



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Longfellow Administration Center

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Dr. Keith W. Hilts, Superintendent of Schools

January 10, 2024

Dear Wausau School District Staff and Families:

In an effort to enhance our communication within the Wausau School District, we want to make sure that you are in the loop and aware of what's happening.

Here are a few new updates since the beginning of the month that you should know about:

- **Referendum Work:** Thanks to the passing of the 2022 Wausau School District referendum, we are currently improving our schools! Right now, construction is underway at some of our largest schools: John Muir Middle School and Wausau West High School. To date, a number of projects have already been completed - including, but not limited to, the Environmental Learning Center at the Wausau School Forest, Riverview, Stettin, and South Mountain elementary schools.

More projects are being designed at Horace Mann Middle School and Wausau East High School. And, on Monday, the Board approved the installation of a turf field at Wausau West's Jerry Johnson Field.

This field honors Wausau West's first football coach - Jerry Johnson - and has since 2007. Click [here](#) to view his obituary and learn more about a man who has had a tremendous impact on Wausau West and the Wausau School District. To this day, he continues to have an impact on Wausau West, and its students, through a scholarship set up in his honor.

Also on Monday, the board approved work to continue at Maine, Thomas Jefferson, and G.D. Jones Elementary schools. Work at other elementary schools is scheduled for later dates to allow time for the school board to make decisions about the elementary footprint.

In addition to improving our facilities, the district is also updating technology used by our secondary students. Some of the technology education courses at our secondary schools require computers with more memory and processing speed to meet the requirements of the software utilized. The board approved the investment of up to \$400,000 to ensure our students have the technology they need to learn skills to ensure they're ready for their future. Some of this investment will also be used to update the computers used by our office staff in many of our schools.

- **Superintendent Search:** As you know, our current superintendent, Dr. Keith Hilts, is retiring at the end of the 2023-2024 school year. During Monday night's Board meeting, members voted to work with the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, or WASB, to help them in the search for our next superintendent. The work to identify the next superintendent will begin immediately and take about 3-4 months to complete. Staff and community input will be included as part of the search process.
- **The Future of the Wausau School District:** The Wausau School Board is seeking the assistance of a demographer to assess our current elementary school footprint in the Wausau School District. On February 12, Mr. Mark Roffers will make a presentation to the school board to describe his portfolio of work as an urban, rural, and regional planner and project manager who specializes in growth management and economic development services. This presentation will serve as part of an interview process to determine whether Mr. Roffers' services would meet the needs of the Wausau School District.

In the meantime, don't forget to watch for our district newsletter due out at the end of the month. We'll be sure to include important updates, as well as, highlight the incredible work our students and staff are doing every day!

As always, thank you for your partnership!
Wausau School District Administration

It is the mission of the Wausau School District to advance student learning, achievement, and success.