

LINK

Connecting the Elmbrook Schools Community

March 2012



Mark Hansen will be District's Next Superintendent



The School District of Elmbrook Board of Education has selected Mark Hansen as the district's next superintendent. Mr. Hansen, currently the Chief

Academic Officer in the Pewaukee School District, will succeed Dr. Matt Gibson, who is retiring effective June 30, 2012. Mr. Hansen's contract begins July 1, 2012.

The decision followed a national superintendent search which yielded 47 candidates. The superintendent profile used during the search process was developed with input from the community.

"The Board believes that in Mark Hansen, our District and community will continue to have an educational leader of the highest personal integrity; one who is committed to building upon Elmbrook's established reputation to attain higher levels of curricular excellence for all students and families," said Board of Education President Tom Gehl. "His background in educational services and delivery, combined with extensive

building experience as a school principal, were significant factors. These criteria, combined with his detailed plans for a transition of leadership, an administrative organizational structure, and plans whereby Elmbrook can secure the highest levels of achievement in our schools, are what most impressed the Board."

Prior to Mr. Hansen's Chief Academic Officer position in Pewaukee, he was the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in the School District of Waukesha. His other administrative experience includes serving as principal of Waukesha South High School, assistant principal of Waukesha North High School, assistant principal of Brown Deer High School, and assistant principal of Pewaukee Middle School. These positions followed his career as a teacher.

In 2006 Mr. Hansen was named Wisconsin Principal of the Year by the Association for Wisconsin School Administrators and was a national finalist for the same award. His education and other notable administrative and teaching

accomplishments can be viewed at www.elmbrookschools.org.

"I am honored and humbled to be joining the Elmbrook team working toward continued excellence," said Mr. Hansen. "The opportunity to work with the district's engaged school board, dedicated administrators, talented teachers and staff, inspiring students, and committed parents and community members is a dream come true."

Mr. Hansen said he is grateful to the Board for their commitment and trust in him. "I have truly been inspired through school visits and conversations with students, teachers and administrators during the interview process. I look forward to our collaborative efforts to build upon the strong foundation that makes Elmbrook succeed."

Mr. Hansen and Dr. Gibson plan to work together to ensure a smooth and successful superintendent transition. The Elmbrook community members will have the opportunity to meet Mr. Hansen at events to be scheduled over the next several months.

Community Celebration to Honor Superintendent Dr. Matt Gibson Planned for June 14



A community celebration is being planned for Thursday, June 14 to honor Dr. Gibson's 17 years of

service to Elmbrook Schools. The event will be held at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center from 4-8 p.m. It will be an open event to include a public reception, student performances and a program.

A catered dinner will be available for those who purchase tickets, with event proceeds going to the Wilson Center. More information will become available as the date approaches.

Board of Education Candidate Profiles Enclosed

Four candidates are vying for two seats on the Elmbrook Schools Board of Education. Candidate Profiles can be found on page 2 of this publication. Each Board member

represents the entire school district; therefore residents should select one candidate for each seat. The general election is Tuesday, April 3.

Board of Education Candidate Forum

Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m.

Elmbrook Schools Central Administrative Office
13780 Hope Street, Brookfield

Sponsored by Elmbrook Parent Leadership Council

Board of Education Candidate Profiles

Question 1: Why have you chosen to seek election to the Elmbrook Board of Education?

Question 2: What personal philosophies and experience do you have that will help you best represent the Elmbrook electorate?



JEAN LAMBERT 15150 Tulane Ct. Brookfield 53005 • LambertAreaFour@gmail.com

Question 1: During my current term on the Board, I have actively participated in the processes that resulted in a balanced budget without significant staff reductions and class size increases. Further, I have provided leadership to the Legislative Committee to foster relationships with local, state and federal officials so the needs of the district and impact to the district of policy and financial decisions are clearly understood. I have brought to the table the perspective of private-sector business for many personnel matters: employee relations, compensation, personnel policies, and benefit design.

There's more work to be done, to include: enhancing student achievement; acclimating our new superintendent; fostering the building of school communities; supporting management and staff as we work together to build a stronger district in the absence of restrictive bargaining agreements; and supporting continued development of fiscal policy that balances revenues/expenses.

Question 2: I believe education is the foundation of success for individuals, communities and our country as a whole. The challenges are to seek continuous improvement, cut waste and set reliable metrics while maintaining fiscal control.

Family: Married to Roger Lambert; 7 children—1 at Wisconsin Hills, 1 at Brookfield Central. 5 have graduated from college—2 from Brookfield Central, 3 from Pius.
District Resident: 40 years **Education:** MBA, Marquette University (1991); Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Medical College of Wisconsin School of Nursing (1987); RN Diploma, Milwaukee County General Hospital School of Nursing (1977) **Recent awards/recognition:** Elmbrook School Board Member since 2009; Project Management Certification (PMP) from the Project Management Institute; Girl Scouts of America 14 Years of Service; Boy Scouts of America 10 Years of Service. **Profession:** Senior Financial Analyst, Froedtert Health.

Area
IV
Candidates



PAUL BYRNE 705 Kurtis Drive, Elm Grove 53122 • pcbyrne1@yahoo.com

Question 1: I believe that students today have a greater educational challenge than ever before, and sound preparation for adulthood is even more important than in the past, as fewer opportunities await those who are not well prepared.

Given the necessary budget constraints that will reduce our options for providing excellent educational benefits that have been the tradition at Elmbrook, we will have to make tough choices, mindful that we will meet our budgets. Going forward I believe that we must be proactive, taking a strategic perspective when it comes to these options, making sure that we are in alignment with all of the stakeholders in our community.

Question 2: I am against very large classroom and school sizes where it is too easy to overlook individual students. The best education comes from a focused relationship between a teacher and a student with parent involvement. I have a broad and varied business background with experience in strategic planning, execution, meeting budgets and managing people. I have lived overseas and have experienced other types of school systems.

Family: Married to Karen Sopik; 1 child at Tonawanda **District Resident:** 4 years—also lived in Germany and New Berlin, WI **Education:** Bachelor of Arts in Economics, University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee (1983), minor in International Business **Profession:** Director of Business Planning and Development, Modine Manufacturing Company, Racine **Leadership/Awards/Recognition:** Past President—Milwaukee World Trade Association.



MEG WARTMAN 2425 Whippletree Lane, Brookfield 53045 • ReelectWartman@yahoo.com

Question 1: The last year has brought unprecedented change to public education in our state, and certainly to our district. It was also a year in which the board made some very difficult decisions to best position our district for a healthy, long-term future. Lastly, the district is hiring a new superintendent who, in addition to his leadership of the district, will oversee curricular changes and developments that will be absolutely critical for the continued achievement of our students. I look forward to the prospect of continuing the work that is so essential to maintaining the success and health of our district and our community.

Question 2: Communities benefit from public schools with established histories of improving student achievement. Our district has distinguished itself as an educational leader both in Waukesha County and throughout the state. The continued success of our competitive school district requires both educational insight and sound business management. The combination of my nine years of experienced board leadership, business background, and sixteen years of active school and community volunteerism, position me to address the challenges that lie ahead.

Family: Married to Paul Wartman; 3 children—2 at Brookfield Central, 1 district graduate **District Resident:** 25 years **Education:** Bachelor of Science in Economics, University of Wisconsin—Madison (1984) **Recent awards/recognition:** Elmbrook School Board Member since 2003; Co-Chair High School Facilities Steering Team **Profession:** Full-time mom and community volunteer. Prior experience in the insurance industry specializing in marketing group benefit plans.

At-Large
Candidates



LYNNE THOMAS 18540 High Meadow Drive, Brookfield 53045 • lynneth630@gmail.com

Question 1: The mission of the Elmbrook Schools is to educate and inspire every student to think, to learn, and to succeed. Maintaining this mission in the face of fiscal constraints and declining enrollment will require collaboration, creative thinking, and a proactive and comprehensive focus on the district's long-term goals. If elected, I will utilize my knowledge and experience to assist the board in making informed, responsible strategic decisions that preserve and enrich the educational integrity of the district.

Question 2: I was fortunate to receive a stellar public school education that prepared me to succeed at two of the most competitive institutions of higher education in the country and instilled in me a lifelong passion for learning. As a homeowner, a district volunteer, and a parent of two young children, I have seen firsthand the tremendous benefits an effective school system can provide both to students and to the community it serves. When challenges arise, district stakeholders must be able to trust that their representatives will make financially and educationally sound decisions that reflect a clear vision for the future.

Family: Married to Danny Thomas; 2 children—1 at Swanson, 1 pre-K **District Resident:** 4 years **Education:** Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Northwestern University (1997); Master's in Education, Harvard University (1999) **Profession:** Homemaker; Classroom and library volunteer—Swanson Elementary; Blogger on district issues—Brookfield Patch; VBS teacher and Building Committee member—St. Matthew's Lutheran Church; former private elementary school teacher and children's museum exhibit developer.

ELMBROOK EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Innovative Instruction



Teaching Excellence



Continuing Education



Educational Grants & Scholarships

Strong Schools Build Strong Communities

Top-rated school districts attract new families and businesses—the building blocks of a thriving community.

Elmbrook is nationally recognized and students consistently place among the highest in standardized test scores and college entrance exams:

- *Forbes'* America's Best Schools for Your Housing Buck List
- *Newsweek's* Top High Schools List
- ACT's Red Quill Legacy Awards
- Exemplary Middle School Awards

The Elmbrook Education Foundation (formerly the Lancer-Spartan Scholarship Foundation) has been promoting educational excellence since 1958. Our Elmbrook community has been, and will continue to be, a key factor in the school district's ability to achieve educational excellence.

The Elmbrook Education Foundation strives to engage the community in the pursuit of educational excellence through Educational Grant and Continuing Education Scholarship programs.

www.elmbrookeducationfoundation.com

P.O. Box 206, Brookfield WI 53008

Email: elmbrookeducationfoundation@gmail.com



Find us on Facebook!

Stay Connected

Visit our website to:

- Subscribe to our newsletter
- 'Like' us on Facebook
- Check out our new page for Alumni/Retirees

How You Can Help!

- Volunteer
- Attend Annual Events
- Donate Online
- Corporate Gift-matching
- Event Sponsorships & In-kind Support
- Tax & Estate Planning
- Stock Transfers

Endowed/Honorary Funds

Donations can be directed to EEF programs or to an honorary fund, such as:

- Elmbrook Staff/Retirees
- BEHS/BCHS Alumni
- Hillside Student Scholarship Fund
- Holly Stahl 'Love Life' Scholarship Fund

Your Community! Your Schools! Your Choice!

This section was paid for by the Elmbrook Education Foundation (EEF). The EEF is a qualified 501(c)(3) organization.

Matt Gibson, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Tom Gehl
Board President

Melinda Mueller
Editor

Jill Kokta
Design

www.elmbrookschools.org



13780 Hope Street
P.O. Box 1830
Brookfield, WI 53008-1830
(262) 781-3030

NON-PROFIT ORGAN.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID
BROOKFIELD, WI
Permit No. 191

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL

SUMMER LEARNING ADVENTURES

**Register by mail
March 10 - 30!**

A variety of support and enrichment courses are available to students as part of the School District of Elmbrook's 2012 Summer School Program.

Summer School will begin on Monday, June 18. The K-8 session will be held at Pilgrim Park Middle School and runs through July 13, with no student attendance on July 4. The High School session will be held at Brookfield East and runs through July 20.

Registration materials are now available at www.elmbrookschools.org/summerschool. Registration is by mail only and materials must be postmarked between the dates of March 10 and March 30, 2012.

Questions may be directed to the Summer School Office at 262-781-3030 ext. 1506.

Celebrate!

Elmbrook High Schools Receive ACT Red Quill Legacy Awards

Brookfield Central and East High Schools have been selected as recipients of ACT's 2011 Red Quill Legacy Award. This is the first year for this recognition of excellence by the ACT Midwest Region and is presented to institutions that have consistently taken a leadership role in the use of ACT programs and services for the benefit of their students and community. Schools honored are being recognized for best practices in the application and analysis of data to promote college and workplace readiness. To be considered for the Legacy designation, a school or district must demonstrate a long-term commitment to increased student achievement through effective use of EXPLORE, PLAN, and ACT data and must have received the Red Quill

in multiple years. Brookfield Central and East are among only five high schools in Wisconsin receiving the Legacy award.

In 2011, Central and East both achieved their highest-ever ACT composite scores, 25.0 and 25.3 respectively.

Presidential Scholar Candidates

The School District of Elmbrook is proud to announce that four members of the Class of 2012 have been named candidates in the 2012 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. Brookfield East candidates are Aditya Trivedi, Advik Shreekumar, and Chang Ge. Brookfield Central has one candidate, Dee Luo.

Elmbrook's four candidates are among 10 candidates in Waukesha County, 48 in Wisconsin and 3,000 total chosen from more than 3.2 million students expected to

graduate from U.S. high schools in 2012. Inclusion in the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, now in its 48th year, is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities. Further consideration is based on students' essays, self-assessments, descriptions of activities, school recommendations, and school transcripts. Semifinalists will be announced in April and final Presidential Scholars in May.

For the last two years, Brookfield Central has had two Presidential Scholars – Haley Adams (Class of 2011) and Bryan Dongre (Class of 2010).