEC

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

8:00am 6th Grade to Jellystone

Thursday, May 30, 2024

12:20pm Last Day of School
Students dismissed at 12:20pm
Buses depart at 12:30pm

Thursday, May 30, 2024

12:20pm Last Day of School
Students dismissed at 12:20pm
Buses depart at 12:30pm

High School Events

Friday, May 3, 2024

All Day 4th Quarter Mid-Term Grades Submitted

Saturday, May 4, 2024

7:00pm Prom @ WSHS Gym

Sunday, May 5, 2024

6:00pm NHS Induction @ Heider Center

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

All Day No School for Grades 9-11
12:00pm Panther Portfolio Presentations for Seniors

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

7:00pm Scholarship Awards Night
@ Heider Center

Friday, May 17, 2024

1:30pm Neshonoc Yearbook Dedication
@ Heider Center

Friday, May 24, 2024

1:45pm Senior Sing Out @ WSHS Gym
7:00pm Graduation @ WSHS Gym

Monday, May 27, 2024

All Day No School-Memorial Day

2024 West Salem High School Alumni Hall of Fame Induction

JOIN US TO HONOR OUR 2024 INDUCTEES:



MATTHEW RAYMER ('98)



DOROTHY DUDLEY ('23)



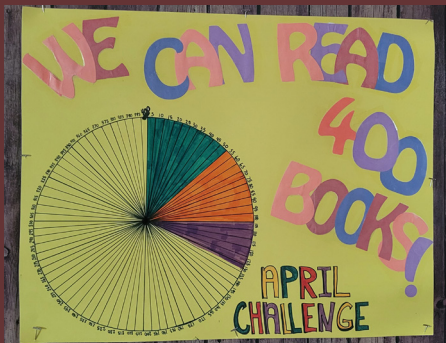
ANNE DRECKTRAH ('67)

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024
5:00 P.M.
WEST SALEM HIGH SCHOOL



Up for the Challenge!

Mrs. Baldwin's first grade class is working hard on small-group reading in school and having fun reading more outside of school, so they decided to attempt a 400 Book Challenge for the month of April! To help motivate them, Mrs. Baldwin volunteered to get pied in the face if they are able to meet their goal. Even better...if they exceed 400 books, Mr. Hubing will also get pied in the face! Stay tuned to see if they meet their goal!



District Announcements



WSHS Band and Choir Take on the Big Apple

West Salem High School band and choir students recently had the opportunity to travel to New York City. They departed West Salem, driving all night and arriving in NYC the following day where they enjoyed a dinner cruise along the Hudson River and were able to take in the sights of the skyline and Statue of Liberty. Their remaining days were packed with as much sightseeing as possible and they visited Central Park, Grand Central Station, Times Square, the 9/11 Memorial Museum, the Brooklyn Bridge, and much more! They ended their visit with a trip to Broadway where they saw "Wicked" and "Six" before making the journey home. We'd like to give a huge thank you to Mr. Kies, Mrs. Hanson, Mrs. Martin, and all of our parents and chaperones that helped to make this trip a success! It is a large undertaking, but we are proud to be able to offer these opportunities to our students!



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

Art Gallery
West Salem High School Senior Art Show
Runs April 17-May 19
Reception
Thursday, May 9th
6:00-7:30 p.m.

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

Skills Superstars

Congratulations to Mrs. Whitacre's students from WSHS who recently took 1st place at the Job Skill Olympics held at Onalaska High School! They competed against other students from surrounding schools in a variety of skills including paper shredding, silverware sorting, pencil sharpening, laundry sorting and folding, and shoe sorting! This is the third year in a row that they have taken first place and we are so proud of them!



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.'

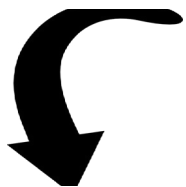
If you have questions, please call the High School Student Services Office at (608) 786-1220.

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 April 8, 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 April 3, 2024.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Chris Peterson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Payton Greer recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

T. Grosskopf moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Student acknowledgements were presented to Payton Greer, Sam Stenberg and Julian Gutierrez Nunez.

Student art selections to be displayed in the Heider Meeting Room for one year were presented by District Art Teachers Allen Schroeder, Kaylin Staebell, Angie Hemker, and Quenten Brown.

Payton Greer, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Evan Noel was selected to be on the Wisconsin State Jazz Ensemble. This is a prestigious selection as hundreds of musicians audition for this and only 2 alto sax get selected.
2. The 2nd annual Build My Future event is taking place on Wednesday, April 24. Deadline to register is Friday, April 19.
3. WTC Career Exploration is on April 12 from 9:00-1:00. This is where students can explore Medical and Stem based careers at Western.
4. Track and field were to compete in a meet at Holmen last week, but it was canceled. There is another Holmen meet scheduled for tomorrow. There is also a home meet on Friday. DECA has sold meet shirts as a fundraiser for their internationals trip.
5. Solo and ensemble was hosted here this past weekend. There were tons of talented singers and instrument players. If they placed this weekend they qualified for state. We had lots of West Salem students make it to state.
6. Baseball will have their first game is at GET tomorrow, due to all the others getting canceled.

Sam Stenberg, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Softball lost 6-2 against Portage last week. They play 2 double headers this week.
2. Girls' soccer have their first game Thursday at home against Logan.
3. Boys' tennis had their first meet on Friday at Tomah. They have another match this Friday against Aquinas.
4. Golf will have their first meet on Thursday at Coulee Golf Bowl.
5. Band and choir will leave for NYC Trip on April 16th
6. The summer musical Mamma Mia! started practices this week.

7. Given that this is our last meeting ever, we both wanted to extend our thanks to all of you for making this experience possible and special for us. We both agree that this has been one of the highlights of our high school career and we wish the best of luck to the next board that serves this great district.

Correspondence

A thank you note from the family of Michael St. Pierre was read.

Wisconsin Department of Public proclamations were shared: Month of the Military Child, National Library Week and School Library Month.

Public Comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

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

Consent Agenda

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

- a. the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2024;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendation for winter and fall dance coach-Brianna Kruser;
- d. to hire Cody Rohl-1.0 FTE High School English Teacher, May Tepp-1.0 FTE High School Math Teacher, and Callie Fantz-1.0 FTE Grade 5 Teacher;
- e. to accept donations from Game Getters Bowhunting Club for the high school trap team and from the family of Elaine Bina for high school art scholarships.

Motion carried unanimously.

There were no resignations or retirements to act upon.

Discussion/Action Items:

E. Peterson moved, C. Peterson seconded to accept the administration's recommendation to approve the CESA #4 Contracts for the 24-25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Adjournment

C. Peterson moved, B. Minard seconded to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Peterson, Acting Clerk

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes April 22, 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 April 18, 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.

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2024 continued...

Marie Heider Meeting Room

7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

T. Grosskopf moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Reorganization of the 2024-2025 School Board

E. Peterson moved to nominate Catherine Griffin for the office of President. T. Grosskopf moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Catherine Griffin as the President of the West Salem School Board. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Gavaghan moved to nominate Tom Grosskopf for the office of Vice President. E. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Tom Grosskopf as the Vice President of the West Salem School Board. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Gavaghan moved to nominate Erik Peterson for the office of Clerk. T. Grosskopf moved, B. Gollnik seconded to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Erik Peterson as the Clerk of the West Salem Board of Education. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved to nominate Sean Gavaghan for the office of Treasurer. T. Grosskopf moved, C. Wilson seconded to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Sean Gavaghan as the Treasurer of the West Salem School Board. Motion carried unanimously.

T. Grosskopf moved, B. Minard seconded a resolution to authorize the Board officers to borrow money for the 2023-2024 and the 2024-2025 school years per Wisconsin state Statutes 67.12(3). Motion carried unanimously.

T. Grosskopf moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to select the Union State Bank of West Salem as the bank depository. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to authorize the use of facsimile and digitized signatures. Motion carried unanimously.

T. Grosskopf moved, B. Minard seconded to authorize the Board officers to invest surplus funds. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to continue with the current schedule to select the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. for Regular School Board Meetings; and to set only one meeting for December 2024 and January 2025, December 9, 2024, at 7:00 and May 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to appoint Patrick Bahr as the Deputy Clerk and Shawn Handland as the Deputy Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Board members should provide their input to the Board President regarding committee assignments within the next week.

T. Grosskopf moved, B. Minard seconded to select Catherine Griffin as the CESA #4 Representative. Motion carried unanimously.

Written and Oral Reports

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

Policy/Communication and Engagement Committee – E. Peterson reported on the agenda item policy updates.

Workforce Engagement and Development Committee – S. Gavaghan reported on the agenda items: preparing for negotiations with the West Salem Education Association.

Human Resource updates: the hiring of Michelle Evenson as the elementary school kitchen manager, Jill Iliff as the District Accounts Receivable/Accounts Payable Specialist and Terese Murch as a high school cook, and to accept the resignations of George Fisher and Brent Schroeder as high school custodians.

Connection with the Community

Jessa Hickey, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The National Honor Society selected Victoria Lysne as their president for the 2024-25 school year. The induction ceremony for new members will take place on Sunday, May 5th.
2. Students involved in band and choir took a trip to New York City last week. They left on Tuesday and arrived home yesterday. Their trip included watching Six and Wicked on Broadway, a dinner cruise, and a visit to the 9/11 Memorial.
3. Students from Mrs. Haas' Intro to Early Childhood Education class participated in the 7 Rivers Education and Training Day. They toured Western Technical College, Viterbo, and UWL to learn about their education programs, and asked questions to a panel of staff from various school districts.
4. Prom is coming up on Saturday, May 4th. The theme of the dance is Rapunzel.
5. Seniors are presenting their Panther Portfolios in class. Their final presentations in front of judges will take place on May 8th.
6. The IDS classroom competed in the Job Skill Olympics at Onalaska High School this past Thursday and received the first place all around award for the third year in a row.
7. On Wednesday, April 10th, the HOSA club hosted a CCLR day that included pickleball, hiking, self-defense, and more.
8. On May 3rd, FFA will host Food for America at the fairgrounds where they will teach 4th graders about livestock and aspects of farm life.

Brennon Anderson, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Baseball has started their season with a 3-5 record. This past weekend they played a triangular here in West Salem, where they took down Belleville 9-0, and they lost to Madison Edgewood 4-7.
2. The girls' soccer team took down Arcadia last Friday night 8-0. They have had a great start to the season, with a record of 4-0, and they haven't let up a goal yet this season.
3. The softball team has played 6 games and has won 4. Josie Brudos has pitched 2 no-hitters this season.
4. Last week the track team competed at Luther High School and Arcadia where the girls' and boys' teams took first at the Luther meet. They have 3 meets this week.
5. Tennis team played Black River Falls on April 9th where they won as a team. They have also beat Central and Logan.
6. The golf team has had two competitions. They took second place at the Coulee Golf Bowl, and they took 4th at Arcadia.
7. DECA students Elliot Sjoquist, Brennan Garbers, Philip Gabrielsen, Noah Stewert, Taylor Burch, Elyse Bee, and Emily and Kate Fechner will all be leaving on Saturday for ICDC in California.
8. Dance team will be hosting tryouts May 8th-10th.

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes April 22, 2024 continued... Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

Correspondence

A thank you note from Amy Reedy was read.

A thank you note from Payton Greer and Sam Stenberg was read.

Public Comments – None.

Boys' and Girls' Club Update

Maggie Solberg, Jake Erickson and Brett Gullicksrud provided an update on the events at the Don & Cheryl Brenengen Club.

Consent Agenda

E. Peterson moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

a. the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2024, and the Special Board Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2024;

b. the invoices to be paid;

c. to accept the administration's co-curricular recommendation for Jamie Olson as the head girls' hockey coach, and Orin Schwier as an assistant track coach;

d. to hire Jennifer Tashner as a 1.0 FTE Speech and Language Pathologist, Brienna Broughton as a 1.0 FTE Middle School Counselor, David Braun as a 1.0 FTE High School Social Studies Teacher, and Mariah Wick as a 1.0 FTE High School Health & Physical Education Teacher;

e. to accept the donation from 1st Community Credit Union for the Nutrition Services Jane Doe Fund, from the Corinne Zielke Fund for the high school baseball program, from St. Huberts Club of St. Elizabeths, Ann Seton Parish for the high school trip team, from an anonymous donation for the Scholar Athlete Scholarship Fund, from the La Crosse Area Autism Foundation for the middle school and high school special education intellectual disabilities classrooms, and from WXOW's Tools for Schools Grant (River Bank of Stoddard, Board Store, Dependable Solutions, Ryan Schultz and Associates) for 3rd grade teacher Heidi Vergin.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

a. S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to accept the Policy/Communication and Engagement Committee's recommendation for a first reading of policies:

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.

b. S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the teacher and school psychologist contracts for the 24-25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

c. E. Peterson moved, S. Gavaghan seconded to approve the contracts for vehicle drivers 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.

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 issuing preliminary notice(s) of non-renewal to professional staff.

S. Gavaghan moved, B. Minard seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:14 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: C. Wilson, Aye; S. Gavaghan, Aye; E. Peterson, Aye; B. Gollnik, Aye; C. Griffin, Aye; T. Grosskopf, Aye; and B. Minard, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

B. Minard moved, B. Gollnik seconded to reconvene into Open Session at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Session

Board Development

Superintendent Rieber provided a new Board Member welcome and orientation to all the Board Members.

Adjournment

T. Grosskopf moved, C. Wilson seconded to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Peterson, Clerk

Cleaning Up Their Community

For the past several years on Earth Day, our middle school students have decided to give back to their community by participating in a Village clean up with their homerooms. Before heading out, they take time to learn about Earth Day and how they can protect the environment and reduce their impact on the planet. Armed with trash bags and gloves, each group travels to a different area around the Village to pick up trash.

This year, they had the perfect sunny day to enjoy and worked hard to clean up as much as they could. Students are always surprised by what they find and how much trash accumulates, but they take satisfaction in knowing they helped to keep the community they call home beautiful! Thank you, WSMS students and staff!



Did You Know?

Not all radishes are red! Radishes come in different sizes, shapes, colors, and flavors.

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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@WestSalemSD
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For WSHS athletic events, visit our website:

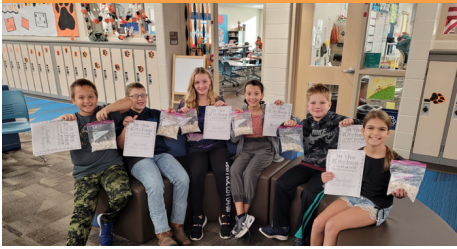
*click Calendars and then
*click Coulee Conference/Mississippi Valley Conference

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

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