

Is there a future for the Farmers?

That is, the Marching Farmers Band from West Salem Middle School?

The school wants to rename its band the Panthers, to fit the West Salem High School mascot, and the school board plans to discuss the idea. Superintendent Troy Gunderson says the Marching Farmers, who wear jeans and checkerboard shirts when performing, have been a tradition at the Middle School for decades. Gunderson says the Farmer identity was created decades ago by a school music teacher, when the West Salem district was more rural.