
Tiger Times

Gillett School District Newsletter

February 2018



I remember being a student teacher (quite a few years ago) and one of my supervising teachers telling me a strategy she used as a timeline guide to get the needed curriculum taught to our students. Using three holidays as a guide would help in not falling behind during the school year. Halloween, Christmas and Easter, these are the holidays my supervising teacher reminded me to use as my teaching timeline because things really seem to move even faster after each holiday. I think of my supervising teacher and the advice she gave me every time we get close to one of the three holidays.

We are getting close to Easter and we are getting close to really hitting our stride in our learning year. I am so fortunate to see firsthand how much learning and growing has gone on with our students in what seems like a fairly short time to this point. I look forward to how much learning and growing will continue to go on through June and into summer. We really have a special staff that works hard to help our students succeed and grow.

I would like to invite you to see the great things that I see on a daily basis and what we are so proud of. I would love to show you why our school district is exceeding expectations on our recent state report card. I would love to show you why we have neighboring school districts touring the Gillett middle school to see firsthand why our middle school is significantly exceeding expectations and considered one of the best middle schools in Wisconsin. I would love to show you why our elementary students have an extremely high achievement score on our state scores and an awarded school of recognition. I encourage you to give me a call, set up a time and let us show you the great things that are going on at Gillett Schools and why we are all very proud of our students and our school. Gillett is very special.

Mr. Todd Carlson – District Administrator

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The mission of the Gillett School District is to offer students a high quality educational experience in a secure learning environment which recognizes, values, and responds to student's individual needs.

April School Board Election Candidates

On Tuesday, April 3, 2018 voters in the Gillett School District will have the opportunity to cast their ballot in the School Board Elections. Nanette Mohr, James Karls, and Jamie Heroux are the community members running for the two positions up for election. The seats are currently held by James Karls and Nanette Mohr.

To help the community get to know the candidates a little better, a list of thirteen questions was sent to each candidate. Answers are printed exactly as they were submitted by the individual candidates. Due to space, not all questions could be printed here. Answers to all thirteen questions as they were answered are available on the school website. The order of the candidates for this publication was determined by a random draw.

Nanette Mohr

Age: 71 **Brief Bio:** I've lived in the Gillett School District for 51 years. I am married to Chuck Mohr. I have one son Spencer (Laurie) Henkel. Three grandchildren Spencer, Chelsea and Whitney. One Great Grand Daughter Ella Henkel. Spencer, Laurie, Spencer, Chelsea, Whitney and myself are all graduates of the Gillett School District.



Employment: Landlady for Nanette Mohr Rentals. I am responsible for the maintenance of property and communication with tenants. I have been a landlady for 45 years.

School Board Experience: In April 2018, I will complete my 21st year on the Gillett School Board. Currently I am School Board Clerk.

Other Leadership Experience: Gillett City Council since 1991. I am Ward 3 Alderperson, Council President and acting Mayor.

What motivates you to want to become a board member? I am hoping that I can make a difference in a child's life by the decisions I make at the board meeting.

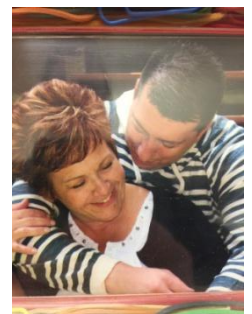
What do you see as the primary work of the board? Board Policies, Budgets/Accountability, maintenance of district buildings, School Safety, Curriculum, Recruit and retain highly qualified teachers, administrators and support staff while maintaining fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers

What are three areas where you would look to cut expenses? Utilities – Busing – Cost of open enrollment

What are three areas where you would look to increase revenue? Programming – Technology – Apprenticeships, Work based and service – learning projects

James D Karls

Age: 50 **Brief Bio:** I've been married to Shelly Karls for 28 years. We have two boys, Sam and Joe. All four of our family members have graduated from GHS. I enjoy sports, reading and board games with friends and family.



Employment: I'm currently employed at Wal-Mart in Shawano, WI. I've been there since the beginning of December 2017 and am the Manager over the Front End operations. Prior to that the majority of my work history is in the financial field; spending 5 years with Chase, 8 years with Associated Bank and 9 years with Wells Fargo.

School Board Experience: I have served six years on the School Board with the last three years as School Board President.

Other Leadership Experience: I have had over 21 years of financial Management experience.

What motivates you to want to become a board member? I would like to continue my tenure on the School Board because I take great pride in being a Gillett High School graduate and am driven to make sure that the tradition of GHS continues by helping the board to make sound decisions around the operations of the district.

What do you see as the primary work of the board? The primary work of the board is to continue to try and get the message out to the community about many things, specifically the educational offerings, financial challenges and successes of the schools. I would love to see more community members attend School Board meetings but I don't know how to drive that involvement.

What are three areas where you would look to cut expenses? To be honest there aren't that many areas to cut expenses. Sometimes I believe there is a perception that the School Board is frivolous with the budget but I would like to invite anyone with questions surrounding annual budgets to set a time to really dive into the numbers with a board member or administration to understand the total picture of the financial challenges facing the district

What are three areas where you would look to increase revenue? One of the biggest areas where the district could recapture revenue is with the students that school choice out of the district. Aside from that the opportunities to increase revenue are limited because of the revenue cap and how schools have to operate within the rigid guidelines set up by the state.

Jamie Heroux

Age: 44 **Brief Bio:** I am originally from Pound, WI and graduated from Coleman High School in 1991. I then studied at Michigan Technological University where I received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering in 1995. I have lived in the Gillett School District with my wife Penny for 18 years. We have 4 children (Jerika, John, Phillip, and Scott) who currently attend school in Gillett.

Employment: I am employed as an Electrical Project Engineer at Paper Converting Machine Company in Green Bay, Wisconsin. I have worked there as an engineer since graduating from MTU in 1995.

School Board Experience: I served on the Gillett School Board from 2014 to 2017. I was the Vice President of the board for the 2016/17 term. I also served on the buildings/grounds, policy, and finance/personnel committees.

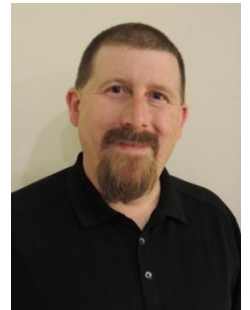
Other Leadership Experience: I was recently elected President of Christ Lutheran Church in Hintz. Prior to this I served 6 years as a trustee. I also work in multiple collaborative team environments as part of my employment at PCMC.

What motivates you to want to become a board member? I am running to be a member of the Gillett School District Board because I believe in having a strong school to offer educational opportunities for our community. I believe serving on the board is an investment in my community's future. As an engineer, I am asked to lead in the solving of problems at work. This skill set would help the board in meeting the challenges of the district.

What do you see as the primary work of the board? The primary work of the school board is to work together to form a clear vision and sound policies for the district that promote quality education.

What are three areas where you would look to cut expenses? 1. Look for possibilities to consolidate and share roles that are currently duplicated between the school facilities. 2. Look at what software we are buying licenses for on an annual basis and which ones we really use. 3. Continue looking for energy efficient solutions to lower costs to maintain buildings.

What are three areas where you would look to increase revenue? 1. Make it a goal of the district to promote the high quality education the Gillett School District provides, since the State's funding formula is based on student enrollment. 2. Engage our local state representatives as a board to fund public schools adequately. 3. When capital improvements are needed, engage local groups that have an interest in that item to donate or help raise funds for it.



Elementary Building Turns 40

Just before Christmas Break in 1977, the students of Gillett Elementary walked from the old school site (where Wells Fargo Bank is today), carrying their supplies to a brand new school that was built on the hill behind the high school. When they returned from Christmas break, they started classes at the new school. Mr. Bob Hruska, the first principal of the new school, presided over a dedication program held on February 19, 1978. Built at the cost of \$1.8 million dollars, the new building was awash in the color schemes and designs of that decade. Bright greens and oranges adorned the walls and carpets of an open classroom concept.



So many young faces have started their kindergarten years in this building and grown up in our rooms before heading across the parking lot to the secondary school. As well, many teachers have made their marks in our classrooms over the past forty years. In fact, many of our students today have parents who sat in the same rooms with some of the same staff when they were children!

To commemorate this 40th birthday of the Gillett Elementary, the week of February 19th will be a celebration in our school. Daily trivia contests, nostalgic videos, and an old-fashioned sock hop will mark a week that will conclude with a piece of birthday cake on Friday. Each day will have a special dress-up day: Monday is Silly Socks 70s day, Tuesday is Big Hats/Big Hair 80s, Wednesday is Neon 90's, and Thursday will be our Decades Day! Decades Day will be a contest to see who can dress up in the best decade costume! Finally, on Friday, it will be Tiger Pride Day, where students, staff and community are all encouraged to wear their Tiger gear!

We have special 40th anniversary t-shirts available to purchase for only \$6. An order form will be sent home with students in their Wednesday folders and posted on the school website. If anyone else would like a t-shirt, please give the Elementary office a call at (920) 855-2119 before February 2.

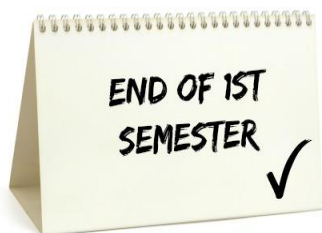
Finally, we would like to invite everyone – former and present students, parents, and staff members – to the school on Saturday, February 24th, from 1:00-3:00 PM for our first-ever “All-School Reunion”! Come tour our 40 year-old building, see the changes that have taken place since the last time you haunted our hallways, and perhaps run into some old faces you haven’t seen in “decades”! We look forward to having you join us in celebrating what we’ve called, “The Little School That Could”.



Here's to our first forty years! As we look forward to our next forty, we'll just keep on ROARING!!!

Curt Angeli – Elementary School Principal

Secondary School Semester Turnover



As Gillett Secondary wraps up the fall semester it seems like a good time to celebrate some of the successes around our building. Juniors have taken the PreACT exam, received their results, and have set some goals regarding our school wide ACT in February. Our middle school earned a school report card result of 87.0, Significantly Exceeding Expectations. This has earned our staff at the GMS some well deserved recognition from around the state. Students have begun to settle in to our school year and have been working hard to finish out our first

semester strong. Our winter sports are in mid-season form, and our band and choir put on a wonderful concert just prior to our Christmas Break and another one in January. These are just a few of the bright spots in our school community. I look forward to helping build many more in the months and years to come.

Looking to the start of a new semester, I encourage parents and guardians to continue to be involved in all areas



High School Band Members showing off their Christmas Sweaters after a successful concert.

of their student's education. Academics play a large role in a student's future success, and these can be enhanced through a balance in physical, emotional, and mental well-being.

Ensuring your student is getting enough sleep, feels secure at home and at school, and is confident about their own abilities has shown to help students succeed in all areas of their education. Being able to find a routine in the often busy schedules of adolescents can be tough, but is often a positive step for our students.

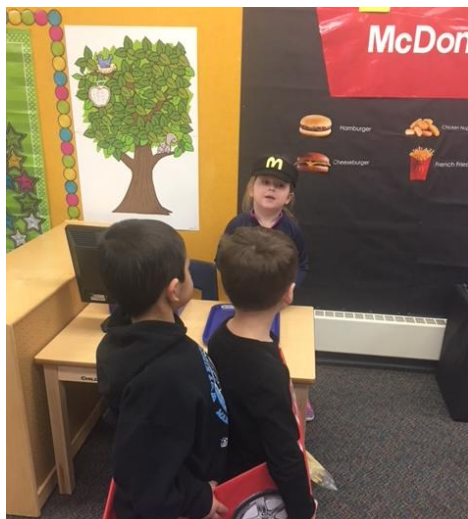
Looking ahead, Parent-teacher conferences will be held on March 15th of this year. Shortly after that, Prom will be held on April 14th. And it may seem early, but graduation is just four short months away on May 27th. The planning process has already begun for Graduation for the Class of 2018. As we start to work our way out of the winter doldrums, please encourage your students to pay attention to announcements for reminders and information on these and other upcoming events.



Thank you for being part of our school community,
Jason Dreier- Secondary School Principal

Four-Year-Old Kindergarten Gets a New Curriculum

Four-Year-Old Kindergarten (4K) has an exciting new curriculum this year called Tools of the Mind. Tools of the Mind is a research-based early childhood program that helps young children develop the cognitive, social-emotional, self-regulatory, and foundational academic skills they need to succeed in school and beyond. They do all of this in a fun filled play based environment. This curriculum is designed to work for all young children no matter their background.



Some fun themes we have created in our classroom this year include family, grocery, hospital, restaurant and many more. As we play, math and literacy skills are embedded in all of our play activities. We may be counting dollars to pay for our groceries or writing down guests names at our fancy restaurant. Our students are strengthening their skills through deep meaningful play

and interactions with each other.

Mrs. Pekarek and Mrs. Giese were both trained in Tools of the Mind and are very busy preparing the new units. The students enjoy helping to create their “new” learning environment every couple of weeks. It has been amazing to watch how far the students have come using this approach.



State School Report Card Information

Each year the state of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) puts out Accountability Report Cards for every school district and each individual school within those districts that are publicly funded. These report cards use data collected over multiple years in four key areas – Student Achievement, Growth, Closing Gaps, and Post-Secondary Success – along with other factors to give a rating to each district and school. The ratings can range from Significantly Exceeds Expectations to Fails to Meet Expectations.

For the 2016-17 school year, our District was given the rating of Exceeds Expectations, our Elementary Building's rating was Meets Expectations, our Middle School's rating was Significantly Exceeds Expectations, while our High Schools rating was Meets Few Expectations. The staff at all buildings reviewed the data at a recent in-service and made plans to use these results to help drive educational change in the district.

If you would like to view the full report card for the district or an individual school, please visit the school's website. If you have questions on any of the Accountability Report Cards, please feel free to call one of our offices and the secretary will get you in touch with someone who can answer your questions.

Four-Year-Old Kindergarten Registration

Believe it or not, it is that time of year when we begin planning for next school year's incoming Four-Year-Old Kindergarten (4k) class. Children who will be four-years-old on or before September 1, 2018 are eligible to enroll in our Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program at Gillett Elementary School. Beginning on January 29, we will start mailing initial registration materials to eligible families that have been identified through our school census. If you have a child that is eligible for 4K, and you have not received your initial registration information by February 10th, please contact the Gillett Elementary office @ 920-855-2119. If you know a friend or neighbor who may have a child eligible for four-year-old kindergarten, please pass this message along to them. Thank you for your assistance in helping us plan for next school year's incoming four-year-old kindergarten class!



If you have any questions regarding registration or screening, please contact Mrs. Pockat in the Gillett Elementary School office at 920-855-2119.

Middle School Spelling Bee

Gillett Middle School students in grades five through eight participated in the local Scripps spelling bee. The process started with each grade level having a spelling bee. The top three spellers from each grade participated in the district-wide spelling bee Thursday, January 18th in the Meunier/Pelow Auditorium. The top two spellers in the district-wide event were seventh-grader Isabella Matczak and sixth-grader Sofiah Belter. Isabella will represent Gillett at the CESA 8 regional bee on Feb. 12 in Suring. Don Olderman and Tami McQuillan organized and proctored the event. Congratulations to all who participated and Good Luck Isabella!



Spelling Bee Participants left to right: Emily Wurl, Isabella Matczak, Grayson Klein, Amanda Jenerou, Joslyn Sexton, Sofiah Belter, Hailey Elsner, Grace Simpson, Angela Mosconi, Zander Davis, Jack Sturm, and Vincent Vassallo.