

Superintendent Introduction

Greetings! As your new interim superintendent, I want you to know how happy I am to be working with you during this school year. I thought that you would like to know a little about me, so that you would have some idea about who I am and my career. I grew up as the oldest of five children on a farm in northwestern Wisconsin. The nearest town was Milltown (on Highway 35) and it had a population of around 500 people. After graduating from Unity High School, I went to the University of Wisconsin – River Falls and got a Bachelor's Degree in English and History and a Master's Degree in History. Later on I would go to the University of Wisconsin – Madison and receive a Master's Degree and Ph.D. in Education Administration. I have a wife Susan, who is a retired special education teacher and we are about to celebrate our 44st wedding anniversary. We have two children: Kristin and Erik and two grandchildren – Sam and Gordie. Our daughter Kristin and her husband Peter live in Cambridge, Wisconsin and our daughter is a vision teacher for the Watertown School District and our son Erik, works in the finance department for a Penske car dealership in the Twin Cities. Sam is 14 and just starting High School in Cambridge and Gordie is 13 and entering 8th grade. We also have a granddog named Bubba, but that is a much longer story. During the school year, you will see me wear neckties portraying my grandsons and granddog.

During my life, I have worked as a custodian, gas station attendant, forklift driver and youth minister. My educational career began as an English teacher in the Cassville and Barneveld School Districts. I was a teacher in Barneveld at the time of the tornado and worked with the community to get the school operational for the fall. In 1985, I began my administrative career in Sheboygan, Wisconsin as an assistant principal in charge of athletics and attendance; next I moved to Reedsburg, Wisconsin where I served as a high school assistant principal, an elementary principal and the assistant superintendent in charge of finance. In 1996, I became the superintendent of the Mount Horeb Area School District and was there for seventeen years until my retirement in 2013. During most of this time, I also taught educational finance for the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Shortly after retiring, I became the interim superintendent in Williams Bay, Wisconsin for seven years, until my second retirement in 2020. I have also served as the interim superintendent in the Belmont, McFarland and Beloit School Districts. You might be seeing a pattern now, I don't seem to retire very well, which brings me to the present as your interim superintendent.

As a superintendent, I thoroughly enjoy working with students, staff and the community. I enjoy meeting with the staff and students each day and generally start each day off greeting staff and students as they prepare to start their day. I also enjoy meeting parents and members of the school community. I am a strong proponent of getting input from the students, staff, parents and community on important school decisions, such as who should be the next leader for the Parkview School District and any decisions regarding upcoming referendums. In order to help

you stay informed about what is going on in the Parkview School District, I will be writing weekly blogs on various educational topics. These blogs will be posted on our District website and will be also be sent out on the District's Facebook page.

If you would like me to write on any particular topic or have any questions that you would like me to address, my email address is wanderson@email.parkview.k12.wi.us.

I look forward to meeting with each of you and being an integral part of your school and community.