

(9/27/23 – District Administrator’s Corner Article)

When I meet with students, I often speak to them about the governance of how a district works. They are surprised by the fact that their neighbors and parents are elected to govern our district. It is an incredibly important and complicated job. The River Valley School Board members translate the values and priorities of their community into the language of education. Their school board service is a manifestation of their gratitude to their community and hope for our future, while meeting the state statutes and needs of local governance.

Wisconsin School Board Week is October 1-7, 2023, and the Wisconsin Association of School Board’s theme this year is "Launching Our Next Generation." Not only does this theme align with beliefs in our strategic plan, it also provides us with a chance to honor the men and women who serve all our children.

School board members serve in person at Committee and Board meetings, though they have accepted a challenging role that often extends into all hours of their day. They must be accountable to the taxpayers while setting a long-term vision for our schools. They advocate for children at all levels of government and oversee million-dollar budgets. Boards set the course for their districts on hundreds of topics, from school safety to financial planning to academic standards. Over the last few years, they've been on the front line of keeping students safe while educating them and, more recently, deeply engaged in conversations about our facilities and the future of our district. They are asked to evaluate, approve, and plan for what is yet to come. In addition to preparing for and attending meetings, board members spend hours studying the issues and participating in professional development.

We’re asking our fellow River Valley community members to take this opportunity to recognize and thank our local school board members for their public service:

- Kathy Jennings, President (Area 1 ~ Village of Arena)
- Pam Gauger (Area 2 ~ Town of Arena)
- Jeff Maier (Area 3 ~ Town of Clyde)
- Sara Carstensen, Clerk (Area 4 ~ Village of Lone Rock)
- Elisabeth Minich (Area 5 ~ Town of Bear Creek and All of Richland County in the district, except Village of Lone Rock)
- Sara Young (Area 6 ~ Village of Spring Green)
- Frederic Iausly, Treasurer (Area 7 ~ All of Sauk County in the district, except Village of Spring Green, Village of Plain, and Town of Bear Creek )
- Kiley Cates (Area 8 ~ Town of Wyoming)
- John Bettinger, Vice President (Area 9 ~ Village of Plain)

These respected leaders represent our school community with heart and conviction. They each bring something unique to the discussion—but above all, they support each other as they support our students. They respect diverse opinions and perspectives and leave meetings keeping the progress of the students of River Valley as their priority. It is rare to find such a team. So, if you see one of these dedicated individuals or want to send them a quick note of appreciation, please join me in congratulating them for their incredible service to the River Valley School District community.

Sincerely,

Loren Glasbrenner, District Administrator  
River Valley School District