



# School District of Onalaska Community Update Summer 2018

## Greetings From the Superintendent

Dear Community Members,

The 2017-18 school year ended on June 7. As we reflect on the past school year it is with thanks; not only to our talented employees but to our parents and community members who support our schools' journey to work together to ensure high levels of learning for all. We know many of you support us by attending school events, but we also want to recognize our many volunteers, donors and those who support the schools with their kind thoughts and words.

On graduation day 216 students received their diplomas. These students leave us knowing how to learn and how to build relationships – keys to future success. Much of what they learned was from their elders, neighbors, pastors, business owners, medical providers - people like you - as they grew up in our community. Please appreciate, as we do, that our District is a better place for our students and staff members because of the support we receive from our community.

Also in this edition, we want to draw your attention to the 12 retiring employees who, after a cumulative 262 years of service to our school district, are moving into the next chapter of their lives. Congratulations to them for their fine careers!

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments. Any opportunity we can get to clarify something or to be transparent is welcomed. Your calls and emails are also opportunities for us to keep a pulse on the community.

With regards,

Fran Finco  
Superintendent



## Summer Feeding Program - June 11 - August 17 at Northern Hills Elementary

Onalaska School Nutrition is providing free meals to children during the summer on Mondays through Fridays. The U.S. Department of Agriculture partners with local organizations like Onalaska School Nutrition to provide free meals to children when school is out for summer. Anyone age 18 or younger may come and eat.

Breakfast: 8:30 to 9:30

Lunch: 11:00 to 12:00

18 and under: Free

Adult pricing: Breakfast - \$2.95 Lunch - \$4.20

## New Principal Hired for Irving Pertzsch Elementary

Dr. Clover Schmitt was recently hired to be the new principal at Irving Pertzsch Elementary School. She replaced Todd Antony who took a position in the School District of La Crosse. Dr. Schmitt comes to Onalaska from Stevens Point where she was an elementary principal for the past seven years. Her background also includes 18 years as a school psychologist. Dr. Schmitt has degrees in Child and Family Studies, School Psychology and Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis. A former graduate of the Galesville Ettrick Trempealeau (G.E.T.) School District, she and her family will be moving to the area over the summer. Please stop in at Irving Pertzsch and welcome her.



## **Change in District Office Space – What did we gain? What was the cost?**

Many of you know that last October the District Offices and Support Services Offices moved from 1821 E Main St, the high school and 612 Main St to 237 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S. The move allowed the offices below to be located under one roof at 237 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave S.

- Buildings and Grounds
- Transportation
- Pupil Services
- Data Services
- Nursing Services
- Instructional Coaching
- Reading Specialist
- Student Services
- Business Offices – Accounting, Payroll, Accounts Receivable/Payable
- Human Resources
- Instructional Services
- Business and Financial Services
- Superintendent’s Office

Besides consolidating our District Services, centrally locating these offices opened up approximately 5,000 square foot of space at Onalaska High School and Irving Pertzsch Elementary. These new spaces are currently being used as additional classroom space for adaptive physical education and the at-risk programs, counseling/meeting/testing space and school counselor’s office/meeting space.

In addition to the 10,900 square foot office building, (which was 7,500 more square feet more than 1821 E Main St), the district received an 1,800 square foot storage garage across the alley from the office building and approximately \$100,000 in furniture, fixtures, appliances and art work in the purchase.

What was the cost of the purchase and remodeling of the new office space?

- The cost to purchase what was once the Festival Support Center was \$872,480.
- The District sold the building at 1821 E Main St for \$570,000.
- Using the proceeds from the sale of 1821 E Main St, an additional \$302,480 of fund balance money was used to offset the purchase of the building.

- Approximately \$399,000 was used to remodel the inside—replacing and insulating the roof, updating the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), remodeling some interior spaces, upgrading the electrical system, adding three windows and replacing the fluorescent lighting with LED bulbs. Many of these items made the building more energy efficient.
- The net cost of the purchase and remodeling was approximately \$701,000.

Located in the building is a conference room that holds seating for 60 (that is being used as our new Board of Education meeting room and professional development meetings), a smaller conference room that seats 14 and a larger parking lot provides for an additional 50+ parking spaces (approximately 40 more than at our previous building).

The money to complete this project was revenue saved from a new health insurance contract, staffing positions that were budgeted for but were not filled, revenue from more open enrollment students than were anticipated and other one-time savings.

If you have any questions about this building, please call Fran Finco at 781-9700.



New District Office Building

## Community Survey Results

The Board of Education recently received the results of the 2018 Community Survey from Bill Foster from School Perceptions, the company that assisted in the development and administering of the survey. He reported the following:

- 1,436 people took the survey in late May and early June.
- 29% of the respondents were ages 56 and older
- 55% were between the ages of 36-55
- 86% lived in the School District of Onalaska
- 83% were NOT employees of the School District of Onalaska
- 55% had children in the Onalaska schools

### **Responses from people who lived in the District but were not employed by the District nor did they have children going to Onalaska schools:**

Satisfied with the Overall Performance of the School District

- 80.1% agreed
- 4.6% disagreed
- 15.3% didn't know

Satisfied with the Financial Management of the District

- 64% agreed
- 10.8% disagreed
- 25.3% didn't know

Satisfied with the Educational Programs of the District

- 74.8% agreed
- 3.1% disagreed
- 22% didn't know

Satisfied with the Communication from the School District

- 69.5% agreed
- 10.1% disagreed
- 20.3% didn't know

Would support renewing an operations referendum as described in the survey

- 64% said probably or definitely yes
- 16.6% said probably or definitely no
- 19.4% were undecided

## Overall results from all who responded:

Satisfied with the Overall Performance of the School District

- 89.6% agreed
- 4.2% disagreed
- 6.3% didn't know

Satisfied with the Financial Management of the District

- 77.2% agreed
- 7.5% disagreed
- 15.4% didn't know

Satisfied with the Educational Programs of the District

- 87.7% agreed
- 3.4% disagreed
- 8.9% didn't know

Satisfied with the Communication from the School District

- 83.3% agreed
- 7.9% disagreed
- 8.7% didn't know

Would support renewing an operations referendum as described in the survey

- 80.2% said probably or definitely yes
- 7.9% said probably or definitely no
- 11.9% were undecided

In addition to overall performance questions and a question regarding support for an operational referendum, the survey results also reported support for future capital projects. For any questions or comments contact Fran Finco at 781-9700. A copy of the survey results can be found on the District web site.



## Board Decides on Operations Referendum

At the June 25, 2018 Board of Education meeting Board Members voted to go to referendum on November 6, 2018, to ask for community support for additional operational costs for the next five years: 2019 - 2024. They directed administration to work with bond counsel to develop the referendum question.

The current operations referendum will expire on June 30, 2019. Board members had to decide whether to ask for renewed support of the schools through a new referendum or to cut approximately \$2.6M from the current budget. By not asking for a new operations referendum, a property owner would save approximately \$133 per \$100K of property value.

The Board also decided that the new referendum question should add \$150K to the \$2.6M for each of five years to help cover cost of living increases. The amounts of the requests will be:

- 2019-2020: \$2.75M
- 2020-2021: \$2.9M
- 2021-2022: \$3.05M
- 2022-2023: \$3.15M
- 2023-2024: \$3.2M



For questions about this story contact Fran Finco at 781-9700.

### Summer School Update

Summer school for grades K-8 runs for three weeks from July 9 – July 27. Academic classes in reading and math are held in the mornings, and enrichment courses in the afternoon. Kindergarten Camp is hosted at each of the three elementary schools. Students entering grades 1-3 attend school at Northern Hills and grades 4-8 at Onalaska Middle School. Amy Russ and Deanna Wiatt, K-8 Summer School Coordinators, report that about 975 students have registered for 3,727 courses! There will be no fees for any of the K-8 Summer School courses. Also, hot lunch is provided at no cost for K-8 students attending full day programming.

Summer school for OHS students began in June and ends in August. There are some new offerings at the high school level, such as School to Work Custodian Internship, American Government and Orchestra Camp.

Why do students enroll in summer school? Academic growth and to experience learning in a variety of enrichment activities or for credit (high school only).

## Donations

The district would like to thank those who gave donations since January 2018:

- \$15,000 from the Joe Laux Family for the Laux Family Scholarship Fund
- \$2,592 from the WI Department of Public Instruction for the Robotics League
- \$42,076 from the Onalaska Band Boosters for new marching band uniforms
- \$10,000 from the La Crosse Community Foundation for new marching band uniforms
- \$5,250 from the OMS PTO for standing desks
- \$28,051 from the Onalaska Hilltopper Athletic Booster Club for weight room equipment
- \$1,000 from the WI Art Association toward a kiln at Irving Pertzsch
- \$12,500 from Eagle Bluff parents for Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center trips
- \$9,806.28 from Irving Pertzsch parents for Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center trips
- \$1,300 from student Abigail Xiong for an OHS scholarship and OMS teacher grants
- \$700 from the Empty Bowls Night to the Onalaska Schools Food Pantry
- \$3,625 from the Northern Hills PTO for screen mounting in the gymnasium
- \$4,927.60 from the CenturyLink Technology Grant for chrome books for OHS French classrooms
- \$4,956 from the CenturyLink Technology Grant for digital portfolio tools for the elementary music classrooms
- \$980 from the CenturyLink Technology Grant for a 3D printer for an OMS Social Studies Classroom
- \$20,672.72 from the Onalaska Band Boosters for a trailer, uniform carts and two marching baritones for the high school band program
- \$4,500 from the Onalaska Hilltopper Athletic Booster Club for a strength and conditioning coach

In addition to the donors above, there have been numerous other donations of money and other needed goods and services. On behalf of our staff and students, the District wants to thank all who partner with us!



# Do you have a 3, 4 or 5 year old?



Join our **FREE** early childhood event including a variety of fun activities, free resources and a play-based developmental screening!



## 2018-2019 School Year Screening Dates

- August 21:** 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Eagle Bluff Elementary
- October 18:** 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm at Eagle Bluff Elementary (during parent-teacher conferences)
- December 12:** 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm at Eagle Bluff Elementary
- February 28:** 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm at Eagle Bluff Elementary (during parent-teacher conferences)



## Screening Details

The screening is designed to provide an overall developmental review to any child between the ages of 2 and 4 years old living in the School District of Onalaska boundary. Parents will be asked to fill out a questionnaire regarding their child's development while their child participates in a play based screening, including hearing and vision screening. Specialists in the early childhood field will be available to address any questions or concerns raised by parents. Refreshments will be offered and each family will be sent home with a free goodie bag!

Appointments to attend are not necessary, but appreciated.

**To schedule your appointment to attend please log on to: <https://goo.gl/Isuc5p>**

Call Mrs. Maureen Trim at 608-779-5760 x1006 with any questions.

*\*\*When school is not in session, please contact Pupil Services at 608-783-4610*

## 2017-18 District Employees Retire

The following employees retired from the School District of Onalaska as of June 2018:



Barb Brooker  
School Nutrition  
High School  
17 years



Karen Cayler  
Teacher  
Middle School  
17 years



Kari Ferguson  
Paraprofessional  
Northern Hills  
19 years



Laura Holley  
Teacher  
Eagle Bluff  
18 years



Debbie Jecklin  
Teacher  
High School  
24 years



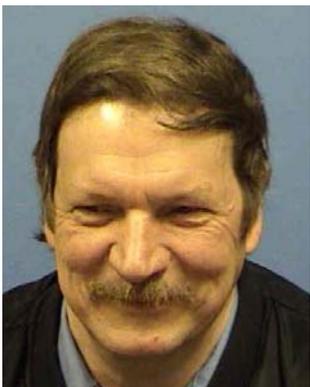
Carol Ladwig  
Paraprofessional  
Irving Pertzsch  
28 years



Kay Nelson  
Paraprofessional  
Eagle Bluff  
17 years



Kelly Riedesel  
Secretary  
High School  
18 years



Frank Russell  
Custodian  
Northern Hills  
33 years



Kelly Schuster  
Teacher  
Eagle Bluff  
27 years



Vicki Solis  
Paraprofessional  
Eagle Bluff  
16 years



Ron Watson  
Teacher  
High School  
28 years

*Thank you for your service to the students of Onalaska!*



**DO YOU KNOW A CHILD WHO WILL BE 4 YEARS OLD  
ON OR BEFORE 9/1/2018?**

We would be happy to have your child join the School District of Onalaska’s Pre-Kindergarten program for the 2018-2019 school year. We currently have 11 sites for our program (Eagle Bluff, Irving Pertzsch, Northern Hills, Y North, Christian Chapel, First Lutheran Preschool, Gentle Lambs, Children’s Tree House, Little Minds Learning Center, Creative Child, and Grandma’s Arms). Each site provides a great learning environment facilitated by loving and knowledgeable staff.

Registration for the 2018-19 school year has begun! Enrollment forms are available on the School District of Onalaska website at <http://www.onalaska.k12.wi.us/parents/enrollment.cfm>.

**Fast Facts**

- 101 Seniors received \$1.2 million in scholarship money
- Two graduating seniors will be entering the military – one going to West Point
- 216 out of 220 seniors graduated on May 26
- 231 eighth graders will be promoted to OHS in the fall – no retentions
- Community members donated over \$130,000 for new band uniforms, a trailer and uniform storage carts
- OHS students created an “Intruder Training” video that focused on Fight or Flight
- Dr. Paul Molling recorded a video for high school/ middle school students citing the negative effects of vaping
- The OHS Science Olympiad team earned a spot at Nationals in Atlanta, GA and participated

**Board of Education Meeting Schedule**

Meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Room at the District Office. Meetings can also be found on our Ustream Channel at <https://www.ustream.tv/channel/onalaska-schools-channel>. Information for Board of Education meetings can be found on the district website at [www.onalaskaschools.com](http://www.onalaskaschools.com).

**Board Members**

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*School District of Onalaska Mission Statement*  
*To work together to ensure high levels of learning for all*

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