



Sun Prairie Area  
School District

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

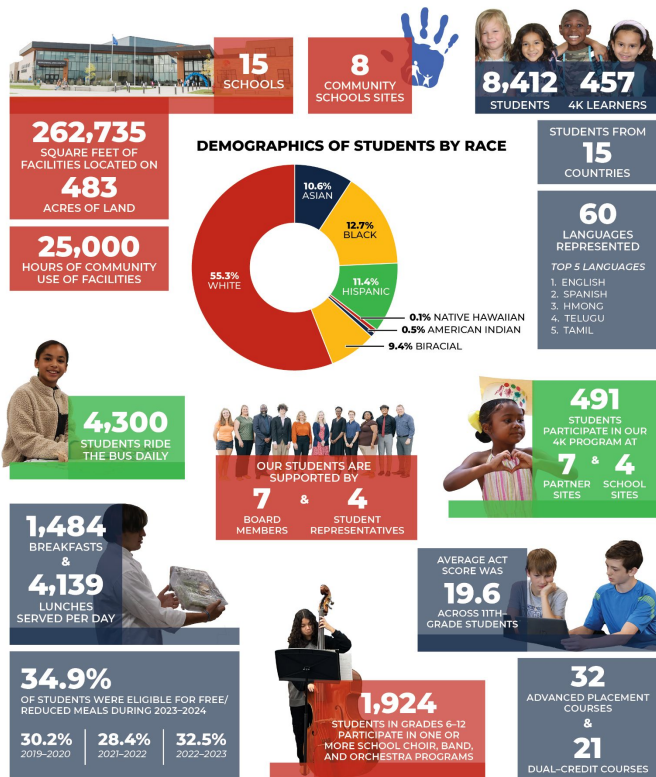
# **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO RUN FOR SCHOOL BOARD**

Informational Presentation - November 2024

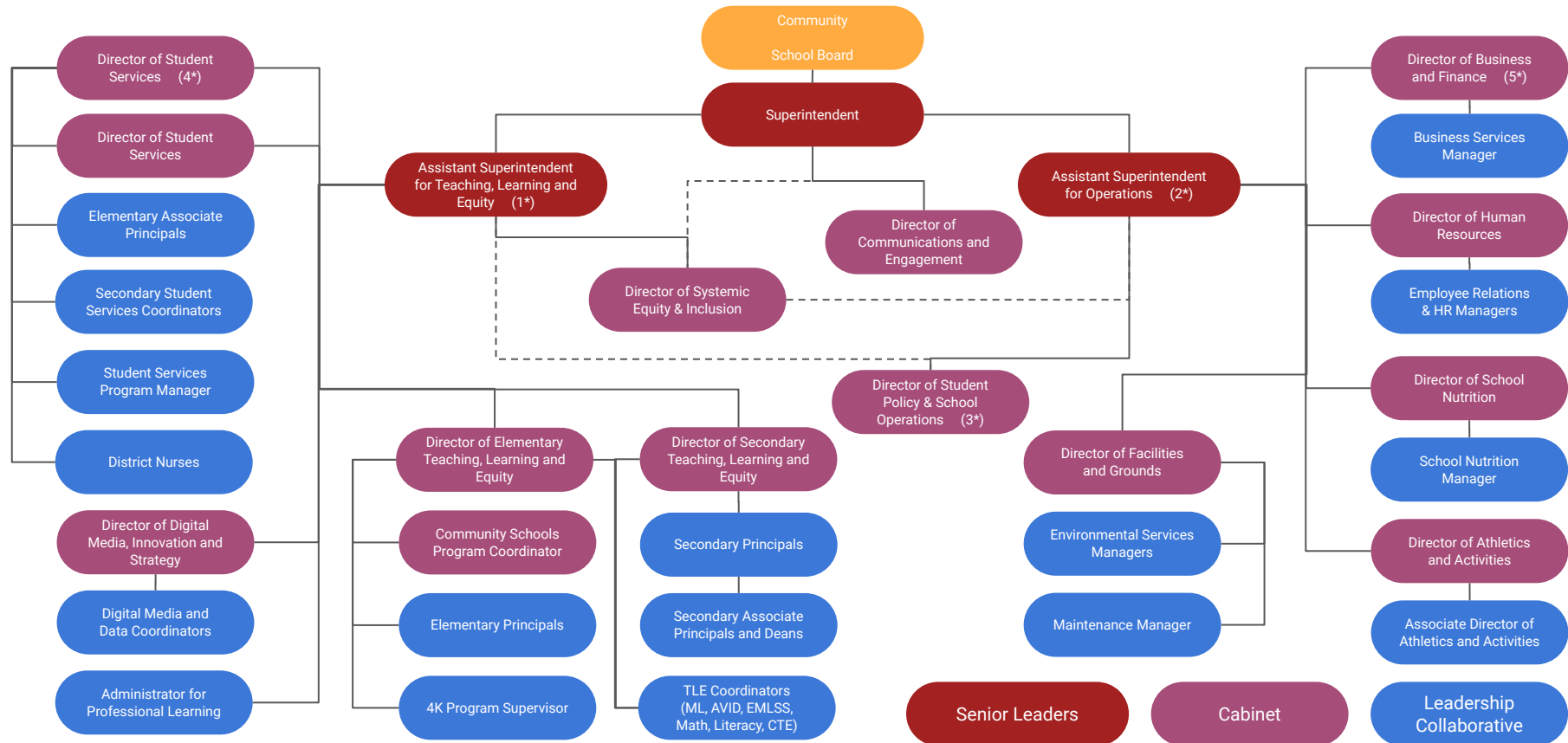
# School District Demographics



## 2023–2024 BY THE NUMBERS



- 761 Teachers
- 1,286 Employees
- 86 Bus Routes
- \$132 Million Operating Budget
- \$23.3 Million Debt Service
- 100 Sports Teams (including Club Sports)
- 150 Middle School and High School Based Clubs
- 30 Advanced Placement Courses
- 60 Arts and Music Courses
- Largest Summer School Program in the State
- Serving One of the Fastest Growing Communities in the State



*\*Indicates the order of succession to acting superintendent as described in District Policy CI*



## Vision

Recognized as a high performing district of choice that reflects the cultures of our diverse community.

## Mission

Inspire and prepare every child, every day, by providing relevant, engaging and innovative learning experiences in and out of the classroom.

### Teaching & Learning Goal

All students surpass their annual academic growth targets and graduate ready for success.

### Workforce Focus Goal

Proactively recruit, retain and engage talent that reflects and is responsive to our diverse community.

### Community Engagement Goal

Excel in how we serve all stakeholders and build relationships with families, community members, and businesses that promote positive outcomes for students.

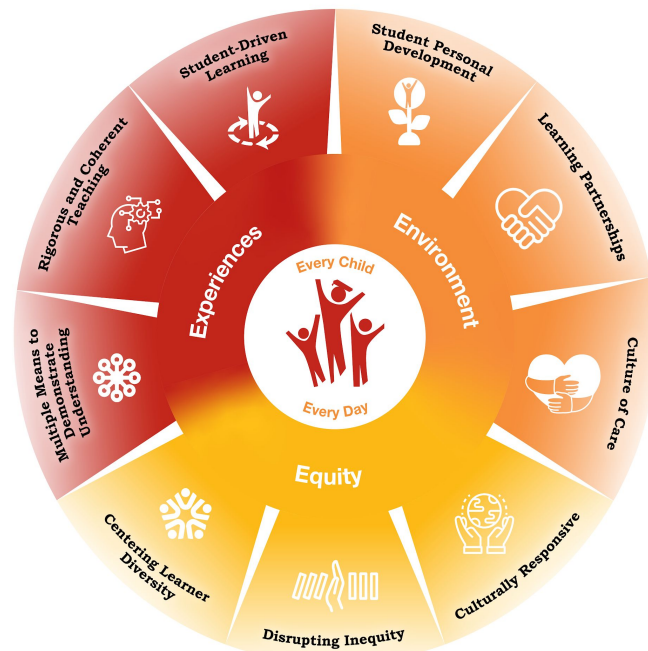
### Facilities & Operations Goal

Use district resources effectively and efficiently. Facilities and services meet the needs of our diverse and growing student population and community.

### Foundational Thread : A Culture of Continuous Improvement

Use evidence-based quantitative and qualitative methods to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and equity of service delivery processes in classrooms, schools and the district toward the pursuit of better service and outcomes for all students.

## Sun Prairie Area School District INSTRUCTIONAL FRAMEWORK



## Vision

Recognized as a high-performing district of choice that reflects the cultures of our diverse community.

## Mission

Inspire and prepare every child, every day, by providing relevant, engaging, and innovative learning experiences in and out of the classroom.

### Our Commitment to Equity and Excellence Through Continuous Improvement



#### Culture of Educational Excellence



##### Student Experiences Goal

Educational experiences in Sun Prairie will be rigorous and aligned to standards. Exceptional experiences include student goal setting, active student participation in their learning, and multiple opportunities and means to demonstrate their learning.



##### Student Learning Environment Goal

The educational environment establishes the conditions where every child feels welcome and able to succeed. In order to create the necessary conditions for learning, educators create spaces where the classroom community accepts and supports the development of all students as people, where learning partnerships thrive between students and adults, and where there is an established culture of care.



#### Culture of Engagement and Inclusion



##### Community of Exceptional & Diverse Educators & Staff Goal

Strive to proactively recruit, retain, and engage diverse and exceptional talent.



##### Communications & Community Engagement Goal

Excel in how we collaborate and communicate with all careholders, and build relationships that promote positive outcomes for students.



#### Culture of Operational Excellence



##### Finance Goal

Prioritize the investment of our resources to support the educational experiences in and out of the classroom, the student and staff physical environment, and the teams serving our organizational mission.



##### Facilities Goal

Prioritize the investment of our resources to support educational experiences in and out of the classroom, the physical environment for students and staff, and the teams serving our organizational mission.



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**2022-2027 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

# Our Core Values and Commitments



## Student-Centered Decision Making

We center students in all decision-making by focusing on the needs of the whole child.



## Welcoming Climate

We believe in providing a welcoming, safe, nurturing, and collaborative environment that allows the opportunity for every child to reach their full potential.



## Relationships

We embrace positive and strong partnerships with students, staff, parents, caregivers, and the community.



## High Expectations

We have high expectations for students and ourselves.



## Equity

We embrace our commitment to equity and are committed to providing resources aligned to students' needs so that every child can thrive.



## Diversity

We believe our diversity is an asset and our strength.



## Respect and Dignity

All students, parents, caregivers, and staff are valued and treated with respect and dignity.

*We will live these shared values and commitments through service, leadership, and integrity.  
Every Child, Every Day. This is our commitment to this community.*

# District Equity Statement & Preamble to Board Governance Policies

## AT THE SUN PRAIRIE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT, WE STAND BY OUR STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FAMILIES.

The Mission of the Sun Prairie Area School District is to inspire and prepare every child, every day, by providing relevant, engaging, and innovative learning experiences in and out of the classroom.

The SPASD celebrates and values our diverse community. We support and are inclusive of all students, staff, families, and community members of all races, ethnicities, faiths, national origins, home language(s), socioeconomic status, immigration status, political viewpoints, abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities.

In order to realize our Mission, we are committed to changing the foundational inequities that we acknowledge exist in our system, and we unequivocally state as follows:



**We stand** by our Black and Brown students, staff, and families. We will continue to speak and act swiftly against statements of bigotry, social injustice, discrimination, racism, and hate that may plague members of our community. We are committed to developing and implementing strategies and best practices that dismantle racism, bigotry, and ethnic oppression within all aspects of our schools and School District.



**We stand** by our immigrant students, staff, and families. All are welcome and safe in our schools regardless of immigration status.



**We stand** by our students, staff, and families with disabilities. We will continue to staunchly protect the rights of people of all abilities and create educational environments in which all educators collaborate for high educational outcomes for all students.



**We stand** by our LGBTQIA+ students, staff, and families. We take seriously our responsibility to provide safe, nondiscriminatory, and inclusive environments for people of all orientations and identities, as they reflect our diverse community.



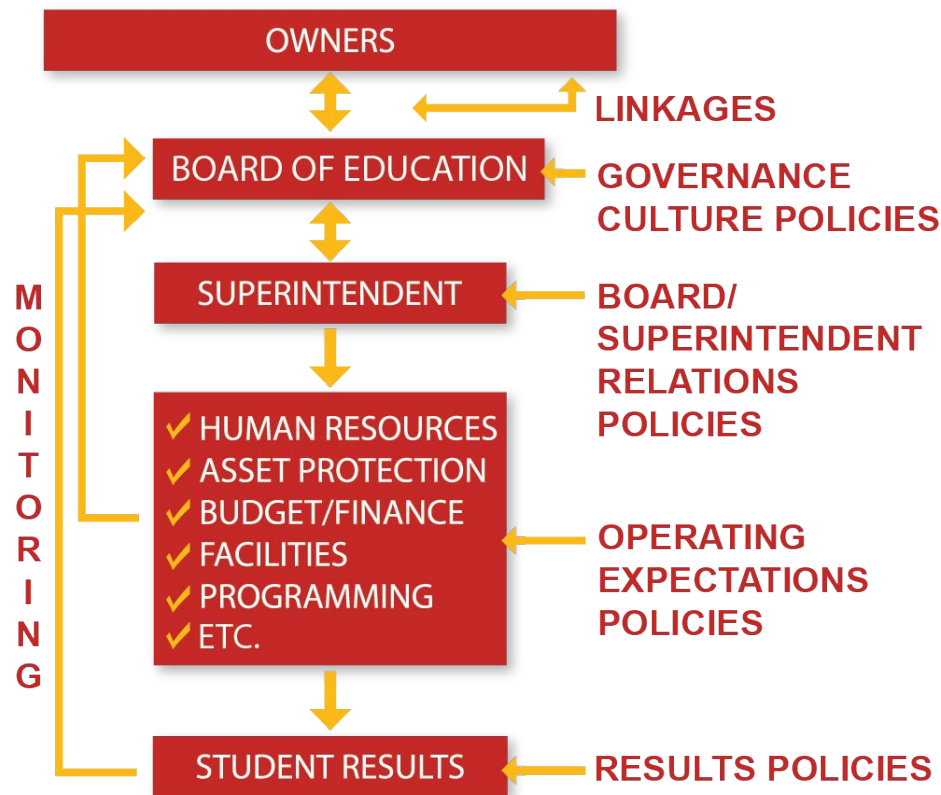
**We stand** by our students, staff, and families of lower socioeconomic status. We will do all we can to meet the nutritional, physical, and emotional needs of all students regardless of their economic status.

**ALL CHILDREN WILL BE SAFE AND LOVED IN OUR SCHOOLS.  
... EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY.**



# **Governance Background**

# Coherent Governance - *What does it look like?*



# Coherent Governance - *What is it?*



## The 10 Principles of Coherent Governance are:

1. The Board is accountable to the owners, and serves as their trustee.
2. The Board knows what its job is, and is responsible for its own performance.
3. The Board plans its own work, and faithfully concentrates on its governance role.
4. The Board is active, but not intrusive.
5. Board members recognize the value of acting as a unit, even when unanimity is elusive.
6. The Board effectively monitors both the Organization's and its own performance.
7. The Board controls the organization through policy, not through "resolutions" or approving administrative recommendations.
8. The Board owns the vision for Organizational Performance.
9. He who makes the decision is accountable for the result.
10. The Board considers the performance of the Organization and the performance of the CEO to be identical.

# We Believe in the Power of School Boards!



## Best Practice in School Board Governance? Yes!

### → [Board Governance Policies](#)

- ◆ Preamble to Board Governance Policies
- ◆ Student Results Policies
- ◆ Operational Expectations Policies
- ◆ Governance Culture Policies
- ◆ Board/Superintendent Relationship Policies

# Board's Purpose, Role & Responsibility



## **Govern on Behalf of Our Community**

- ❖ Lead not Manage

## **Vision, Mission and Values of the District**

- ❖ As one voice through policy

## **Hold Management Accountable**

- ❖ Those who make the decisions are held accountable to the results



# Board Purpose Statement

The Sun Prairie Area School District Board of Education is the governing board of the Sun Prairie Area School District. The Board leads, directs, and supervises the affairs of the District through policy development and accountability to expectations. The Board serves and is accountable to the community it represents.

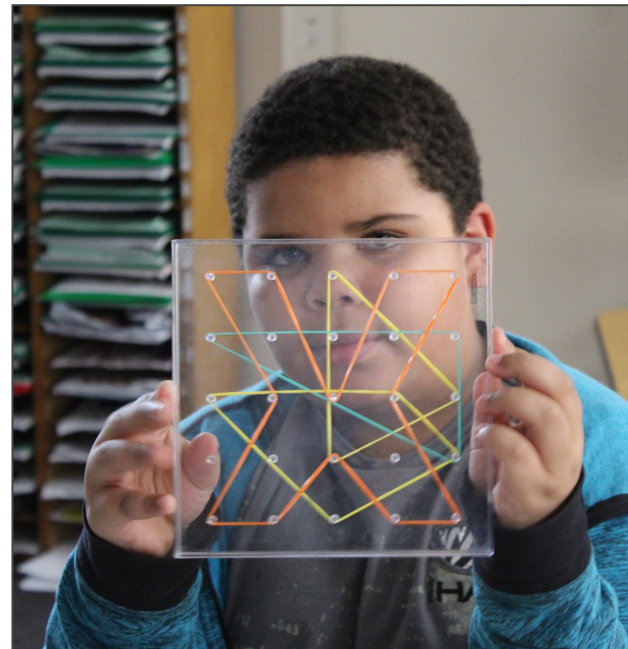
The Board holds itself and the Superintendent accountable through continuous monitoring of the expectations and values expressed in the Student Results Policies, Operational Expectations Policies, Governance Culture Policies and Board-Superintendent Relationship Policies. The Board will govern lawfully and ethically, as a single unit, focusing primarily on the students of the District, as well as:

- Strategic leadership focused on the future;
- Setting a long-term vision and direction for the district;
- Encouraging all voices be heard, especially the community whom we serve and represent;
- Governance matters rather than administrative issues;
- Clear separation of Board and Superintendent roles;
- Continuous improvement and professional development;
- Building trusting and respectful relationships within the District and throughout the community.

# Governing Culture



- ❖ Board Purpose
- ❖ Governing Commitments
- ❖ Board Job Description
- ❖ Officers' Roles
- ❖ Connection to and Collaboration with our Community
- ❖ Board Committees and Task Forces
- ❖ Board Member Code of Conduct
- ❖ Board Member Conflict of Interest
- ❖ Process for Addressing Board Member Policy Violations





# Board - Superintendent Relationship

- ❖ Single point of connection
- ❖ Single unit of control (not individuals)
- ❖ Staff accountability
- ❖ Authority of Superintendent
- ❖ Superintendent accountability
  - District results = Superintendent results
- ❖ Annual Summative Evaluation of the Superintendent

# Operational Expectations



- ❖ Treatment of Community Stakeholders
- ❖ Personnel Administration
- ❖ Financial Planning & Administration
- ❖ Asset Protection
- ❖ Communicating with the Board and the Public
- ❖ Learning Environment
- ❖ Instructional Programming
- ❖ Facilities

# Student Results



- ❖ Student Result 1 - Student Mega Result Every student will graduate with the strengths, skills and academic preparation necessary for personal growth and success for the betterment of their communities.
- ❖ Student Result 2 - Student Academic Outcomes Through high expectations, culturally responsive teaching, relevant, rigorous, engaging, and innovative learning experiences, in and out of the classroom, Students will:
  - Make reasonable progress each year toward being literate and numerate across academic disciplines.
  - Gain the necessary academic non-cognitive skills to be prepared for college, career, and life readiness.
  - Be able to demonstrate mastery of content knowledge, skills, and competencies through multiple opportunities and assessments.
  - Achieve academic growth with a focus on improving academic outcomes for students experiencing significantly lower rates of success.
- ❖ Student Result 3 - Student Personal Development Outcomes By focusing on the needs of the whole child through a culture of care, Students will:
  - Gain the necessary social, emotional, and life skills to be successful in our school community and beyond.
  - Be future-focused and skilled in long-range goal setting for their education, college, careers, and life.
  - Participate in activities and experiences, in and out of the classroom, that prepare them to engage and thrive in our diverse community.



# **School Board Job Description**



## Board Job Description

The role of a Board Member is to represent and serve the community and to govern the District by establishing expectations for student development and achievement, quality operational performance, and to monitor actual performance against those expectations. Board Members will:

1. Ensure that students, through Student Results Policies, are the dominant focus of District performance;
2. Work collaboratively to establish effective Board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the District/Schools to the Superintendent;
3. Collaboratively supervise and evaluate the Superintendent's performance through effective monitoring of Student Results and Operational Expectations policies;
4. Work with fellow Board members to ensure excellent Board and District performance through effective evaluation of Board policies, actions, and processes;

## Board Job Description (continued)



5. Attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings and be informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;
6. Advocate for the District and the students it serves;
7. Maintain a presence in the community in order to communicate and listen to the people we represent;
8. Be informed about current educational issues through individual and group study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by state and national school boards associations;
9. Embrace a continuous improvement mindset; and
10. Be student-centered and adult-minded.



# Key Wisconsin State Statutes Regarding School Boards



- The authority of school boards is identified in [Chapter 118](#) of the Wisconsin state statutes.
- Laws governing school boards, including powers, duties, plan of election, and meetings, are found in [Chapter 120](#) of the Wisconsin state statutes.
- Laws governing school finance are found in [Chapter 121](#) of the Wisconsin state statutes.
- Laws related to open meetings and public records are found in [Chapter 19](#) of the state statutes.
- School board members should have a good understanding of the Wisconsin [Open Meetings](#) and [Public Records](#) laws.

# Top 5 Things to Know as a Board Member



1. Board meetings require preparation. We are expected to come to meetings having read/watched the material and ready for discussions and questions.
2. The time commitment is for more than just board meetings and can vary widely from week to week.
3. Board members only have authority as a body during a publicly posted meeting.
4. It requires “thick skin.”
5. Board members must be aware of all the laws that govern them, including open meetings, public records and open records requests.

Bonus: Your focus as a board member is the success of all the children on behalf of the community aligned to our shared vision and mission.



# **School District Budget and Operations**

# Funding for Wisconsin Public Education



**Wisconsin's  
ranking has  
fallen relative to  
the nation on  
per pupil  
spending on  
K-12 education**

11<sup>th</sup> in 2002  
11% above national average



25<sup>th</sup> in 2022 7.2% below  
national average

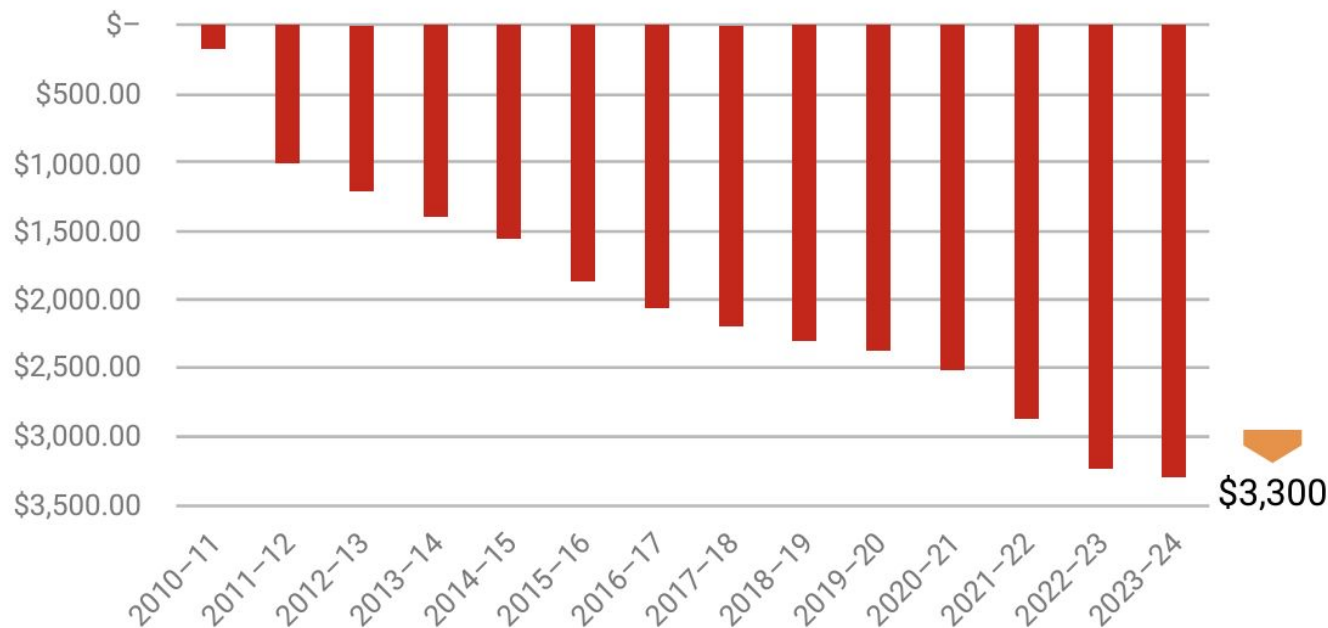
Wisconsin provides **disproportionately less funding to rural districts**: 11<sup>th</sup> lowest in the nation on state revenue to schools per local dollar (\$.82 versus \$1.18 nationally)

# CPI and Actual Per-Pupil State Funding



## Difference Between CPI and Actual Per-Pupil State Funding

*CPI stands for Consumer Price Index, which can be used to track inflation over time.*



# Budgets are a reflection of Strategic Plan



- What are community expectations?
- What does the Board expect of this school district?
- What are the highest confidence strategies we have to meet these expectations?
- How do we fund the staffing, development, and materials necessary to make progress toward these expectations?

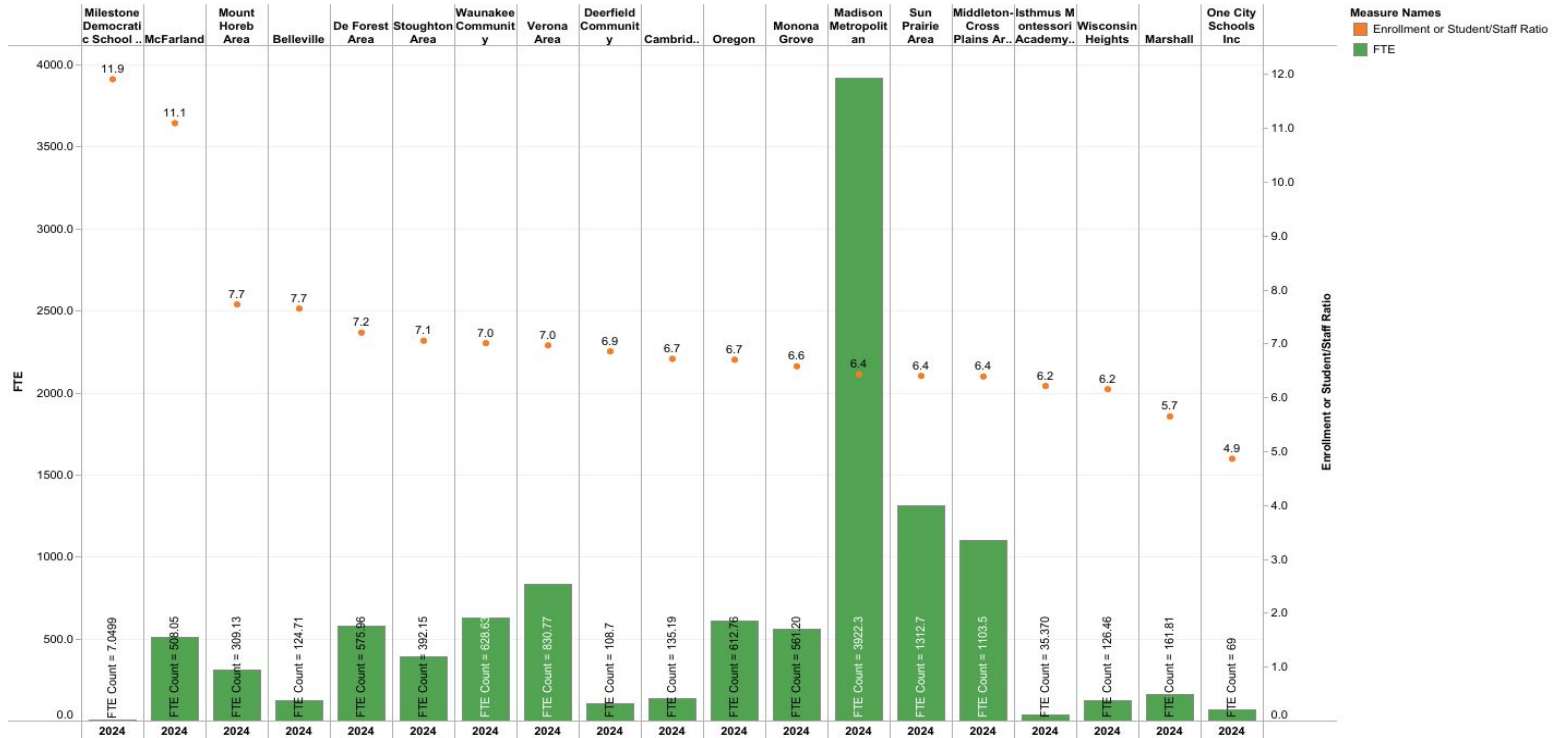


# Overall Expense Budget



General Fund	\$137,206,670,000
Special Education Fund	\$25,700,000
Debt Service Fund	\$30,700,000
Capital Projects Fund	\$5,500,000
Food Service Fund	\$5,450,000
Community Service Fund	\$1,300,000
<b>Grand Total of Budgets</b>	<hr/> <b>\$206,320,000</b>

# SPASD All Staff Ratios

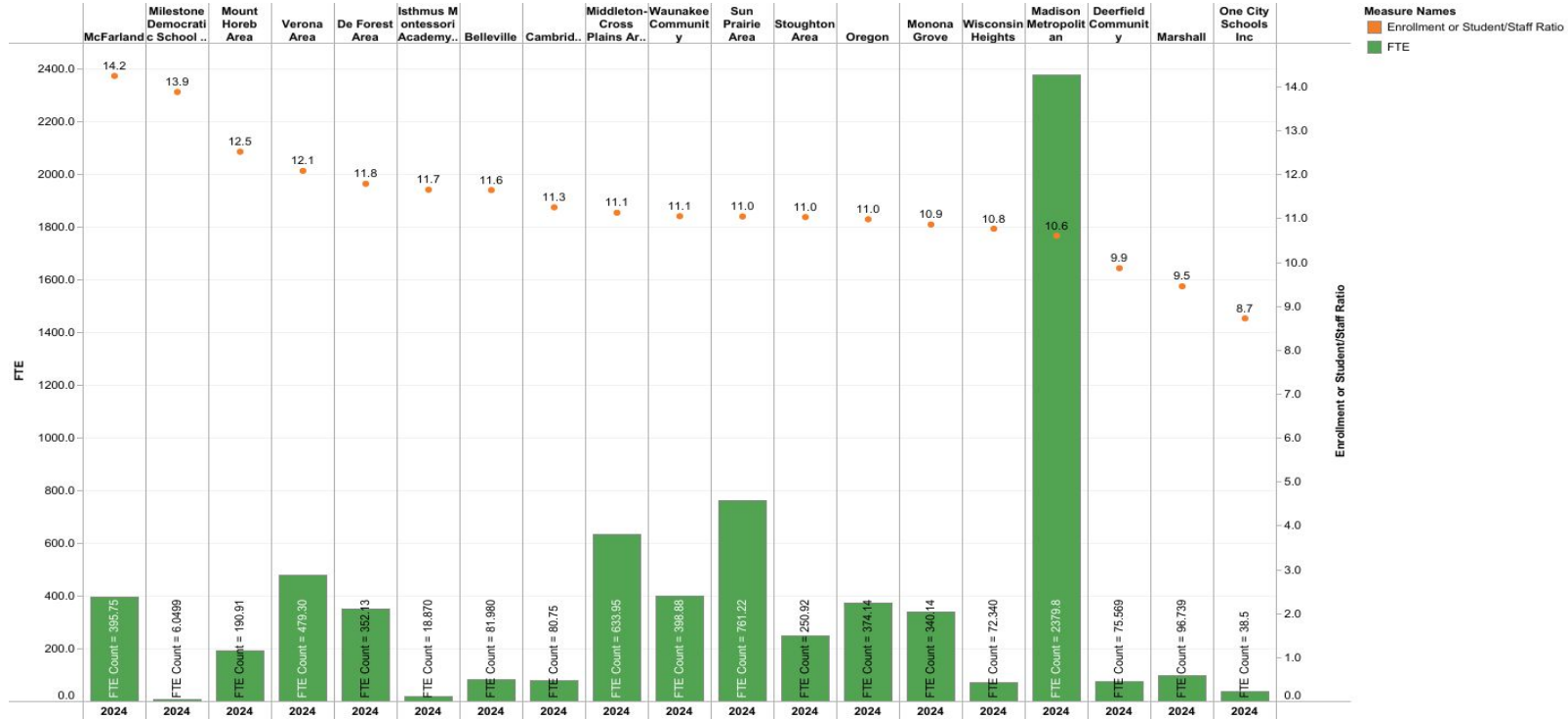


# SPASD Teacher Staffing Ratios



## Staffing Ratios

District(s): All  
Position(s): Educational Interpreter, Guidance Counselor, Instructional Technology Integrator and 8 more  
Source: DPI PI-120



# SPASD Support Staff Ratios

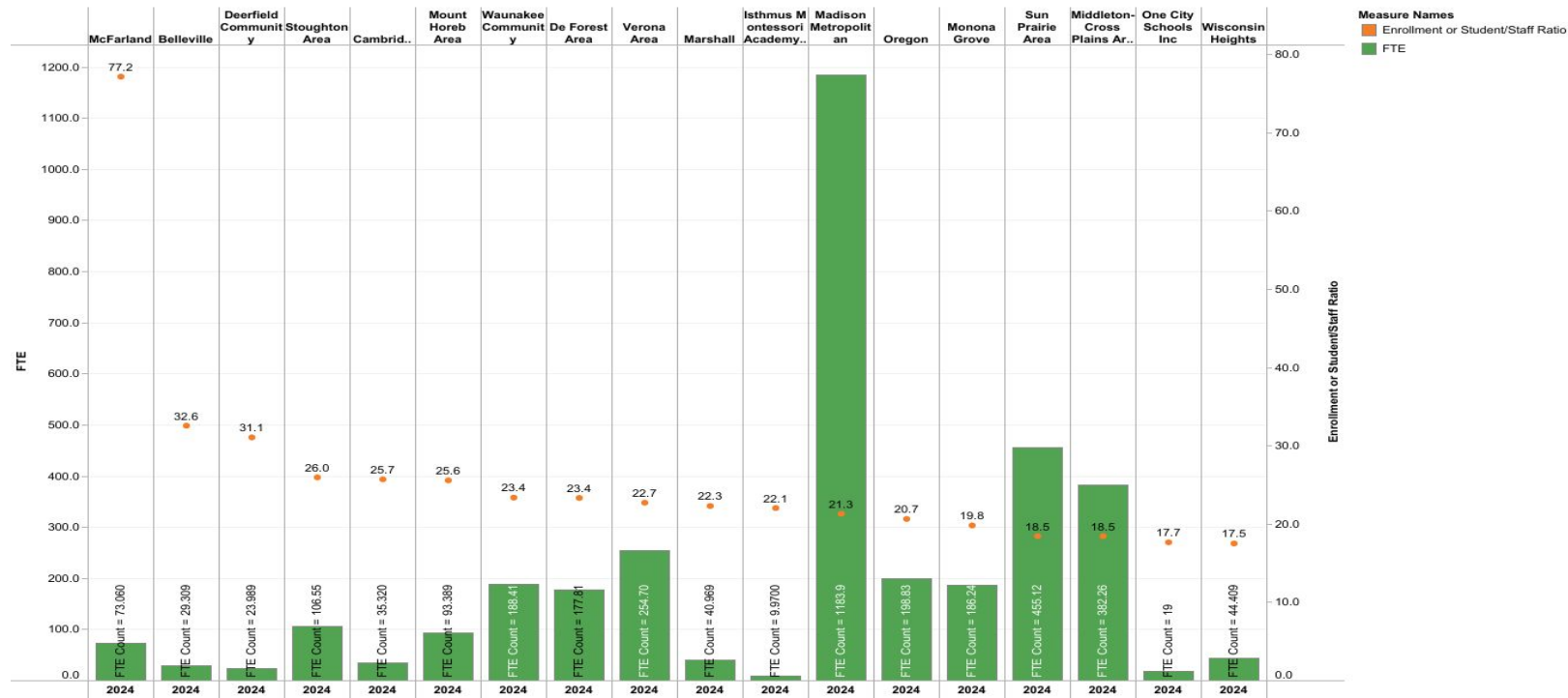


## Staffing Ratios

District(s): All

Position(s): Social-Emotional Behavioral Interventions / Support, Other Support Staff, Paraprofessional and 1

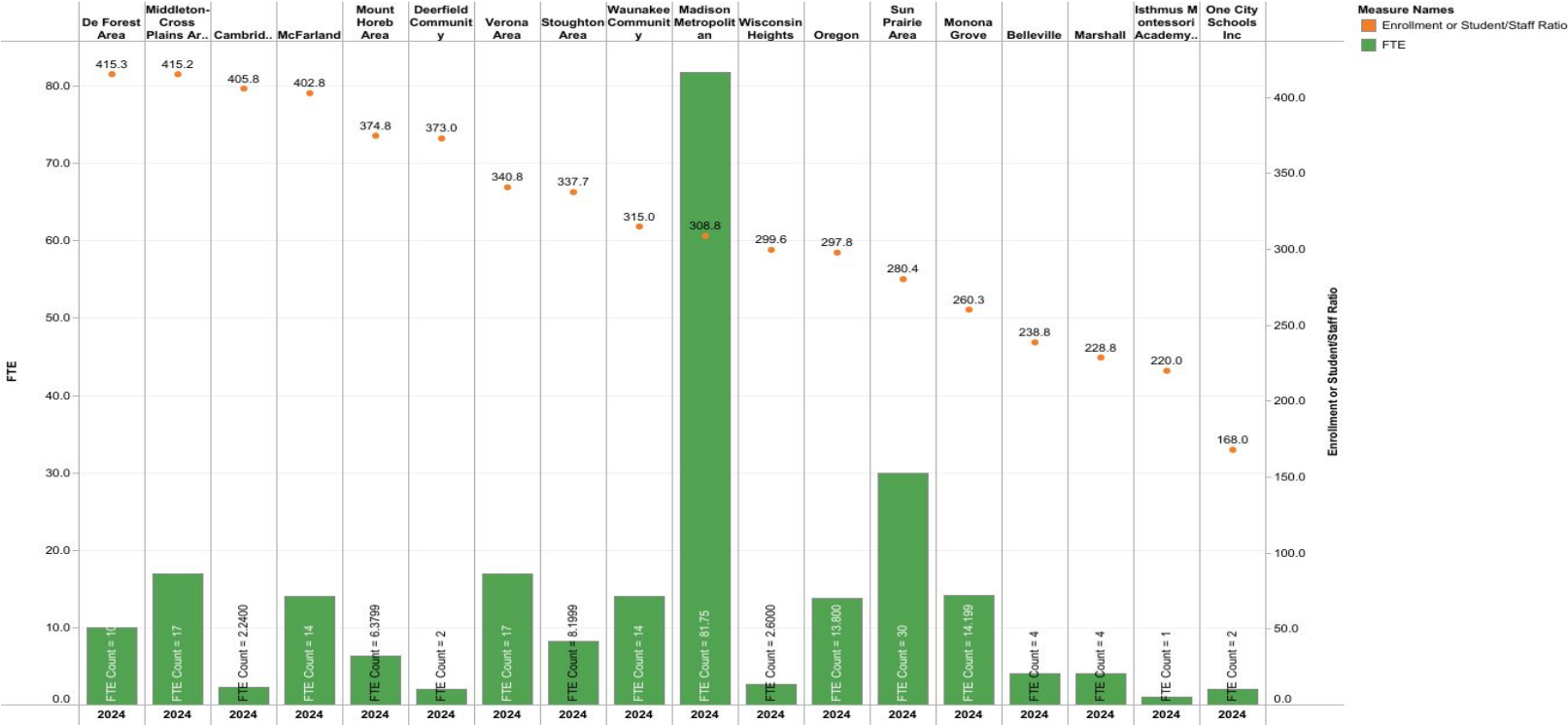
Source: DPI PI-1202



# SPASD Administrator (Principal & Assistant Principal) Ratios



Staffing Ratios  
District(s): All  
Position(s): Assistant Principal & Principal  
Source: DPI PI-1202



# SPASD Administrator (District Level) Ratios

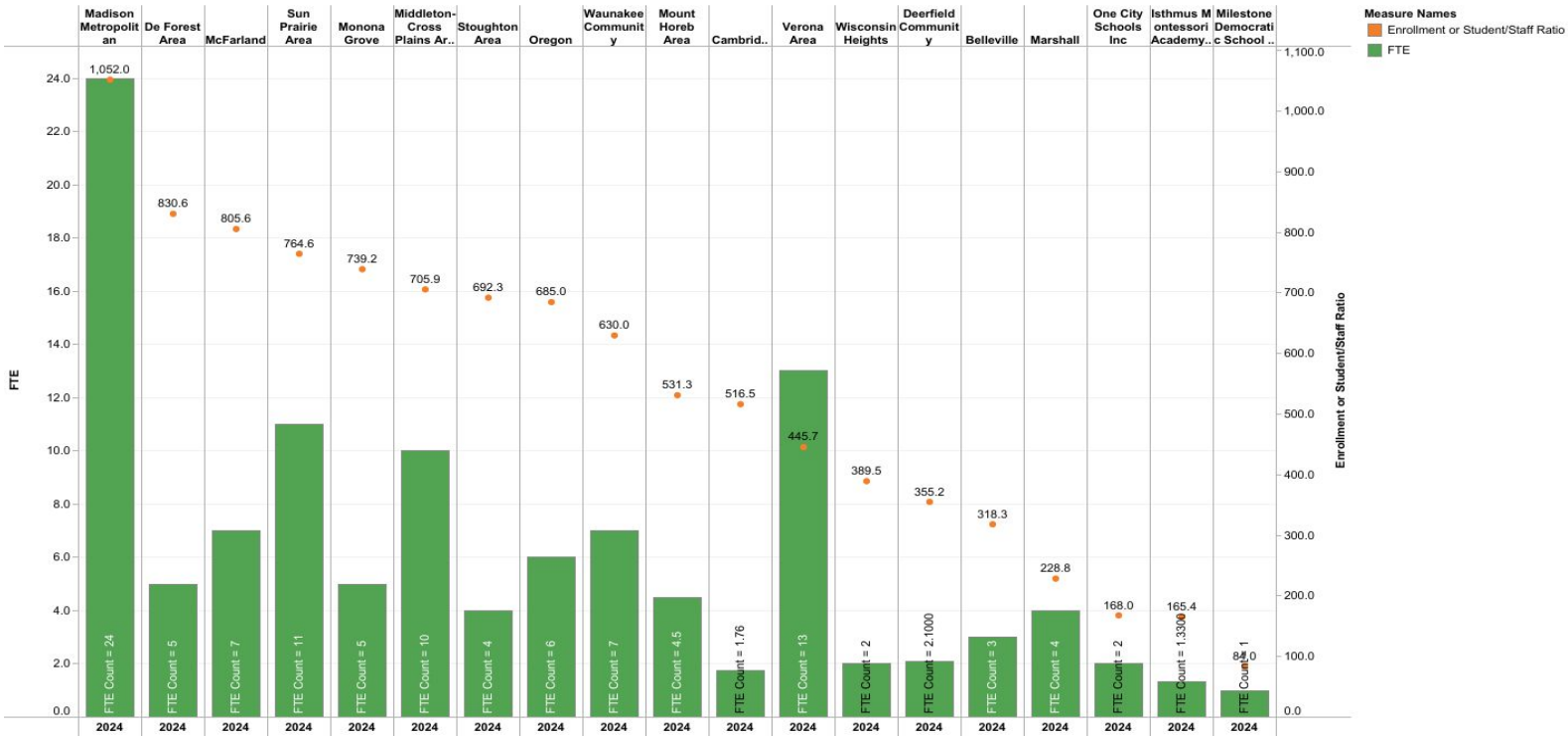


## Staffing Ratios

District(s): All

Position(s): Assistant Director of Special Education, Assistant District Administrator, Business Manager and 5 more

Source: DPI PI-1202



# SPASD Other Staff (Misc) Ratios

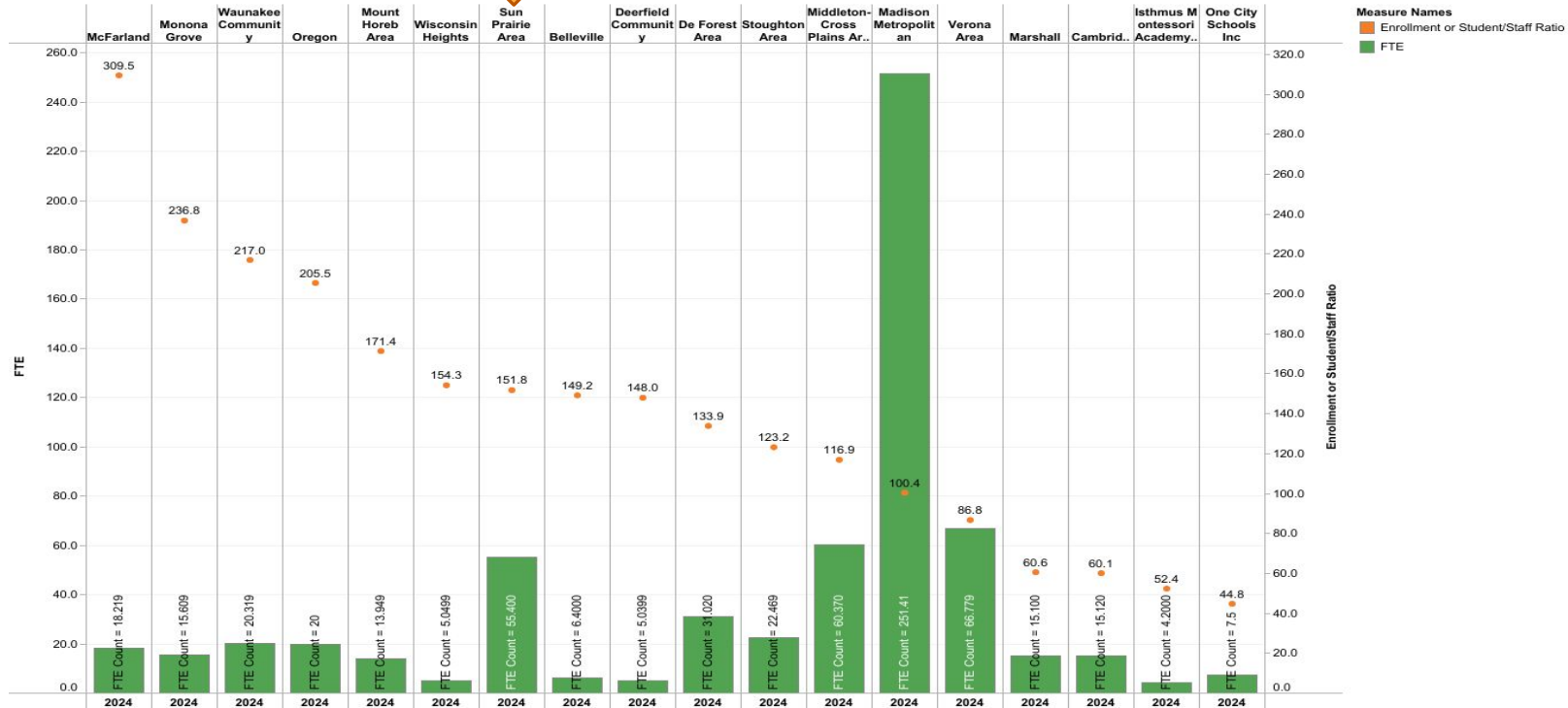


## Staffing Ratios

District(s): All

Position(s): Career and Technical Education Coordinator, Department Head, Other Professional Staff in a Non-educational role and 4 more

Source: DPI PI-1202



# District Facilities



School	Address	Phone #	Constructed	Remodeled	Capacity (Students)	Square Footage	Site Acreage (Acres)
C.H. Bird Elementary	1170 N. Bird St.	608-834-7300	1965	1968, 2000	450	80,609	13.37
Creekside Elementary	1251 O'Keefe Ave.	608-834-7700	2008		506	91,210	5.86
Eastside Elementary	661 Elizabeth Ln.	608-834-7400	1966	1970, 1992, 2000	500	66,960	12.62
Horizon Elementary	625 N. Heatherstone Dr.	608-834-7900	2005		501	93,997	5.01
Meadow View Elementary	200 N. Grand Ave.	608-478-5000	2018		590	118,301	59.62
Northside Elementary	230 Klubertanz Dr.	608-834-7100	1962	1963, 1990, 2000, 2019	521	70,808	13.70
Royal Oaks Elementary	2215 Pennsylvania Ave.	608-834-7200	1975	1991, 2000, 2019	502	84,530	10.85
Westside Elementary	1320 Buena Vista Ave.	608-834-7500	1966	1968, 1992, 2000, 2002	440	71,836	9.36
Token Springs Elementary	1435 N. Thompson Rd.	608-478-5100	2018		590	128,117	19.07
Central Heights Middle School/ Prairie Phoenix Academy/ Professional Learning Center	220 Kroncke Dr.	608-318-8000/ 608-834-6900/ 608-318-8100	1959	1964, 1967, 1978, 1996, 2010, 2022	1,050	275,699	60.87
Patrick Marsh Middle School	1351 Columbus St.	608-834-7600	1998	2005	750	130,630	29.56
Prairie View Middle School	400 N. Thompson Rd.	608-834-7800	1998	2005	750	131,495	26.38
Sun Prairie East High School	888 Grove St.	608-834-6700	2010	2022	2,000	410,578	86.51
Sun Prairie West High School	2850 Ironwood Dr.	608-478-1700	2022		2,000	445,000	120.00
Bank of Sun Prairie Stadium at Ashley Field	155 Kroncke Dr.		2020		4,070	13,965	6.16
501 S. Bird	501 S. Bird St.	608-834-6500	1976	1983, 1988, 1991, 2000, 2001, 2008		49,000	4.14
Average Age=			30	TOTALS=	15,220	2,262,735	483.07



# **School Board Current Work/Discussion**

# Current School Board Discussions



- Board Superintendent Relationship Policy Revisions
- 2024-25 Board Governance Goals
- School Liaison Partnerships
- Engaging our Community in “Community Voices”
- Monitoring Student Results and Operational Expectations and Results
- Equity, Organizational Culture, Communication and Finance/Facilities Policy Work
- Budget Framework (2024-2025 and beyond)
- Public Schools Advocacy





# **April 2025 School Board Election Information**

# 2025 School Board Election Information



- At the Spring 2025 election, there will be four seats up for election. Per statute, “elections to fill unexpired terms shall be held simultaneously with the elections for regular terms, the regular terms to be filled by the appropriate number of candidates receiving the highest number of votes and the unexpired terms to be filled by the appropriate number of candidates receiving the next highest number of votes.” This means that the 4<sup>th</sup> highest vote getter will fill the vacancy due to Alwyn Foster’s resignation which will be for the remaining two years of his term and the top three candidates will serve three year terms.
- All terms will begin on April 28, 2025.

# Current Elected School Board Members



**Diana  
McFarland**  
*President*

Tenure:  
April 2022 -  
April 2025



**Latoya  
Holiday**  
*Vice President*

Tenure:  
April 2022 -  
April 2025



**Lisa  
Goldsberry**  
*Clerk /  
Treasurer*

Tenure:  
April 2023 -  
April 2026



**Steve  
Schroeder**  
*Governance  
Officer*

Tenure:  
June 2012 -  
April 2025



**Bryn  
Horton**

Tenure:  
April 2018 -  
April 2027



**Alwyn  
Foster**  
*(to fill remainder of  
term - April 2025 to  
April 2027)*

Tenure:  
April 2021 -  
April 2027



**Katey  
Kamoku**

Tenure:  
April 2023 -  
April 2026

# Required Paperwork



The following documents must be submitted by **January 7, 2025 at 5:00 pm:**

1. **Campaign Registration Statement** (Form CF-1L) \* This is for local government candidate committees (Recently updated 10/2024).
2. **Declaration of Candidacy** (Form EL-162SD)
3. **Nomination Papers for Nonpartisan Office** (Form EL-169)
  - a. **Minimum of 100 Signatures are required** (*no more than 200*).
  - b. Make sure each nomination form is filled out completely and correctly in order to avoid disqualification.
  - c. The back of Form EL-169 has complete instructions.
  - d. **School District Restrictions:** You (and anyone helping you) are prohibited from distributing nomination papers and campaign literature, or gathering signatures, on school district property during normal school hours or during scheduled school activities.

*\*\*Candidate packets with paper copies of the forms and additional information are available at the District Support Center.*

# Campaign Finance Paperwork



**Candidates should determine if financial disclosure reports are required.**

- You can claim Exemption from Filing Campaign Finance Reports if you plan on raising and spending less than \$2,500 combined on your campaign.
  - You will still be required to file a termination report after the election. (Form CF-2L)
- If you do not claim exemption from reporting requirements, please request the following additional documents:
  - Campaign Finance Overview - Local Candidates (Manual)
  - Campaign Finance Report (Form ETHCF-2L)
    - Submit a January Continuing Campaign Finance Report no later than January 16, 2024
    - Submit a Pre-Primary Campaign Finance Report no later than February 12, 2024
    - Submit a Pre-Election Campaign Finance Report no later than March 25, 2024
    - Submit a July Continuing Campaign Finance Report no later than July 15, 2024
  - Committees must file “Continuing Reports” until a termination report is filed (Form CF-2L)

# Key Dates & Filing Requirements



- **December 1, 2024:** The earliest date nomination papers can be circulated
- **January 7, 2025:** The candidate deadline for filing all documents needed to establish eligibility to appear on the ballot
- **January 14, 2025:** Deadline for drawing of ballot order
- **February 18, 2025:** Spring Primary Election
  - *A primary is only held when* the number of candidates is more than twice the number of vacant seats on the School Board.
  - We have 4 open seats, so if there are 8 or less candidates a primary is not needed. If we have 9 or more candidates, a primary is required.
- **April 1, 2025:** School Board (Spring) Election
- **April 8, 2025:** Board of Canvassers Meeting Deadline
- **April 28, 2025:** Oath of Office and Election of Board Officers

# Contact Information for School Board Elections



- **Contact Georgia Kindstrom** at (608) 834-6687 or [grkinds@sunprairieschools.org](mailto:grkinds@sunprairieschools.org) for more information about School Board election paperwork
- **Contact School Board Members** for information about the School Board:
  - **Diana McFarland**, President: [dmmcfar@sunprairieschools.org](mailto:dmmcfar@sunprairieschools.org)
  - **School Board**: <https://www.sunprairieschools.org/district/board-of-education>
- **Contact the Wisconsin Elections Commission** ([elections@wi.gov](mailto:elections@wi.gov)) for information about the election and to access electronic versions of the required forms (<http://elections.wi.gov/forms>)
- **Contact the Wisconsin Ethics Commission** ([ethics@wi.gov](mailto:ethics@wi.gov)) for information about campaign finance or ethics



**Question and Answer**

**Thank you for attending!**