

# Denmark Viking District Newsletter

Issue #4

April 2015



## **SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION APRIL 7, 2015**

The following community members have decided to run for a school board position.

Scot Knutson  
Derek Rosek  
Nancy VanElzen  
Walter Neta

In an effort to get to know the candidates, we have asked them some questions. Please see pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter for their responses. We hope this will help you make an informed decision.

## **SUMMER SCHOOL 2015**

### Session I

June 10-12  
June 15-19  
June 22-26  
June 29-June 30

### Session II

August 3-7  
August 10-14  
August 17-21

Summer school is open to all students who live in the Denmark School District. The summer school booklet will be open for viewing on Tuesday, April 7th at 6:00 p.m. Parents can go in and enter student information and browse the course offerings at this time.

Monday, April 13th at 6:00 p.m. the registration process will begin and will remain open until May 31st.

The link to the summer school registration will be on the District page of the Denmark Website at [www.denmark.k12.wi.us](http://www.denmark.k12.wi.us).

## **REPLACEMENT OF FOOTBALL/TRACK POLES AND LIGHTS**

Tony Klaubauf – District Administrator

On March 9, 2015, the Denmark School Board voted to support the replacement of the poles and lights for the football field and track area. While we knew this expense was going to be an issue in the near future, the urgency in replacing both the poles and lights has occurred because of safety and liability concerns.

We know that the original poles, brackets and light supports were built around 1971. They are close to 45 years old. Through the years, we obviously replaced the bulbs as they have gone out. About 10 years ago, the glass covers surrounding the bulbs began to come loose and they were wired into the supports to make sure they did not fall on people below. We also had the condition of the poles checked about 4-5 years ago. At that time, there was no immediate need to replace the poles, but there was some concern they would not last many more years as they crack and rot.

Near the end of last year's football season, we noticed the lights were beginning to burn out at a much higher rate than previous years. As we went through winter, Nick Phillips, our Director of Buildings and Grounds, and I began to investigate replacement options for the next few years. However, over winter one of the light casings, or supports, broke off and fell down. Had anyone been hit by this, they would have been severely injured if not killed. We are also finding more of the glass that covers the lights falling down, which is also a safety concern. We believe there is no immediate danger, but will ask track coaches and physical education teachers to be vigilant during high winds.

The total cost for completion of the project will be around \$150,000. Until we receive all the bids along with local contractors' costs, the exact final cost will not be known. We will make that figure public when the installation is completed.

We certainly would like to seek donations and/or advertisements that would offset taxpayer money for the poles. If anyone is interested in either heading up a funding drive for the lights or making a donation, or would think about placing advertising on the actual poles, they should contact me. We do not have a set amount that we would charge for advertisement, but this is open for discussion. If there are questions/concerns, or those interested in donations/advertisements, please contact me at [klaubauf@denmark.k12.wi.us](mailto:klaubauf@denmark.k12.wi.us) or 863-4005.

## **SCOT KNUTSON**

### **1. Please provide some background and qualifications for the Denmark School Board.**

I have helped the Village of Denmark Police department create, get approved, and worked within the budget for the last 3 years as a Village Police Officer.

### **1. What are some major issues you want to emphasize if you get elected to the Denmark School Board?**

Some of major issues that I see are better communication, willingness to think outside the box, and empowering our schools to do what's right and not have a cookie cutter approach.

### **3. School Board members have to balance the needs of the school district and the local taxpayers. What are your views on achieving this balance?**

I believe we have to check our expenses in house before we go to the tax payers and ask for any additional help. We have to make sure that we have the right people in the right places.

### **4. What is your opinion on the voucher schools and public tax dollars going to private schools?**

I think the school voucher program is good as long as the schools that are using this program are held to the same standards as the public schools. We all want our children to succeed in the world and we must give them every opportunity to do that.

### **5. Do you have any additional thoughts you would like to share with the residents of the Denmark School District?**

I work and live in which the District has their schools. I have a vested interest in the school system. I talk to my children about school and I see the excitement that they have in regards to going to school. I participate in activities at the school and talk the school up whenever I can. The School Board needs to be the biggest cheerleaders for the district to promote and retain the best of the best.

## **DEREK ROSEK**

### **1. Please provide some background and qualifications for the Denmark School Board.**

I joined the Marine Corp after high school. After the Marine Corp I met and married my wife Jean, we have three daughters. I went to NWTC for automotive training. When they were to start school we moved back to Denmark. I read that Denmark School District was on of the best schools. We moved into the district so our children could attend school here. I now have two grandchildren and would like them to attend school here.

I am a member of the American Legion, the Knights of Columbus and am the constable for the Town of New Denmark. I attend church at St. James in Cooperstown. My grandfather Anton Doc Rosek taught me every important lessons growing up. At the time I didn't understand, but now I do. The most important was always treat people the way you want to be treated and the second was to always be honest with people. I gained a lot of life experience spending time with him.

### **2. What are some major issues you want to emphasize if you get elected to the Denmark School Board?**

We need to take a closer look at Common Core. Some say basic principle is good, making all schools use the same basic curriculum is a good idea, but I say it goes too far in changing the way our staff teaches. I have heard that teachers spend too much time on paper work and not enough time is spent on teaching students. There are other areas, like lunch program. Our athletes don't get enough energy to play sports from the current lunch meal, and are still hungry with the current portion size meal offered. It should be up to us parents and the kitchen staff to decide what to feed our children, not the government.

There are other issues, and I would like ideas from the residents of the district to contact me with their concerns and ideas if I am elected. I will not pretend to have all the answers, so I look forward to receive input from the resident of the Denmark School District.

### **3. School Board members have to balance the needs of the school district and the local taxpayers. What are your views on achieving this balance?**

The first it to make the budget available for everyone to see. The second is to see what the budget entails. Then I can make some informative choices.

### **4. What is your opinion on the voucher schools and public tax dollars going to private schools?**

To be honest, I understand the controversy over vouchers. Parents also have other choices with open enrollment. On the other hand, if our school does a good job teaching our students, why would parents take their children out of our school district?

### **5. Do you have any additional thoughts you would like to share with the residents of the Denmark School District?**

If anyone wants to see where I get information from, please visit my facebook page, Derek Rosek for School Board. Also, I would like to receive comments, suggestions, and concerns from the community.

## **NANCY VANELZEN**

### **1. Please provide some background and qualifications for the Denmark School Board.**

15136 N Maribel Rd, Maribel WI 54227 Age: 49  
Family: James (spouse), Crystal Short (daughter), Travis Schuster (son), Eddie & Donna Duckart (parents)  
Occupation: Business Manager, Bay Area Humane Society, Clerk/Treasurer – Village of Maribel  
Education: Graduate of Denmark High School, Accounting (Assoc Degree), Management (Bachelor Degree), Accounting (Bachelor Degree), Management & Organizational Behavior (Master Degree)

### **2. What are some major issues you want to emphasize if you get elected to the Denmark School Board?**

The top issues facing the district are School Funding, School Budgets, and Student testing/assessments/standards in conjunction with Educator Effectiveness.

### **3. School Board members have to balance the needs of the school district and the local taxpayers. What are your views on achieving this balance?**

It is my responsibility to know what is happening at the State and Federal level regarding issues facing the school district and understand how the decisions will impact our students and taxpayers. As clerk/treasurer for the Village of Maribel, a current school board member and having family currently enrolled or graduated from the district, I believe I can be objective and make decisions that are fiscally responsible.

### **4. What is your opinion on the voucher schools and public tax dollars going to private schools?**

The proposed State of Wisconsin budget brings an immediate financial challenge, not only to the school district, but the municipalities and taxpayers in our district as well. As more taxpayer dollars are taken away from public education and provided to the private sector, we are faced with the challenge of providing a valuable and sound education for our students.

### **5. Do you have any additional thoughts you would like to share with the residents of the Denmark School District?**

If you re-elect me to the School Board, I will continue to be an advocate for the students and taxpayers of this district. At times this means asking the right questions and making the tough decisions. The ability to do this is absolutely necessary given the financial challenges facing our district, state and nation.

Thank you!

## **WALTER NETA**

### **1. Please provide some background and qualifications for the Denmark School Board.**

I have been an active member of the community for over 20 years. My children are a product of its educational system and I want to continue that excellence.

I have both a background that encompasses running a small business, civil service, and legal systems and education to further the goals of the community and school system

### **2. What are some major issues you want to emphasize if you get elected to the Denmark School Board?**

Changing demographics – make sure we provide services to best help improve an individual's education experience.

Improving the educational system – making sure that we are offering the best education for our children while balancing stakeholders' (students, parents, teachers, & tax payers) interests.

Building Maintenance/Improvements – insuring we are budgeting for known maintenance issues and planning only for needed improvements.

### **3. School Board members have to balance the needs of the school district and the local taxpayers. What are your views on achieving this balance?**

The system must be transparent and open to the public. All stakeholders that wish to have input must be listened to and understood before a decision is reached. The School Board must obtain as much input from the community as possible and gain "buy in" from the stakeholders before reaching a decision.

### **4. What is your opinion on the voucher schools and public tax dollars going to private schools?**

In general competition is healthy if it is done properly. If society agrees that vouchers are an option then rules must be in place so that the children obtain the best education available.

### **5. Do you have any additional thoughts you would like to share with the residents of the Denmark School District?**

Address: 721 Red Clover Way

Age: 48

Family: Amber, 30, Works for Fed Gov.; Devyn, 22, US Army; Dylon, 20, School: NWTC; Duncyn, 17, School DHS; Breaire, 16, School: DHS

Occupation: Attorney

Education: Juris Doctorate

Past elected experience (elected public board or council, years served): None

Community involvement – groups and organizations where you are currently active, etc.: WisBar, Brown County Bar, WAWCA, NOSSCR, VFW, Catholic Church

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### IN THIS EDITION OF THE DENMARK VIKING DISTRICT NEWSLETTER.....

- **Football/Track Poles and Lights**
- **Summer School 2015**
- **School Board Election Information**

### HERB KOHL FELLOWSHIP

**Congratulations to Connie Davister, Early Childhood Center teacher, who was awarded the Herb Kohl Fellowship and will be honored in April at a banquet in Green Bay. Connie will receive \$3,000 and the school will also receive \$3,000 to use for supplies.**

#### **Attention: Non-Residents of the School District of Denmark**

This newsletter is a service provided to all residents of the School District of Denmark. The most effective and affordable process to circulate this newsletter throughout our community is to use a saturation mailing which occasionally picks up a few streets in the postal route areas of non-residents. Avoiding a few non-residents from receiving this newsletter is difficult and costly. Our efforts to communicate with our resident families is important. Thank you for understanding.