



October 29, 2019

A Collaborative View of Education: Superintendent Jean Born To Retire

It's community and collaboration that count. Just ask Jean Born.

"I try to help and support everyone by removing barriers so they can do their best work," says Born, superintendent of the Sheboygan Falls School District who is retiring next June after 30 years of service to the district. "I have been able to work with really good people and build relationships and through those relationships we help kids."

Born began her career as a teacher at St. Matthew's Catholic Middle School in Green Bay. Two years later, she moved to the Randolph School District where she spent three years. In the fall of 1990 she began her career in the School District of Sheboygan Falls where she worked 5 years as a middle school English Language Arts teacher and reading specialist. She then became the District's Director of Curriculum and Instruction for 16 years. She has served as superintendent of schools for the past nine years.

Among the highlights of Born's time as superintendent is the passage of a \$30.9 million building referendum in 2016 to construct a new middle school that opened in 2018. The old building, which was 90 years old, will be renovated and made into housing for senior citizens.

She also points to the District's implementation of Universal Design for Learning – an educational framework that seeks to remove barriers to learning for all children – and its focus on social-emotional development as part of instruction.

One of the first things she did as superintendent was to oversee a community visioning process that resulted in the development of an overall vision, mission and commitments for the district. She is proud of the fact that the vision, mission and commitments remain vital and central to the district's operation.

"We always keep kids at the center of everything," Born said. "That's the lens we look through for everything we do."

Her last day with the district will be June 30, 2020.

She said that she and her husband Bill (also a retired Sheboygan Falls educator) have decided it is time to spend more time together with family and to participate in “whatever opportunities may present themselves.” She said she is ready for her retirement, and is very satisfied that the District is in very good hands.

“We have great schools, led by great principals and administrators, and wonderful teachers and staff. We have a strong Board of Education, who will make the right decision about my replacement. It’s the perfect time to turn over the reins to a new leader,” said Born.

“I have had a wonderful career. It has been a tremendous honor to serve the community where I live, and where my children were raised. Now, it is simply time for someone new to lead the District to its next chapter and I will move on to mine. I’m ready, and I’m very excited too,” she said.

“The Board of Education wishes Jean all the best as she begins the next phase of her life. We are extremely grateful for the three decades she devoted to the children of our District,” said John Mauer, Board President.

“Under Jean’s leadership and because of all her tremendous contributions, and that of every District employee, the School District of Sheboygan Falls is in a great place. Now as we begin our search for a new superintendent, our promise to the staff and community stakeholders is to follow our guiding principles as we look to name Jean’s successor,” Mauer concluded.

The next step for the School District is for the Board of Education to formally approve her retirement at its regular Board meeting on November 18, 2019. It is expected that the Board will embark upon a search for a new superintendent between December and March, possibly naming a new superintendent as soon as April.

##