



COMMUNITY GHOST STORY

FALL 2022

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KAUKAUNA PREPARES FOR THE FUTURE INSIDE THE RECENT LAND PURCHASE

At the September 26, 2022, Board meeting, the Kaukauna Area School District Board of Education officially voted to purchase a 144-acre plot of land that is located east of Highway 55 and connects directly to the southwest corner of the current high school property. The purchase of the property will allow the District and the community to work together to explore multiple options for sustainable future planning as the Kaukauna area continues to grow and change.

Over the last several years, the Board of Education and the Kaukauna Area School District have explored various opportunities, including purchasing land, in order to best position our schools to meet the needs of our students, both now and in the future. Looking ahead, the District will need to proactively prepare for aging facilities (a 100-year-old middle school and a 125-year-old elementary school),

GET TO KNOW SUPERINTENDENT SLOWINSKI

It is hard to believe how quickly these first few months as Superintendent of the Kaukauna Area School District have flown by! Throughout my transition into this new position, I have been fortunate to meet so many wonderful and supportive people in the Kaukauna community. For those of you who I have not had the chance to meet yet, I want to take a moment to introduce myself and my family to you. Kaukauna has a rich history, a supportive community, and a long-standing tradition of excellence and pride, and I am incredibly honored to have the opportunity to support the community by providing students with a world-class education through the Kaukauna Area School District.

I was born and raised in the Fox Cities, and as a kid I enjoyed camping at High Cliff, hiking around 1,000 Islands, and biking the CE trail with my family. My dad, Wayne Slowinski, was the band director at Electa Quinney and River View Middle School for 30 years, and I have fond memories of attending his concerts and other District events growing up. Kaukauna is a place that has meant much to me and my family, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to contribute to the strong tradition and culture of the District and to serve this great community.

One of my biggest priorities in my first year as Superintendent is to spend time getting to know students, staff, and community members in order to identify the many areas of success in the Kaukauna Area School District, as well as recognize where we can continue to improve. From organizing community listening sessions around town, meeting with local business partners, community leaders, and staff members, and attending a wide variety of student events throughout the district, these first few months have been both busy, informative, and incredibly rewarding.

My family is excited about becoming a part of the Kaukauna community as well! My boys, Abraham and Henry, both attend Kaukauna schools and have been enjoying getting to know their teachers and to meet some new friends. My wife, Emma, is a teacher in the West De Pere School District, and together we have enjoyed attending Kaukauna Ghost games, events, and concerts this fall. We look forward to continuing to learn more about the Kaukauna community and hope to have the chance to meet you at a school event or around town. Go, Ghosts!



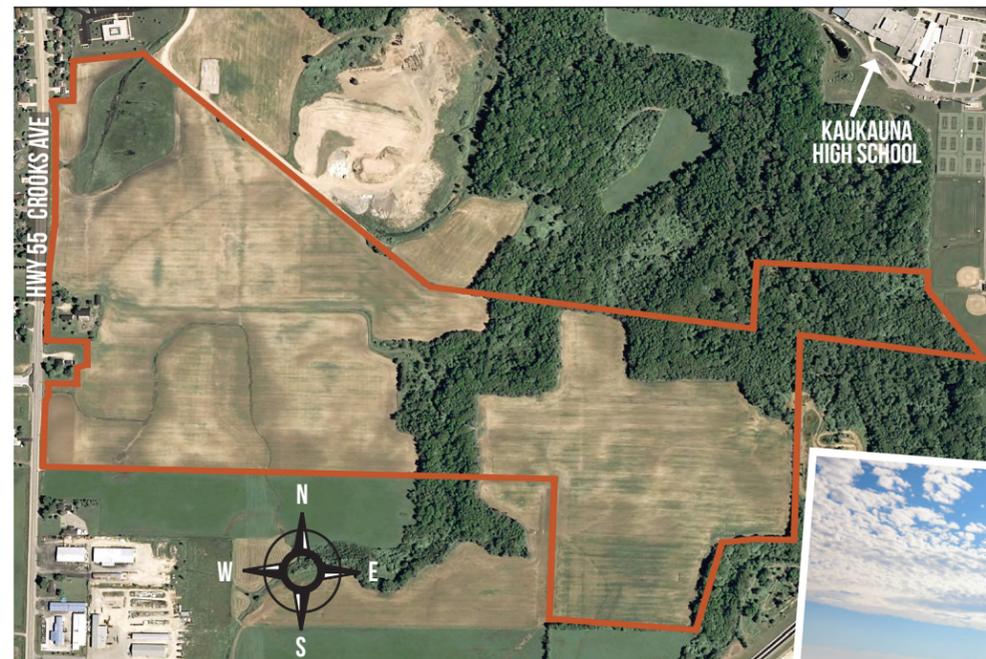
Mike Slowinski
Mike Slowinski
 Superintendent of Schools

25-YEAR EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR SERVICE

A majority of Kaukauna's strength can be attributed to the remarkable people we have working in the District, many of whom have dedicated years, if not decades, of their lives to KASD. This year the following individuals were honored at a school board meeting for their 25 years of service to the District. We thank them for their loyalty, commitment, and unwavering service to our students and schools.

2022 25-YEAR HONOREES

- Carol Wall - Tanner Administrative Assistant (*left*)
- Kevin Meyer - Kaukauna High School Teacher (*center*)
- Kelly Wildenberg - District Database Engineer (*right*)
- Gregory Ramsey - River View Teacher (*bottom left*)
- Timothy Roehrig - Kaukauna High School Teacher (*bottom right*)



LAND PURCHASE: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

current overcrowding at some school sites, and a community with significant new construction and growth potential within the District's boundaries.

In March of 2022, District residents were mailed a survey in which the majority of respondents indicated that they felt the District should purchase land for future development. During the same spring, the Kaukauna Area School District was presented with an opportunity to purchase 144 acres of land that was centrally located in the District's boundaries and connected to the current high school property. After months of investigation and deliberation by the School Board at multiple meetings, the Board of Education officially voted to purchase the land on September 26, 2022.

The property's centralized location within the District's boundaries and the direct connection to the current high school campus are what make this a unique and promising investment in the future of the Kaukauna Area School District. The location of the property helps to minimize the year-over-year bussing, utilities, and maintenance costs to the District and taxpayers, as compared to other potential land options that were previously explored. Additionally, the location of this property allows for safety and security services such as police and fire protection to be serviced through the City of Kaukauna.

This property was purchased as a proactive investment in the future of the Kaukauna Area School District. Currently, no immediate or pre-determined plans exist to build on the land, but the Board's action will allow the District and the community to explore multiple options to meet the needs of generations of future Kaukauna students.

Any plan or timeline for building on the land will be driven by the learning needs of our students, and as we continue planning for the future, we are committed to engaging in an open and collaborative process with our students, staff, families, and the greater Kaukauna community.

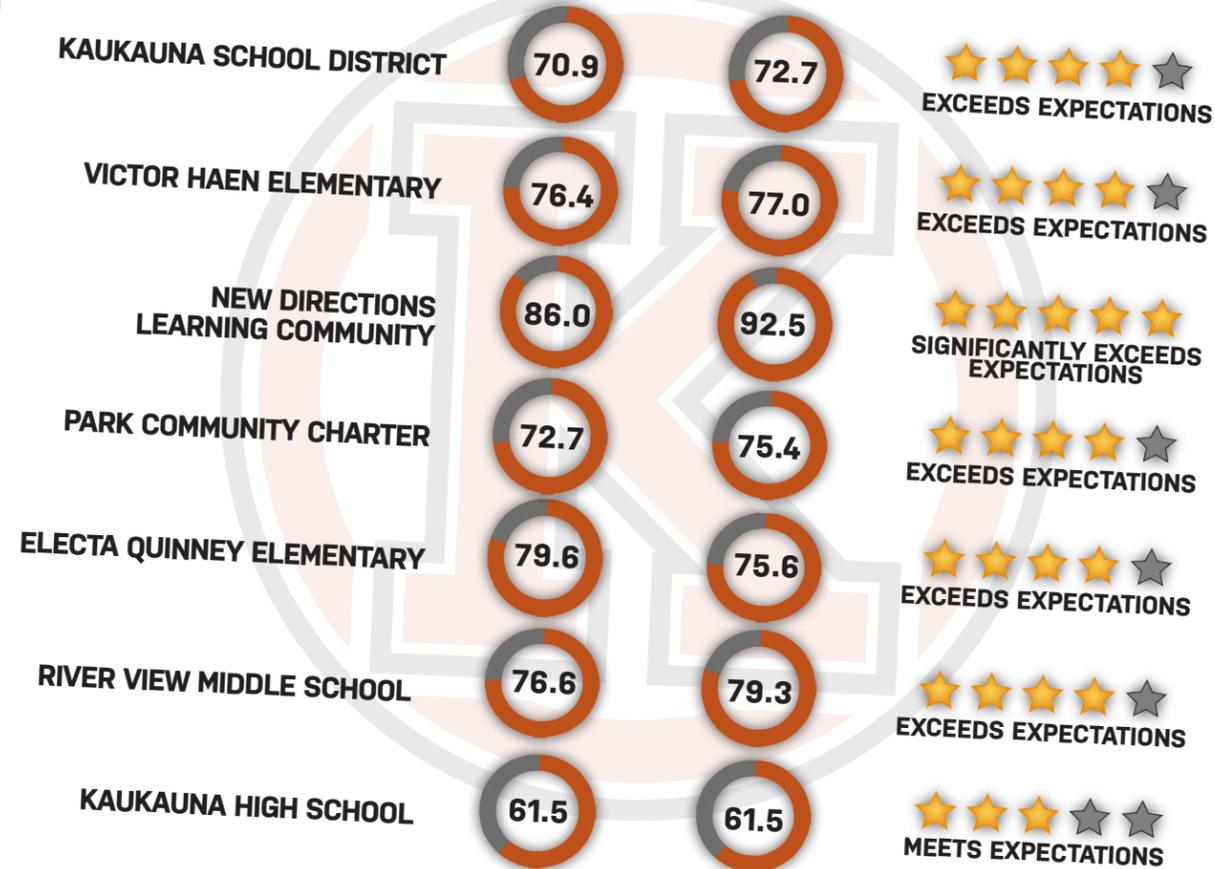
As we look toward the future in Kaukauna, it is with great excitement and enthusiasm that we continue our strong partnership with the community, build on our current and past success and to help prepare the Kaukauna Area School District for the next generation of learners.

DISTRICT VISION: The Kaukauna Area School District will educate students to be effective life-long learners who can successfully meet the challenges of their lives and be positive contributors to society.

DISTRICT MISSION: The Kaukauna Area School District, in partnership with our community, will provide a rigorous and relevant curriculum through best instructional practices which emphasize student achievement and accountability, delivered in a safe and caring environment.

STATE REPORT CARD RESULTS

2020-2021 2021-2022



STATE REPORT CARD SHOWS IMPROVEMENT

On November 15, 2022, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) released the 2021-2022 report cards for all Wisconsin publicly-funded school and districts. Due to the incredible work happening day in and day out in our Kaukauna Schools, our test scores show remarkable improvement compared to last year's scores. Five of KASD's six ranked schools exceeded or significantly exceeded expectations. Tanner Early Learning Center has a student body that is too young for the standardized testing and instead receives an alternate rating. This year Tanner has earned a "Satisfactory Progress" rating in the alternate accountability process.

We are incredibly proud of our scores that reflect the hard work put in by every individual in this district, but the scores themselves do not tell the whole story. We encourage you to take a look at the report cards for each school. As you look through each school report card, we hope you take the time to look at more than the overall number. For instance, KHS, whose combined score met expectations, boasts 55% of students completed at least one dual-enrollment course last year; the state average is 18%. Their scores in both the number of students gaining an industry-recognized credential/certificate and the number of students participating in work-based learning programs far exceeded state averages as well. Additionally, the number of students that successfully completed at least one music course was 32.1%, compared to the 18.3% state average.

We have much to celebrate, and we will continue to celebrate those successes. Additionally, these report cards give us an idea of the work that still needs to be done to better serve all of our students. The achievement gaps between student groups district-wide present us with an opportunity to learn, improve and grow. We intend to do just that.

Find more information at: <https://www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us/district/districtperformance.cfm>

SPOTLIGHT ON DAN VANBOXTEL

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS PRIZE WINNER

For Dan VanBoxtel, Automotive Technology Teacher at Kaukauna High School, the morning of Tuesday, October 4 started like any other morning. He had no idea that in the middle of his automotive class he was going to get the surprise of a lifetime as a winner of the 2022 Harbor Freight Tools For Schools \$50,000 prize for teaching excellence. VanBoxtel was chosen as one of 20 nationwide winners from 768 applicants and is the only winner from Wisconsin this year.

Dan VanBoxtel has dedicated a majority of his life to Kaukauna, the students and the community. He has been a teacher in Kaukauna for the past 22 years. In addition to teaching, Dan is also the head coach for the Kaukauna JV Boys Basketball Team.

Along with representatives from Harbor Freight Tools for Schools, Dan was also surprised with a visit from his daughters, one of whom is a teacher in the District, his wife, Mayor Penterman, Rep. Mike Gallagher's office representative, one of last years prize winners, along with several news crews.



"You do what you do everyday because you love to do it, and you don't expect something like this." "It is truly rewarding to be a teacher and to work with the wonderful people I work with and to work in a school system where I am so supported by administration and other teachers," an emotional VanBoxtel said at his award ceremony.

The application process was extensive with over 40 hours of work put in behind the scenes. Dan said he initially was not going to apply, but when he learned what the prize could do for his department and his students, he decided to go for it. The Kaukauna High School skill trades program will receive \$35,000 of the \$50,000 award. With the money, Dan said he plans on updating some of his automotive equipment he always wanted but never had the finances to purchase. He works closely with area dealerships and sees what they have and would like to duplicate some of equipment so students can go right from his program to an industry career without skipping a beat.

A true lifelong educator, Dan said what he loves most about teaching is helping students learn how to be contributing members of society and be better people. He strives to teach his students the skills they will need so they can have a job they enjoy someday. "I'm not going to work, I'm going to school. I'm going to do what I love to do. It's not a job. The kids keep me young." - Dan VanBoxtel





STRONG MINDS
STRONG HEARTS
STRONG STUDENTS



Superintendent Slowinski reads to students at Victor Haen Elementary.



NDLC 4th Graders go to Point Beach State Park to study glacial trails.



Park students participate in Walk-To-School Day 2022.



Gov. Tony Evers meets with Kaukauna students on the first day of school.



River View students represent their school and march in the Homecoming Parade.



Electa Quinney students learn from author Miranda Paul.



Kaukauna High School 2022 Homecoming Court



Tanner students learn about the history of Kaukauna.

WHY KAUKAUNA?

43 COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES OFFERED AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

95% GRADUATION RATE

32.1% KHS STUDENTS COMPLETE AT LEAST ONE MUSIC COURSE VS. STATE AVERAGE - 18.3%

55.8% STUDENTS COMPLETE AT LEAST ONE DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSE VS. STATE AVERAGE - 18%

7.5% STUDENTS GRADUATE WITH AT LEAST ONE INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL

NAMED **2022** BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION BY NAMM FOUNDATION

92.3% STUDENTS ON-TRACK TO GRADUATE

7 KHS TEAMS MADE STATE TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES IN 2021-2022

3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS IN 2021-22



5 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS IN 2021-22

4K REGISTRATION OPENS SOON

At Kaukauna Area School District, we partner with our community to provide a rigorous and relevant curriculum in a safe and caring environment. Our vision is that all Kaukauna students will grow to be life-long learners and Kaukauna Strong. We have great things happening in Kaukauna; we are proud of our district, and we would love to have your child be a part of it!

Enrollment for 4K and 5K registration is coming in mid-January. Be on the lookout for more information coming home soon! In order to receive registration materials, make sure you are on our mailing list. You can do so by filling out the online census using the code or by going to bit.ly/KASD-4K.

We are, and will continue to be Kaukauna Strong. Join us; Grow STRONG with us. Choose Kaukauna Area School District.



MAKE SURE YOU RECEIVE REGISTRATION MATERIALS! SCAN THE QR CODE TO FILL OUT THE CENSUS FORM.



SAVE THE DATE FOR A 4K INFORMATION SESSION AT TANNER ON JANUARY 5 FROM 5:30-7:00 PM



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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Members

- Chris Bouressa - President
- Chad Berken - Vice President
- Josh Karl - Treasurer
- Joe Huss - Clerk
- Sue Gertz - Member
- Sally Feistel - Member
- Melissa Kurey - Member

School Board Meetings

Meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the Kaukauna Area School District's Board Room: 1701 County Road CE, Kaukauna. For agendas, minutes and additional info please visit: www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Kaukauna District Leadership Team

- Superintendent – Mike Slowinski
- Financial Manager – Robert Schafer
- Director of Elementary Education – Ty Maki
- Director of Secondary Education – Matthew Smith
- Director of Special Education and Pupil Services – Sarah Newberry
- Human Resources Coordinator - Tammy Werbowski

Principals

- KHS – Chris McDaniel
- River View – Lucas Cromell
- Haen – Holly Magness
- NDLC – Abbey Frischmann
- PCCS – Ken Kortens
- Quinney – Stacy Knapp
- Tanner – Elizabeth Thoreson

ABOUT US

KASD is a public school district serving approximately 4,000 students and 450 staff members from early childhood through 12th Grade. We are driven by a deep desire to continue to grow and to learn. Together, we will build upon the rich tradition of KASD and express and uphold the deep values that define us as Kaukauna Strong.

Kaukauna Area School District serves all or portions of these communities:

- City of Kaukauna
- Town of Kaukauna
- Village of Sherwood
- Town of Buchanan
- Village of Harrison
- Town of Holland
- Town of Vanden Broek
- Town of Woodville
- Village of Combined Locks
- Village of Little Chute

CONTACT US

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Kaukauna Schools

This publication was produced for the residents of the Kaukauna Area School District. Due to the overlap of postal routes, residents from neighboring school districts may receive this publication. Given the limitations of bulk mailing, this overlap is difficult to eliminate without significant cost. Thank you for your understanding.