



KAUKAUNA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

1701 County Road CE • Kaukauna, WI 54130 • (920) 766-6100

November 8, 2021

Dear Board of Education,

I am writing to formally submit my Letter of Retirement as the District Administrator of the Kaukauna Area School District effective June 30, 2022. I humbly request that the Board approve my retirement, including the retirement benefit terms in my current contract.

Serving Kaukauna Area School District (KASD) for the past ten years has been the greatest professional privilege and blessing of my 34-year career. The role and responsibility have challenged and inspired me to improve my “will and skill” each day. KASD inspired me to listen, learn and grow from each interaction and experience. Moreover, the success that we have experienced; and guided by the pillars of student success, culture and climate and fiscal sustainability has established an incredibly strong foundation upon which the District will continue to build.

With an unyielding commitment to those three pillars, our staff and school community have tirelessly worked with a spirit of continuous improvement. Student achievement in and out of the classroom continues to define the quality education students receive at KASD. The ability to recruit and retain high quality staff and the mindset of Kaukauna Strong are excellent examples of the safe and enjoyable place to work and to learn that we have collectively developed. The process and outcomes of the District Vision and Master Planning Committees were both very positive experiences that led to significant investments into our infrastructure. As of today, we can confidently note that the District is in a very sound financial position and ready for an unpredictable future. Moreover, the deep commitment to mental wellness programming continues to kindle next steps for all.

Additionally, I was very proud to have represented KASD on several community Board of Directors over the past years, including the Heart of the Valley YMCA, The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh – Alumni Association, The N.E.W. Mental Health Connections, and the St. Paul Elder Services. I would like to thank deeply the previous and current Board of Education, my colleagues, friends and the KASD school community for the countless lifelong memories and relationships that my wife Sheri and I have experienced.

The remarkable success that our school community experienced together, along with the empowering and unconditional trust that I received, will always be my most cherished professional gift. I envision greater success for this special school district in the future. I am overwhelmed with pride and humility to retire as a Galloping Ghost!

Finally, I would like to close this letter with my favorite quote, “If I have seen farther it has been by standing on the shoulders of giants” *Sir Isaac Newton*.

Sincerely,

Mark P. Duerwaechter
Superintendent