



School District News

First Week of School
2015



Dear West Allis-West Milwaukee Community,

It has been an amazing summer filled with getting to know new people and a new community. I am excited as the new school year begins and I look forward to meeting our community members whether you're a parent, an employee, or a resident/tax payer of the West Allis-West Milwaukee School

District. If you see me at an event or out in the community please take a moment to introduce yourself and say hello.

This school year we will continue to focus on building relationships with our students and parents to support learning, and use high quality teaching to personalize learning based on what each student needs. The combination of quality relationships and engaging instruction helps all of our students succeed and keep the WAWM Schools a great place to educate your children.

Even though there are many great things going on in our schools, we have some challenges. This past August the School Board was presented updated budget projections for the 2015-16 school year. Unfortunately, we are projecting just over a \$4 million shortfall for the upcoming budget. While this is not good news it is our intention to be transparent and open with our tax payers about this information and the challenges we are facing. It's also important to explain how we are working to balance the budget for 2015-2016.

Several years ago the WAWM School District participated in an investment with the intentions of using the dividends to support retirement benefits. The investment failed and our District, along with several others, filed a lawsuit to reclaim our lost investment money. We were successful in winning this lawsuit, but the judgment is still in the appeals process and we have not received the repayment of these funds. This year, we need \$2.6 million to cover these costs.

Our revenue limit this year is that same as last year but like all households, costs go up. We are projecting increased costs such heat, electricity, which makes up that balance of our gap.

In order to help us balance the budget the following actions will take place:

- Closing the Classroom Café at the Administration Building.
- Reduce Board member salaries by half.
- Reduce school and District department budgets by five percent.
- Use grant dollars to support portions of salaries where positions include grant responsibilities.
- Freeze travel and conference participation not associated with grant requirements, compliance activities, or teacher training tied to school improvement plans.

In the coming months our administrative team and School Board will work together to identify additional areas where money can be saved and costs can be reduced.

Even though these will be tough fiscal challenges to solve, I am confident that by working together we will be able to move through this while maintain and improving all of the great learning that takes place in WAWM schools every day. This is a great place to work and learn and we thank you for sending your students to our schools and we thank our entire community for your ongoing support.

Dr. Marty Lexmond



Attendance Area Committee Progress

This summer, the WAWM Attendance Area Committee (ACC) worked to define and gain consensus regarding the placement of 4K and the configuration of grades 5-8. The committee submitted a proposal that reflects its desire to have 4K students attend their local elementary schools. In addition, it was the consensus of the committee that 5th grade students remain at the elementary level. The proposal was submitted to School District administration who will develop a detailed plan and communicate the plan with the committee prior to presenting it to the School Board. Currently, the committee is working to develop an inter-district transfer policy that ensures balanced and predictable enrollments for each school in the District.

Communicating with your School Board

The WAWM School District School Board welcomes and encourages communication with Board members. You can contact a Board member by telephone or email found on the District website. Board members may respond or forward your questions to the Board President for a response.

You can communicate with the School Board directly on the second and fourth Monday of each month during the public comment period of each board meeting. The Board does not respond to your comments during the meetings because discussion items must be publicly noticed. Questions raised at regular board meetings will be addressed in writing or at the next scheduled regular board meeting.

WAWM selected for Academic and Career Planning (ACP) Initiative

Professional educators in the WAWM School District will continue to work with students and their families this school year to help them plan academic and career exploration activities that will prepare students for the future. ACP is based on the student's interests, abilities, values, and goals. The ACP initiative honors all postsecondary routes, including military, apprenticeship, certification, technical college, and university education and recognizes that people often move in and out of different routes throughout their lives as needed.

The WAWM School District is one of 25 WI public school districts selected for the ACP pilot during the 2015-16 school year. Pilot districts are expected to implement ACP practices and processes and serve as models as all districts in the state begin providing academic and career planning services. The WAWM School District has been doing many activities related to ACP such as conferencing, career exploration, career interest inventories, etc. and will continue to integrate these services into a seamless system of ACP delivery.

ACP requires everyone to support students in the process. The WAWM School District looks forward to working together with students, parents, city officials, postsecondary administrators, local organizations, local businesses, employment agency's, and others to be successful in this initiative.



Registration is underway for all fall activities. We encourage all West Allis and West Milwaukee residents to try a class this fall. Please visit our website at www.wawmrec.com.

McKinley Park Update: You are invited to visit our outdoor fitness stations at McKinley Park (1000 S. 72nd St.). The outdoor fitness stations will be available starting in October for use during park hours. The stations are geared toward users age 12 and older all the way to our senior residents.

Warrens Cranberry Fest Trip, Saturday, September 26th; West Allis Players Present "Barefoot in the Park" October 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th at 7:30pm and October 11th at 2:00pm at West Allis Central.

