

Denmark Viking District Newsletter

Issue #4

April 2016



SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION APRIL 5, 2016

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

Tim Stedl
Julie Lemmens
Tammy Sommer
Dan Ullman

There are two positions to be filled. One was created when Joe Duckett decided not to seek re-election, and the other is currently held by Dan Ullman, Board President, who is seeking re-election. These are three-year terms.

The candidates completed a questionnaire to provide some background information.

Please see pages 2, 3, 4 & 5 for their responses.

All candidates should be congratulated for their interest in serving the children and taxpayers of the district.

(Candidate profiles are in the order they will appear on the April 5 ballot.)



Jill Bodwin Named Wisconsin Business Manager of the Year

It was announced in February by the Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials that Jill Bodwin, Business Manager for the Denmark School District since 2012, has been named Business Manager of the Year for the 2016-17 school year. Ms. Bodwin was selected from over 400 business managers across the State of Wisconsin.

As stated by long-time Denmark School Board Member and Past President, Joe Duckett, "Ms. Bodwin presents information that is comprehensible to the public and board members. We (the Board) have received positive feedback from the auditors as to the financial shape of the district. Ms. Bodwin provides information to the School Board Members that helps in making long-term decisions that benefit the students of our district."

Congratulations to Jill Bodwin on this outstanding award! She will be recognized at the State Education Convention in Milwaukee in January of 2017.



Mary Handrich, Agriculture Teacher Award

Mary Handrich of the Denmark AgriScience Department and FFA advisor was selected as the winner of the Agriculture Teacher Award. This honor was presented at the 36th State Convention of the Wisconsin FFA Alumni Association in Madison on February 6, 2016.

The Agriculture Teacher Award is given to an outstanding instructor of agriculture education and the advisor of an FFA chapter. This award evaluates the instructor on their level of classroom activities as well as FFA activities and participation of FFA members at the local, state and national level.



TIM STEDL

School Board Candidate

1. *Please restate why you have an interest in running for the Denmark School Board.*

I wanted to give the voters a choice. Thankfully five other people cared enough about our school district to put their name on the ballot. I want to thank Derek and Kevin for running and good luck to Julie, Dan, and Tammy. The district has served me and my family (see bio in February newsletter) well, so it is time to give back. Pay it forward. If you are reading this - VOTE.

2. *What are the strengths, in your view, of the current Denmark School District?*

Safe and well maintained buildings; caring staff and parents; community pride and support; friendly and respectful students; early and continuing intervention; collaborative learning systems; high graduation rate; high school offerings including nine AP courses, nine transcribed courses, three college credit courses, youth options, youth apprenticeship, and online courses; college and technical school readiness; extracurricular activities and participation rate. If you have never been to the Band Extravaganza I urge you to go; it is the Denmark School District exemplified. You will walk out and say wow how did they do that?

3. *What are areas that need to be strengthened or improved, in your view, with the Denmark School District? Are there any building improvements or facilities you view as needing upgrading in the next few years?*

I visited all four building in late February and we have a good thing going here; let's keep the ball rolling. Other than scheduled replacement and repair, I think the academic space is in good shape. The after-school activity space crunch is an issue that warrants public discussion.

4. *School finance, even for administrators, can be difficult to understand and explain to others. If you are elected, how will you familiarize yourself with school finance to make prudent decisions for the Denmark community?*

I play with numbers for fun so budgets do not intimidate me. I digested our "hieroglyphical" annual budget and met with Mr. Klaubauf and Ms. Bodwin with a few questions, so I think I have a pretty good grasp of our expenditures and revenues. I took the time to educate myself on the equalized valuation formula. It was a daunting exercise, but after a week I got it. As a small, very small, business owner, I reconcile revenues and expenditures to the dollar; the IRS kinda likes that.

5. *There is a teacher shortage across the State of Wisconsin, especially in specialty areas such as Agriculture, Technology Education and higher level Math and Science teachers. What do you think Denmark can do to attract and keep quality teachers?*

Promote the Denmark School District as a great place to work and reform lock step pay schedule.

6. *If given the opportunity, what would you specifically like to tell those who develop legislation (legislators and the governor) regarding public education?*

We need to decentralize the educational establishment in the country and state. If I were President I would abolish the Department of Education (thanks, Jimmy Carter) and give the \$42 billion spent on K12 education by a bunch of power brokers in Washington back to the local districts. The federal government rains on us (mandates) and tells us to pay for our own umbrella. If you want a quick read on 'Why the Education Department should be reconceived - or abolished' look up that Washington post article (3/11/12) written by Peter Smargorinsky, Distinguished Research Professor of English Education at the U. of Georgia. He is an Obama supporter and uses lots of big words but he is right; he writes, "I would have a highly distributive approach in which decision making is local and includes - and indeed, relies on - the perspective of teachers." If I were Governor I would recommend the State Constitution be changed (not a fast process) so the DPI Superintendent of Public Instruction be an appointed position. It is the only state agency with an elected leader. This setup is fraught with inefficiency and ineffectiveness. Rep. Joe Sanfelippo (R. New Berlin) was quoted in Wisconsin Watchdog (9/14/15) "Let's stop all that wasteful spending on administration and put the money directly into the school districts and directly into the classrooms." I forwarded this response to Gov. Walker, Senators Baldwin and Johnson, Rep. Grothman, Sen. Lasee and Rep. Jacque.

7. *Feel free to add any other comments you would want the Denmark residents to know on why you are running for the school board position.*

A friend of mine asked, 'Why do you care?' And I responded 'Someone has to.' "I wouldn't mind if I failed because I tried something worthwhile." - Siggi Hilmarsson.

JULIE LEMMENS
School Board Candidate

1. ***Please restate why you have an interest in running for the Denmark School Board.***

As the mother of two boys who are currently attending the Denmark Elementary School, I have a vested interest in not only my children's education, but the overall success of our school district.

2. ***What are the strengths, in your view, of the current Denmark School District?***

Denmark School District's biggest strength is being a smaller, close knit community in which parents, teachers and students all work together for the main goal of raising successful children. Denmark's schools have quality leaders, teachers and support staff that truly focus on the future of our kids.

3. ***What are areas that need to be strengthened or improved, in your view, with the Denmark School District? Are there any building improvements or facilities you view as needing upgrading in the next few years?***

I feel technology will always be at the top of this list. Denmark schools are constantly improving and keeping up with today's fast paced technologically advanced world that our children are growing up in. Overall maintenance of the buildings is a must. Our children need to have a safe and secure place to learn.

4. ***School finance, even for administrators, can be difficult to understand and explain to others. If you are elected, how will you familiarize yourself with school finance to make prudent decisions for the Denmark community?***

If elected to the school board, I will work diligently with the other members to better understand the district budget and how we can work together to maximize the dollars we have allocated.

5. ***There is a teacher shortage across the State of Wisconsin, especially in specialty areas such as Agriculture, Technology Education and higher level Math and Science teachers. What do you think Denmark can do to attract and keep quality teachers?***

As a school district, I believe we need to continue to build a strong relationship with our area universities and their teaching programs, encourage our current students who excel in these areas to pursue a career in teaching and offer guidance in the options available, and make sure our current teachers have the dedicated resources and incentives necessary to retain them.

6. ***If given the opportunity, what would you specifically like to tell those who develop legislation (legislators and the governor) regarding public education?***

I would like our legislators to keep the future in mind as they make decisions about public education. The education of our children not only affects their future, but shapes the future for all of us. We are all responsible for creating a better future through solid, quality public education.

7. ***Feel free to add any other comments you would want Denmark residents to know on why you are running for the school board position.***

I believe strongly in the importance of a quality public education and I have seen firsthand the remarkable tools, education and guidance our schools and teachers give our children. I realize there is always some room for improvement, especially in today's fast paced, and technology driven world. Therefore, I believe I can utilize my knowledge, experience, and perspective to bring a well-rounded voice to our school board.

TAMMY SOMMER
School Board Candidate

1. *Please restate why you have an interest in running for the Denmark School Board.*

I am interested in running for the School Board for several reasons, the first of which being that my children attend the district. Their future and the future of other students in our district is very important to me. I feel my experience in growing my business gives me an advantage and the knowledge to balance both ends. I have a vested future in this community and care greatly about growing our village, while keeping the small town values. The importance of keeping tech, art and music in the school is something that I am very passionate about.

2. *What are the strengths, in your view, of the current Denmark School District?*

There are so many strengths in our school district, one of which is our staff. As a graduate of Denmark myself and now sending my children here, we have had the pleasure of dealing with some of the best teachers and support staff. It's great to be able to have an interpersonal relationship with everyone in the school; they know who you are and who your child is. We have a great band program. The recent addition of many more AP classes is putting our students ahead of the game for college preparation, something they will find valuable as they head off to college. The FFA department is also a huge asset to our community and school, with the support of the Alumni. Part of the strength of our school district comes from the community and how much they care about our students.

Our schools are always keeping up with technology, which is important for our students to be competitive in their future work environment. It amazes me to see the technology that my children use when working with other students on presentations, flyers or documents. What they are learning in technology and work skills is wonderful.

3. *What are areas that need to be strengthened or improved, in your view, with the Denmark School District? Are there any building improvements or facilities you view as needing upgrading in the next few years?*

School safety is a big concern, I think it is important that we are taking all the steps necessary in the buildings to keep our children safe. The addition of any upgrades in this area that we can squeeze into the budget are very important. I think as a community we have done a great job on making sure our buildings are cared for and inviting. The facelift at the ECC is great—for the children to see a fresh, cared for building that welcomes them each day.

4. *School finance, even for administrators, can be difficult to understand and to explain to others. If you are elected, how will you familiarize yourself with school finance to make prudent decisions for the Denmark community?*

I understand school finances are confusing and could be difficult to understand, but I also believe a fresh set of eyes always helps. In my professional life, growing my business from the ground up has taught me a lot about finances and how to prioritize sometimes difficult choices that will affect everyone, which I think would be a great asset to the board.

5. *There is a teacher shortage across the State of Wisconsin, especially in specialty areas such as Agriculture, Technology Education and higher level Math and Science teachers. What do you think Denmark can do to attract and keep quality teachers?*

A huge attraction for teachers to come to our community is the students. We have a great district with parents that are involved and show the teachers support. The great values we pass on to our children are present in the classroom.

6. *If given the opportunity, what would you specifically like to tell those who develop legislation (legislators and the governor) regarding public education?*

Public Education should be one of the most important issues for our legislation. It is also important to remember in rural communities such as ours that tech and ag are especially important to our students.

7. *Feel free to add any other comments you would want the Denmark residents to know on why you are running for the school board position.*

The importance of our students' ability to find something they love in school is very important to me. I think kids need a reason to look forward to school each day and feel safe in their environment. We are lucky that Denmark is a district that tries its best to help all the students, with the great addition of the Charter school, the AP classes and tech classes.

DAN ULLMAN
School Board Candidate

1. *Please restate why you have an interest in running for the Denmark School Board.*

I have been fortunate to be a Denmark School Board member since 2010. I would like to continue serving the district and community in enhancing our school academic, sports, and other extracurricular programs to provide a great education to all of our students.

2. *What are the strengths, in your view, of the current Denmark School District?*

The Denmark School District offers many academic and extracurricular activities for all students. Our administration, staff, and students are continually moving forward in a positive manner to improve our schools as an attraction to new students and parents.

3. *What are areas that need to be strengthened or improved, in your view, with the Denmark School District? Are there any building improvements or facilities you view as needing upgrading in the next few years?*

Continuing to meet the ever-changing educational standards that are passed onto public schools, while presenting a high quality education to all students, will be a continual challenge. Accepting these changes and strengthening the process in dealing with these new standards will need constant attention and effort by all involved in our district.

Many of our buildings have had updates and renovations over the years, yet there are always more updates and improvements that are necessary. As a board member, I have heard input from members of our community for such things as a new high school gym (ours is now 50+ years old), improvements in technology and equipment for the trades that we teach, enhancements to our agricultural facilities, and also input about other sports facilities that could use improvements. These are all areas that I feel we should begin making improvements on after asking and listening to the many voices and opinions in our community.

4. *School finance, even for administrators, can be difficult to understand and explain to others. If you are elected, how will you familiarize yourself with school finance to make prudent decisions for the Denmark community?*

This is true. School finance can be difficult to understand due to the various ways public schools are funded and regulated. Asking questions of both the District Business Administrator and Superintendent and asking questions during monthly board meetings has helped me get a better understanding of how we can balance our budget and operate schools.

5. *There is a teacher shortage across the State of Wisconsin, especially in specialty areas such as Agriculture, Technology Education and higher level Math and Science teachers. What do you think Denmark can do to attract and keep quality teachers?*

As a school, we will need to pay our teachers a competitive wage along with continuing to provide an environment that allows them to have success in our schools as teachers.

6. *If given the opportunity, what would you specifically like to tell those who develop legislation (legislators and the governor) regarding public education?*

Public education was established to allow for all children to get an education. If funding to public education continues to be decreased or allocated in a way that is inequitable, we will witness continual erosion to the idea of "a quality education for all children." I would try to influence them in a way that puts a financial focus on our public education system as a means to allowing all students a chance to learn and improve their futures.

7. *Feel free to add any other comments you would want the Denmark residents to know on why you are running for the school board position.*

Being on the board has been an interesting, educational, and humbling experience. Through this experience, I have learned a lot about the behind the scenes work that goes on inside the school system. We are truly blessed to have so many caring staff members, teachers, and administrative members that go above and beyond to teach our children. Recognizing these efforts has given me a new appreciation for all the dedication and hard work our staff members, teachers, and administrative members do every day to educate our K-12 students.

Having four young daughters that currently attend the Denmark ECC and Denmark Elementary also gives me a very personal vested interest in our community and our schools. I hope through voter support to continue serving the Denmark School District and our community.



Tony Klaubauf - District Administrator

District Seeks Community Input

At the January and February Denmark School Board Meetings, the members discussed the possibility of hiring School Perceptions to receive feedback from the community during the fall of 2016. The Board voted unanimously in favor of using School Perceptions at the February meeting. With all referendum debt being retired in 2017, along with the revenue limit override money ending in June of 2017, the School Board is seeking information from the taxpayers of the district.

The process of obtaining community input is still at a very early stage. Sometime in late September or early October of 2016, all residents will receive a survey to determine public interest in facility upgrades as well as maintaining programs. Before the Denmark School Board would make any decisions or take any action, the Board members want to obtain feedback from the taxpayers of the community. You can visit the School Perceptions website at <http://www.schoolperceptions.com/> to obtain more information about their services.



April & May Concert Dates

- April 2 - HS Solo & Ensemble Music Festival**
8:00am - 4:00pm
Luxemburg Casco HS
- April 3 - Band Extravaganza** 2:00 and 4:00pm
- April 25 - Spring Jazz Concert** (TBD)
- May 2 - HS/MS Spring Choral Concert**
7:30pm, HS Cafetorium
- May 6 - State Show Choir Music Festival**
4:00 - 9:00pm, UWGB
- May 7 - State Solo & Ensemble Music Festival**
8:00am - 4:00pm, UWGB
- May 12 - MS Spring Band Concert**
6th Grad Band 6:15pm
7th & 8th Grade Band 7:30pm
- May 16 - HS Spring Band Concert** 8:00pm

Golden Apple Teachers of Distinction

Congratulation to Amanda Couch and Kim Hess who were both selected as Golden Apple Teachers of Distinction this year!

Out of 40 Teachers of Distinction in all of Brown County, Denmark had two teachers make it to this level.

Congratulations to Amanda and Kim and thank you to all our teachers for your dedication to the students of Denmark!



Amanda Couch
5th Grade Teacher



Kim Hess
Middle School & High School
Choir Director, grades 6-12

OPEN ENROLLMENT 2016-17

Open Enrollment, also known as school choice, allows parents to submit an application for their child to attend school in a district other than the one in which they live. Denmark welcomes applicants to the open enrollment program.

For online information, please see Denmark's website www.denmark.k12.wi.us. Click "Open Enrollment" under Quick Links on the left menu.

Application dates for the 2016-17 school year are February 1 – April 29, 2016.

A separate application must be submitted for each child. Current open enrolled students do not need to reapply, except for current 8th grade students that will be entering high school for 2016-17 and "tuition waiver" students. Students who need to reapply will receive letters and instructions through the postal service.

Please contact Kristi Buhr with any questions at 920-863-4217 or email buhrk@denmark.k12.wi.us.



Presents “The Key Club Event!”

You choose a random key, try it in each lock box, and if the box opens, you win the cash inside!

What: Fundraising Event for Denmark School District Sports and Fine Arts Programs

When: Saturday, April 2, 2016 - registration from 5:30 - 6:30pm, buffet dinner from 6:00 - 7:30pm, key trials at 8:00pm, and Big Mouth band from 9:00pm - 12:00am

Where: Susters - Denmark, WI 54208 - Phone: (920) 863-2488

Cost: \$50 per person includes entry, chicken dinner, one drink of choice, chance to win a prize, and the band. Only 300 tickets being sold. **You must have a ticket to attend.**

Key Box Prize amounts:

1st prize: \$2500 5th prize: \$250
2nd prize: \$1000 6th prize: \$125
3rd prize: \$500 7th prize: \$125
4th prize: \$250

Additional Prizes:

5 \$50 Winners
10 \$10 Susters Gift Certificate Winners

You do not need to be present to win. Someone will try a key for you.

Tickets can be purchased at the Denmark State Bank, Denmark High School, Circle Tap or Susters. You can also call 863-4265, 366-5585, or email delarwes@denmark.k12.wi.us with any questions or to buy a ticket, or contact a booster club member you know.

Checks should be written to DBC.

Since 2011, Booster Club funds have been used for the following purposes:

Sound System for Track/Field and Football Field

Team Apparel for Boys Golf

Instruments for Denmark Band

Tandem Target Challenger Net for Volleyball

Practice Wrestling Mats for Youth/HS Wrestling Program

Multiple Items for Musical and Play Productions

Defibrillators placed throughout community/district

Water Filling Stations at High School

Private contribution for district family needs

Bouncy House at Homecoming Game

Viking Pride Signs placed in community

Water Filling Station for Middle School

Denmark Youth Basketball Program - Alumni Tournament (multiple years)

Range finders for Golf Programs

L-Screen for High School Baseball

Milk for Athletes Program (multiple years)

Speaker for Internet Safety/Cyber Bullying

Record Display Boards for Strength and Conditioning Program

Mixer for sound system for announcing at Softball games

Funds for DI Team

Protective Wall Mats for Wrestling Program

Post Homecoming Dance Activities

Fireworks for Homecoming Game

Poms and Uniforms for the Dance Team

Home Plate and Mound Tarps for Baseball fields

The Wisconsin Singers

Friday, April 8th

7:00 pm

Denmark High School

Denmark Alum Aaron Mleziva will be returning to the stage in the Wisconsin Singers' production of *So Classic!* The Denmark High School Show Choirs will also perform an opening act.

Tickets to the event are \$15.00, general admission, and can be purchased online at ticketleap.com or at Denmark High School. For more information, please contact Ann Mleziva at jamleziva@hotmail.com.

DENMARK SCHOOL CALENDAR 2015-16

April 22	PDT Day
May 27	PDT Day
May 30	No School
June 2	Last day of School



DENMARK SCHOOL CALENDAR 2016-17

September 1	First Day of School
September 5	No School - Labor Day
September 23	PDT Day - Early Dismissal
October 27	No School
October 28	No School
November 18	PDT Day
November 23	No School
November 24	No School
November 25	No School
December 23	PDT Day & Last Day of School Before Holiday
January 3	First Day of School After Holiday
January 20	PDT Day
February 16	PDT Day
February 17	No School
March 17	PDT Day
April 13	No School
April 14	No School
April 17	No School
May 26	PDT Day
May 29	No School - Memorial Day
June 2	Last Day of School - Early Release

MAQA Education Event *(Meat Animal Quality Assurance)*

***Sponsored by: Maribel Grain Company
Denmark FFA and Alumni***

When: Monday, April 18, 2016

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Where: Maribel Grain Company
14906 Maribel Rd, Maribel, WI 54227
Call 920-863-2289 for directions or questions.

Who: Anyone involved in FFA, 4H, or is planning to exhibit at Northeast Youth Livestock Show or county fairs that need MAQA certification

Why: To gain knowledge in raising healthy, high quality livestock.

DENMARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL APPLICATION TIME

Are you looking for a new way to learn? Do you want to help drive your own education? Is an exploration based, independent approach your learning style? If you answered yes to any of these questions, read on! There is a project-based learning school right here in Denmark! The Denmark Community School is a small, innovative option for students in grades 7-12. If this sounds like a good fit for you, come and visit us! The Denmark Community School is excited to be hosting school visitations for interested students and parents! We are located upstairs at the Denmark Middle School. Applications are being accepted from February 1 through April 30. If you are interested in this innovative, hands-on approach to learning, read on!

What sets the Denmark Community School apart from other schools? Denmark Community School is a cutting-edge learning community where students actively drive their own education by pursuing their passions. Our students become purposeful adults by integrating creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication into standards-based academic pursuits. Utilizing the latest technology, students participate in both student and teacher led opportunities to put the tools they have available into practice, expanding their minds, and furthering their education.

Interested students and/or parents should contact Denmark Community School staff to set up a "shadow." This is an opportunity for students to learn more about the Denmark Community School. Students will have an opportunity to shadow a student from the Community School and experience what a typical day would be like. Community School students will describe the learning process and some of their projects, and guests will have the opportunity to see a student in action as a project is presented.

All of our students have chosen to attend the Denmark Community School. We hope that interested students will take advantage of this opportunity to visit and will take the time to ask them why. Their answers may change the way they think about learning. Here is a quote from one of them: "I like to think of traditional school as being a blank canvas with a beautiful border, where students are expected to paint the perfect picture *within* the border. At the Community School, we are able to paint our own picture, with no borders or confines to limit us."

If you have questions please call the Denmark Community School at (920) 863-4153, or email Melissa Dupke at dupkem@denmark.k12.wi.us. We look forward to meeting with interested students and parents to share all of the exciting, student led opportunities available at the Denmark Community School!

Save the Date!

Sting Cancer Walk - May 14

On May 14th, Denmark Sting Cancer will be hosting its 7th Annual Sting Cancer Walk. This event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Denmark High School Track. Food, a silent auction, and fun games will be provided. Come join the fun and support those who are fighting or in remission from cancer.

Registration forms are available in the high school office or at our local banks. Registrations are due Tuesday, April 26, to guarantee a shirt for yourself and your team. We hope to see you there!

Thank You!

Denmark Elementary School would like to thank Thrivent Financial for their generous donation of clothing. They donated pants, tops, socks, hats and other items of clothing for us to use at the school.

2016 Summer School

June Summer School

June 8 through June 28
Monday through Friday

August Summer School

August 1 through August 19
Monday through Friday



IN THIS EDITION OF THE DENMARK VIKING DISTRICT NEWSLETTER:

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**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.

Postal Patron

ECRWSS

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U.S. POSTAGE
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DENMARK, WI
PERMIT NO. 32

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Denmark, WI 54208