

Week of July 3rd, 2023

Summer Planning

This next week will begin the Fourth of July holiday. I have always enjoyed the Fourth of July with its cookouts, family get-togethers and fireworks display. It also gives me another opportunity to be grateful for the freedoms that we possess. I know that these freedoms came at a tremendous cost and should never be taken lightly. As a young boy, summer meant not only being out of school, but also planting crops for our cattle, putting and weeding a big garden and baling hay. Since my family owned a farm, as well as my uncle and grandparents; I would spend many a day baling hay and putting it up in the hay mow. If you have never put up hay, it is the ultimate weight reducer – temperatures always seem well over 100 degrees above zero and you are constantly doing cardio and weight lifting. I have never been in such good shape as after a summer of baling.

As a teacher, I spent my summers either going back to school to finish my administrative degrees or working as a tour guide. I worked as a broom maker at Stonefield State Park in Cassville and as a tour guide for Little Norway, near Mount Horeb. However, as an administrator I spend my summers getting ready for the new school year. I cannot say the pace slows down in the summer, but my wardrobe changes and I stop wearing a tie and switch to short sleeve polo shirts. My summer hours as an administrator are usually spent ordering and sorting through school supplies, making sure the handbooks have been updated and approved by the Board, revising the draft budget, designing inservice programs and making sure that everything is set for another school year.

This summer, I will also be spending time getting familiar with the workings of the Parkview School District. So far this month, I have enjoyed visiting the two school buildings and meeting some of the staff; and I plan on continuing these activities over the summer months. I attended my first Board of Education meeting on Monday, June 19. One of my major goals this summer is to be able to sit down with people and learn about the Parkview School District from their perspective. As I have mentioned in previous blogs, if you would like the opportunity to come in and chat with me please do so. I am truly interested in your thoughts and beliefs and want to know what you truly like and value about the school district and what items you would like to see modified or changed to make the Parkview School District and even better place to learn, work and live. Please feel free to contact either me at wanderson@email.parkview.k12.wi.us or Sue Draves at sdraves@email.parkview.k12.wi.us to schedule a time for us to set down and get to know each other better.

In my free time when I am not in school, I will be working on my hobby farm. I bought a small hobby farm about nine (9) years ago. I have a huge yard, about 3.5 acres, a small vineyard and some farm animals (that are basically pets). We currently have three babydoll lambs and some chickens. I wanted to get some Scottish Highland cows, but my wife is still a little reluctant on this topic. At least until I fully retire. I also enjoy traveling and will be going to Ireland at the beginning of July. This trip was planned before I knew I would be coming out of retirement

again. I started the vineyard and got the animals so I would have something to occupy my time once I truly decided to retire.

I want you all to know how much I am looking forward to being your new superintendent. From the time that I have already been able to spend in the District, I can tell that it is filled with so many amazing staff and a Board committed to making Parkview a great place to learn and live. You should be proud of the School District you have created – and I will be proud to help continue to make it is a great place to live, learn and work. Have a great summer!