

February 3, 2019

Now that this crazy and potentially dangerous weather is hopefully behind us, it's time to continue to build up our positive energy and start "thinking spring!"

When winter winds down in a school district, it means that sports like basketball, swimming and wrestling begin to finish up their last couple of months and extra curricular activities such as track and field and golf, as well as many spring concerts, shows and performances are on the horizon!

The success that our school district finds on the athletic field and on the stage does not happen overnight. The youth programs that we have in our school district are second to none; the time, energy and commitment that so many adults in our area put into our youngest students is exceptional. The Kiel Area Basketball Association, Kiel Area Youth Theater, Kiel Area Youth Soccer Clubs, Youth Football and Alumni Association, Kiel Area Youth Wrestling, Kiel Area Youth Baseball, Cheer Programs, Robotics Club, and many others all play into our continued success. We should continue to say "thank you" to those that give of their time for our children!

Speaking of extra curricular activities, our athletic complex will be renovated starting in May, as well as the beginning stages of construction of a new performing arts center. The athletic complex bids were reviewed in January and the bid recommendations will go to the full board for approval at the February 6th school board meeting; a number of local businesses are being recommended for certain parts of the work; this project is expected to be ready for competition in August! All of the bid recommendations and board documents can be found on our website in the school board information section ([www.kiel.k12.wi.us](http://www.kiel.k12.wi.us)).

The final details of the performing arts center are still being considered and this project appears to still be on track to be completed in the Spring of 2020. It will be exciting to watch these two projects take shape as the summer rolls around. If anyone has any questions or would like a tour of the complex areas as they are being built, please reach out to me.

I am pleased to let you know that we have also reached out to as many local businesses as we could possibly find to see if they have interest in using our new facilities to market their company or product; we also have naming rights and other sponsorship opportunities available. We have received a nice response from some of these businesses and in the month of February, the meetings to discuss the possibilities for these sponsorships will begin!

Also in the month of February, everyone in the Kiel Area will receive a mailer that includes a letter and a brochure that offers community members the ability to purchase certain items found in both projects; engraved seats and engraved tiles will be available in the performing arts center and engraved seating and engraved paver bricks will be available for purchase in the athletic complex. We are sending the mailing so that all community members have the chance to see what is available and purchase one of these items if they so choose.

On another positive note, much work has been done by our finance committee over the last few months to consider the best time to borrow the money for these two projects. I am extremely excited to let you know that the school board officially has locked in an interest rate in the low 3 percent range, which means that the interest payments on this borrowing will be significantly less than what was projected when we calculated the numbers last year; specifically, because of the lower interest rates, the taxpayers of the Kiel Area will pay 1,413,000 less than previously expected over the life of the borrowing!

The vision (next 3-5 years) for our district moving forward includes expanding trades offerings for our students, enhancing partnerships with our local businesses, continuing with a personalized approach for our students and their learning, which includes offering more high level/college credit course offerings and making sure that we continue to take a closer look at the mental health needs of all. With that said, teams of staff and community members, businesses, etc. have been created and will begin meeting to establish the action steps needed to make these goals a reality. If you have an interest in being a part of one of these goals and can offer a certain expertise, please reach out to me!

In the end, we want to continue to take a “continuous growth for all” approach (our mission statement) for our students, no matter the pathway they choose to take.

Our Board of Education recently had the chance to spend a few days together at the state convention. This dedicated group of seven individuals continues to learn and grow together to ensure that the best interests of our students and community are considered every time a decision needs to be made. I am so thankful for the dedication that the board members put forth for our students and community. Please thank school board members any chance that you get and encourage them to continue to “put kids first!” Let’s not let the many hours that are spent by our board members go unnoticed as they continue to make decisions in the best interests of our children.

At the end of February, we are excited to invite our parents into our buildings for parent, student, teacher conferences. All parents are encouraged to attend the conferences; we must build a triangle of success around our children that includes the school community, parents and students; if all three of these supports are in place, our community and our children have a greater chance of finding success!

Speaking of success, we recently saw the first semester come to an end in our school district. Many students found academic success and made the respective honor rolls in their buildings; we are so proud of their accomplishments. Whether a student learns a new way to solve a math problem, figures out a solution to a complex scientific experiment, builds a cabinet from scratch, welds two pieces of metal together, sings a new song, wins a math, spelling or robotics competition or simply learns how to read for the first time, the “light bulbs” continue to go on here in the Kiel Area School District.

Please join me in continuing to “tell our story,” because it is a story that is full of successful students, staff and community members that are accomplishing amazing things. Let’s never forget to thank our teachers, support staff, coaches and all others that work with our children, as they are the reason that all of this is possible!