

July 19, 2023

Blog – Preferred Methods of Communication

The 2023-2024 school year is almost upon us and we are busy planning for the upcoming year and welcoming back all of our students. Staff are already coming back into the buildings and working with the building principals and other administrators to make sure that we are prepared for their arrival and have set up the programs and processes that they will need to be successful.

I am extremely excited to be a part of the school district and community and want to learn as much as I can about the district and the individuals that make up the school staff, student body and community. I believe in the power of communication and how important it is not only to keep people informed about what is going on within the school district, but also to listen to individuals and hear their thoughts and ideas about where we are and where we hope to be as the year progresses. As the school year starts, there are a few areas that I am especially interested in getting your thoughts and opinions:

- 1) What are the things that you truly like about the Parkview School District and you want to see maintained going forward?
- 2) What are the areas that you would like myself and the Board of Education to look at changing or modifying to make this school district even better?
- 3) What qualities would you like the Board of Education to look for in your next superintendent?
- 4) Whether or not the Board of Education should go forward with a future referendum question and, if so, what should be addressed?

As I think about how we communicate, I am also interested to learn how you would like me to communicate with you, as members of the staff and community going forward. It is my plan to write a blog each week about what is going on in the Parkview School District or in the area of education. However, I thought I might ask if there are other ways that you would like me to communicate with you going forward.

Here are some ways that I have communicated with individuals in the past that I plan on continuing while in Parkview:

- 1) I prefer face-to-face meetings whenever possible. I enjoy meeting people and seeing their facial expressions and body language. I believe that when individuals or small groups of people get together that it is easier to find solutions and get to the heart of issues. During the year, I will do my best to visit school buildings and classrooms each week and to attend as many co-curricular and community events as my schedule will allow. If you ever would like to meet me, I would be more than happy to find a time to sit down and discuss whatever is on your mind. If your schedule does not permit you to visit me, than a phone call also works and my office phone number is (608) 879-2717.
- 2) I have found emails to be highly effective and my District email address is wanderson@email.parkview.k12.wi.us. I check my emails multiple times each day and make it a habit of responding the same day or at the latest the next day. One thing that I especially enjoy about emails is that I do not have to remember what a person may have asked me on my normal rounds and I also have a record of my responses. It is not unusual for people to ask me a host of questions as I make my way through the District and I often ask people to please send me an email, so that I do not forget their question(s). Emails also provide me an opportunity to look into situations and find out answers to your questions rather than providing a hasty answer that may not be exactly correct.

- 3) When topics need a more detailed explanation, I like to write articles, blogs or hold group meetings. I am also not opposed to meeting people in locations that they find more comfortable – I know that meeting inside of a school office is not always a comfortable space for all people, so if there is another location that works, I try to be flexible.

Here are some other methods of communication that I do not regularly do, but would be willing to try if it meets the needs of a number of people:

- 1) Podcasts, I have made a few podcasts in the past, but I must admit when I see or hear myself on the podcast I wonder if the person talking is really me. My mental image of myself and what I see are totally different. On a positive note, I have found podcasts useful when trying to give an electronic tour of a building or recently completed project.
- 2) Twitter, I do not currently have an account, but I am certain that one could be set up and I could learn how to use it.

I am certain that there are other ways that people like to get information and my purpose behind this blog is to let you know that I am willing to communicate with you in any number of formats. I want you to know what is going on throughout the year and am interested in not only providing you with information, but in also getting information and opinions from you throughout the year. If you have suggestions regarding how we can keep you updated and informed about what is going on in the District, please feel free to let me know – your thoughts, ideas and opinions are important for our continued success.

Thank you for the interest you show in the Parkview School District, its schools and the community.