



Sun Prairie Area
School District

Futures depend on us...every child, every day.

RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS SITE COORDINATORS

APPRECIATION WEEK

WHEREAS, the Sun Prairie Area School District (SPASD) is the 13th largest school district in Wisconsin, serves approximately 8,500 children and employs about 1,350 staff members; and

WHEREAS, the SPASD educates students from early childhood through 12th grade, as well as students with disabilities in our 18-21 Transition Program, in 14 schools plus 10 community-based sites and five community school sites located at C.H. Bird Elementary, Northside Elementary, Westside Elementary, Patrick Marsh Middle School, and Prairie Phoenix Academy; and

WHEREAS, community schools marshal, align, and unite the assets, resources, and capacity of schools and communities for the success of students, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, community schools are an effective, evidence-based, and equity-driven strategy for school improvement included under section 4625 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7275), as added by section 4601 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114-95; 129 Stat. 2029); and

WHEREAS, community schools that provide integrated student supports, well-designed and expanded learning opportunities, and active family and community engagement and that use collaborative leadership and practices have positive academic and nonacademic outcomes, including improvements in student attendance, behavior, academic achievement, school readiness, and mental and physical health, high school graduation rates, and school climate and reduced racial and economic achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, community schools have the potential for closing racial and economic achievement gaps, as indicated in a 2017 report; and

WHEREAS, a 2020 study found that New York City's community schools had a positive impact on student attendance, on-time grade progression, and credit accumulation for high school students; and

WHEREAS, community schools provide a strong social return on investment, with one study citing a social return of between \$10 to \$15 for every dollar invested over a 3-year period; and

WHEREAS, the mission of SPASD's Community Schools is to create equity and a sense of pride for all members of the community and the vision is to be the most family-driven community resource that focuses on developing the whole person through collaboration and strong partnerships; and

WHEREAS, SPASD's Community Schools focus on partnering with youth, families, schools, community organizations and the Sun Prairie community for everyone's benefit, creating fun opportunities for youth where they are trusted and their voices heard, removing barriers for families and individuals to participate and engage, identifying the priorities of the community and provide programs and services that are aligned to those priorities; integrating equity based decisions into the fabric of the community and Sun Prairie Community Schools, establishing or strengthening mutually beneficial relationships with the city, school, business, partner and service organizations; and ensuring Sun Prairie Community Schools is sustainable to be part of the community for the long term; and

WHEREAS, SPASD's Community School coordinators are essential to building successful community schools and creating, strengthening, and maintaining partnerships between community schools and their communities; and

WHEREAS, our Community School coordinators facilitate and provide leadership for the collaborative process and development of a continuum of supports and opportunities for children, families, and others within our schools' community that allow all students to learn and the community to thrive; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic poses additional academic, social, emotional, and health challenges for students, educators, and staff at our Community Schools; and

WHEREAS, our Community School coordinators have proven to be innovative and resourceful in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including through organizing volunteers for mobile food pantries, hosting virtual parent hangouts and student lunch groups, continuing to support onsite behavioral health programs through an online platform, and participating in advocacy efforts to halt eviction orders in their communities; and

WHEREAS, our Community School coordinators, through their role, deliver a strong monetary return on investment for community schools and their communities, with one study citing a return of \$7.11 for every dollar invested in the salary of a community school coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week, celebrated from September 21 through September 25, 2020, recognizes, raises awareness of, and celebrates the thousands of community school coordinators across the country and the critical role of community school coordinators in the success of students;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sun Prairie Board of Education designates the week of September 21st through September 25, 2020, as "Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education thanks our Community School Coordinators, Jamie Racine (Community School Director), Andrew McKinney (C.H. Bird Elementary Site Coordinator), Tenisha Winn (Northside Elementary Site Coordinator), Stacy Darga (Westside Elementary Site Coordinator), Lisa Goldsberry (Patrick Marsh Middle Site Coordinator), and Bobby Finn (Prairie Phoenix Academy Site Coordinator) for the work they do to serve students, families, and our community, especially as communities continue to respond to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education encourages students, parents, school administrators, and public officials to participate in virtual events that celebrate Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution was duly adopted by a unanimous vote of the Board of Education of the Sun Prairie Area School District on the 14th day of September, 2020.

Steve Schroeder, President
Tom Weber, Vice President
Caren Diedrich, Treasurer
Bryn Horton, Clerk
Dave Hoekstra, Governance Officer
Marilyn Ruffin, Deputy Clerk
Carol Sue Albright, Member
Quinn Williams, Student Member
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