

Ashwaubenon board approves school budget plans

Jaguaress Dance Team recognized

BY JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

ASHWAUBENON – During its February meeting, the Ashwaubenon school board approved several school budget plans and recognized a high school team on its success.

The board acknowledged the Ashwaubenon Jaguaress Dance Team for their first place honors in Division 2 Kick at the 2023 WACPC Varsity Dance Competition that took place in La Crosse on Feb. 3-4.

“We have this opportunity to recognize an amazing program with amazing student athletes and amazing coaches and just some really dedicated kids,” said Superintendent Kurt Weyers. “Not only are they great dancers, but they are even better people.”

With her whole team there to present their trophies, dancer Kennedy Van-

DenElzen said, “I just [want to] say thank you to the team. It was a hard year; we had our struggles, we had our ups and downs, but from the beginning I knew that it was going to be good. We had a great year, a great season.”

The first action on the board’s agenda this meeting was to approve the Ashwaubenon School District’s three-year school library plan.

Librarians Nadine Mathu, Erin Sawaski and Dawn Austin gave a PowerPoint presentation on what the funding would be used for, how it would be spent and what kind of amenities Ashwaubenon school libraries would use.

This included two major goals: curriculum instruction and assessment and the use of library spaces and time.

The board approved the budget for the plan.



The board acknowledged the Ashwaubenon Jaguaress Dance Team for its first place honors in Division 2 Kick. Submitted photo

Technology plan

The 2023-24 technology budget plan and five-year financial plan was presented by Scott Truskowski, information technology coordinator for the school district.

In Truskowski’s presentation, he detailed what the budget would be used for — including making internet security programs, firewall costs, licensing, maintaining upkeep of software and replacing electronics like

Chromebooks, iPads and projectors.

The board approved the plan at \$664,100.

Facilities improvements

A 10-year facilities improvement plan was also presented by Ashwaubenon District Buildings and Grounds Coordinator Tom Schmitt.

This plan proposed renovations and improvements to be made to several build-

ings across the district over the next 10 years and has been put together using input and discussions with staff members.

The plan was also approved by the board.

Spring referendum

Weyers reminded and encouraged the district to attend upcoming meetings regarding the April referendum, including informational meetings on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. at

Pioneer Elementary School and Wednesday, March 22 at 6 p.m. at the Cormier Early Education Center.

To learn more about the referendum and upcoming dates, visit www.ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us/community/2023-referendum.cfm or contact Weyers at (920) 492-2905, Ext. 1003, or kweyers@ashwaubenonk12.org or Keith Lucius at (920) 492-2905, Ext. 1005, or klucius@ashwaubenonk12.org.

Howard-Suamico School District looks at enrollment trends

BY WILLIAM SOQUET
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HOWARD-SUAMICO – The Howard-Suamico School District (HSSD) was briefed on future enrollment trends at its Feb. 13 meeting.

The board also discussed critical thinking strategies and recognized community outreach efforts within the district.

Nick Johnson from MDROffers Consulting in Madison presented the board with a condensed form of a 60-page report that the firm prepared for the district.

MDROffers worked on the project from September 2022 to January 2023.

The report indicated that the district should expect an additional 305 students by the 2035-36 school year.

Most of the enrollment growth will be spurred by projected developments along the Highway 29, Shawano Avenue and Milltown Road corridors.

Meadowbrook Elementary School is expected to grow by about 200 students by 2035, which will leave



The Howard-Suamico School District (HSSD) was briefed on future enrollment trends at its Feb. 13 meeting.

Janelle Fisher photo

the building significantly over capacity.

Lineville Intermediate School is also expected to be over capacity by the time 2035 rolls around with a projected growth of about 100 students.

The projected increase of 305 students represents a 5.2% increase on the current enrollment of 5,879 students.

Enrollment in the district has been roughly stable for the past decade.

Slight decreases in enrollment at the elementary and intermediate levels have been offset by slight

increases at the middle school and high school levels.

Total population in the HSSD attendance area increased by 19% in the 2020 Census, but most of the growth was concentrated in older demographics.

The report indicated that just under 4,000 new housing units are projected to be built in the district by 2035 — 80% expected in Howard and the remainder in Suamico.

Johnson told the board that on average, housing units send the most children to school within the

first decade of being built.

When discussing buildings that are projected to be over capacity, Johnson gave the board a couple of potential paths forward.

Those included shifting the attendance boundaries of the elementary school, changing the grade groupings that attend each school or building a new elementary school.

Board Member Vanessa Moran agreed that something should be done, but said that “it’s just always challenging to shift boundaries.”

District Superintendent Damian LaCroix said, “Time is on our side” and noted that the timetable is far enough in the future that the board does not need to rush into any large decisions.

LaCroix also said that the report will be shared with village staff of both Howard and Suamico to keep them informed.

Focus on critical thinking

Another presentation from the board highlighted strategies that the dis-

trict is using to implement critical thinking skills.

LaCroix noted that critical thinking is a large part of the ideal graduate profile and cited a recent study of over 800 employers that said the same.

At Bay Harbor Elementary School, students plant seeds and then have to decide when to move them to a larger pot.

By engaging with a dynamic process of the plant growing and the requirements to move the plant to a larger pot, students enact critical thinking by interacting with multiple processes at the same time.

At Bay Port High School, students in upper-level culinary classes are given open-ended recipes and have to think critically to create a finished product.

The presentation also noted how the district aims to have students work to proactively solve

problems instead of reacting to problems when necessary.

Outreach recognition

The board recognized the Giving Tree, an organization of HSSD employees that work to help underprivileged students within the district.

The group started in 2008 in an old concession stand at Bay View Middle School and grew so much that it moved into a space at Green Bay Community Church in 2016.

Giving Tree works with school nutritionists to provide healthy food to students in the district who may not have access to that outside of the school day.

It also runs supply drives and provides other essential items to underserved students in the district.

OBITUARIES



David R. Quimby, age 82, of Sheboygan, passed away on February 5, 2023, at the Aurora Medical Center in Grafton. He was born on August, 9, 1940, in Lansing, MI to the late Raymond and Patience (Smith) Quimby. He graduated from Eaton Rapids High School and then proudly served his country in the United States Navy from 1958-1961. He furthered his education at Michigan State University, earning a masters degree in educational administration. In 1963, Dave married

Phyllis Hollister and together they had three beautiful daughters. Dave was an administrator at St. Norbert College in De Pere, retiring in 2002. Dave loved being outdoors, such as hunting, fishing and boating. He had a generous heart and always willing to help others. He will be deeply missed. He is survived by his daughters, Heather (David) Schuster and Jennifer (Ben) Withers; his significant other, Jan Miller; grandchildren, Anne (Nathan), John, Brian, Hugh, William and Leon and ex-wife Phyllis Jean. Along with his mother, Patience Pratt, Dave was preceded in death by a daughter, Summer Ann Quimby. A Celebration of Life for Dave will be held at 11:30 AM on June 24, 2023, at the Wind Jammers Sailing Club, 4009 Channel Road in Saumico, WI 54173, with Military Honors to follow. Memorial donations can be made in David’s name to either National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Breast Cancer Research Foundation, or to the Wind Jammers Sailing Club in Saumico. The family would like to thank the staff at both St. Nicholas Hospital and Aurora Medical Center in Grafton for the excellent care given to Dave. To leave the family an online condolence please visit www.ballhornchapels.com

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