

EDGERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

Submitted by Dr. Dennis Pauli, Edgerton School District Administrator



The past two weeks have been filled with uncertainty, changes to normal routines, and news headlines dominated by the coronavirus pandemic. Phrases such as social distancing, flattening the curve, and now Safer at Home are becoming common in our vocabulary.

I would like to extend thanks and appreciation to all doctors, nurses, and healthcare providers who have been working tirelessly to assist those in need of medical assistance. The Red Cross has a critical need for blood. There are several blood drives in the area and specific dates and times can be found at the Red Cross website. I would encourage all residents to consider donating blood if you're able.

The past two weeks have felt more like months with the number of decisions being made at the district level, continuously changing plans, and providing regular communication updates for our staff and families. Below is a letter I sent to parents and staff last week which captured some of my feelings in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Please be safe and together we will help one another to get through this time of uncertainty.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I wanted to take the time to express my most sincere debt of gratitude to each of you for the incredible patience and understanding you've demonstrated this past week. I cannot fully comprehend the challenges and stress this time of uncertainty creates for you and your family. I have never used the word "unprecedented" so much as I have lately, however I'm not sure of another word which describes what we are all experiencing. This is a once in a lifetime event that we will get through together, and hopefully never experience again.

While there have been many decisions the past two weeks that required a rapid response, and the situation is fluid and ever changing, this is not what has been most challenging for me. What keeps me up at night is knowing the level of stress this situation creates for children, our families, and our staff: Managing childcare arrangements, feeding children, making work arrangements, taking time off work, kids having no closure prior to the extended time off, and the uncertainty of the full impact of the coronavirus. None of this is familiar or easy, yet we all are responding the best we know how. At times, it is difficult to grasp the full magnitude of this situation.

I am truly blessed to be surrounded by so many caring individuals that have continuously expressed an interest to help in some way. I am proud of our staff for reaching out to families during this time of uncertainty, assisting with serving meals daily to children, and expressing a desire to do whatever is needed to help our children and families.

I appreciate your understanding that there is no play book to follow regarding this evolving situation. I am in contact daily with superintendents in Dane County and Rock County, as well as the Public Health Department. We are all sharing ideas and doing the best we can to navigate this situation and meet the needs of our students, staff, and families. We've learned the only thing we can truly predict is to expect things to constantly change, and anticipate that whatever plan we have today will likely be revised and adjusted in the future.

During the upcoming days, weeks, and months ahead please be kind to yourself knowing that you're doing the best you can given this unprecedented situation. Edgerton is a community like no other, with a level of generosity second to none. I have no doubt we will collectively work together and help one another during this challenging and unprecedented time.

Please contact me if you have any questions or are in need of any assistance.

Dr. Pauli

School district navigating uncharted territory

By Amy Trees
Special to the Reporter

The Edgerton Board of Education held an open session meeting on Wednesday, March 18, in pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Section 19.83 and approval of the Pandemic Plan. The 15-minute meeting took place at 6 p.m. in the high school library.

Plans for making the April 6 board meeting a remote meeting is being explored. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

The district administrator's report of business discussed the authorization of employee compensation throughout the national pandemic. In regard to Gov. Tony Evers' announcement that all schools are to close indefinitely as of March 17 at 3 p.m.; Dr. Dennis Pauli, Superintendent, says it's not clear what "indefinitely" means. A decision was made that "indefinitely" is not to exceed June 30 for both contract and work agreement employees.

Pauli stated that all school employees are expected to be available, despite school being out of session, because there is work to be accomplished. For example, school employees are needed to assist with meals in regard to the decision that was made to provide breakfast and lunch to all students who request it. It was reported that 70 meals were distributed on March 17 and 200 meals were distributed on March 18 (with 60 meals being delivered). It's believed that the number of meal requests will continue to go up.

On Monday morning, Evers issued a "Safer at Home" order that went into effect on March 24. As a result, the school district has changed their meal process from curbside pickup to delivery only. Parents and guardians wanting meals need

to update their forms online at <http://bit.ly/ESDFoodToGO> or call 608-561-6102.

Teachers are also expected to reach out and make themselves available to students, parents and guardians. "Our team has been outstanding," said Pauli. Despite information changing rapidly, he says there has been positive feedback from parents who have been understanding of the situation.

Pauli followed up with parents by sending an email on March 20 stating that he is in daily contact with superintendents in both Dane and Rock

Counties in addition to the Public Health Department. "We are all sharing ideas and doing the best we can to navigate this situation and meet the needs of our students, staff, and families. We've learned the only thing we can truly predict is to expect things to constantly change and anticipate that whatever plan we have today will likely be revised and adjusted in the future."

If the public has any questions concerning Edgerton schools, contact Dennis Pauli at dennis.pauli@edgerton.k12.wi.us or 608-561-6100.

FOOD SERVICE

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Families can sign up for the meal delivery program by registering at the Edgerton School District meal info website or by calling 608-561-6102.

Pauli said recipients of the meals don't need to qualify for the free and reduced meals. "What we are doing now is providing meals to anyone who chooses a meal," said Pauli. He added: "This is unique to the current situation we're experiencing as a result of the coronavirus."

Pauli said, "our top priority is feeding children during this time of uncertainty."

THIRD CASE

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avoiding small and large gatherings.

Health officials have urged the public to reduce the number of trips for shopping and other practices.

"Avoid any unnecessary

gatherings, even of one or two people," said Sandoval.

Officials continue to urge people to wash their hands often for at least 20 seconds and maintain a six-foot distance from others.

Rest areas remain open to truckers

From Wis. DOT

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is keeping its 28 rest areas under normal operation to support truckers during a critical time for moving supplies.

"Wisconsin recognizes and deeply appreciates the nation's truckers who are hard at work to move medical supplies, keep grocery stores in stock and provide other essential equipment," WisDOT Secretary-designee Craig Thompson

said. "For truckers, rest areas offer an important resource, and we are working hard to clean and maintain them."

The following truck safety weight enforcement facilities also provide all-hours parking and access to rest rooms and vending: Kenosha, Beloit, Madison, Superior and Sparta. Information on rest areas can be found here, and truckers can use 511 for a complete map of their locations. All drivers are reminded to routinely check 511 for the latest travel updates.

Guest Opinion

Pandemic shows us a reason to invest in rural communities

By State Representative Don Vruwink

As our lives are affected by the coronavirus and many people are making major changes in their everyday routines, maybe it's time to think about what the future could look like.

If every part of Wisconsin were hooked up to high-speed Internet, it would make it easier for children to do distance-learning; for small businesses to continue functioning; and for parents to work at home while juggling child care and elder care. It would make it easier for sick people to get primary care via telemedicine.

Covid-19 has shown how fast a deadly virus can spread. We've had four pandemics in the 21st Century: SARS, H1N1, Ebola, and now the coronavirus. These are four major outbreaks in the last 17 years.

These outbreaks may get worse as our global, national, and state population continue to get more urban. In my view, diseases like coronavirus are much easier to contain in small-town America with its less-dense populations.

Beyond containing pandemics, expanding our high-speed Internet infrastructure is good for the economy. Data shows that our U.S. and Wisconsin economies have shown great improvement in the last 10 years, but rural Wisconsin hasn't seen the same benefits as our urban areas. Without success in rural communities, the state economy won't reach its full potential.

Changes have to be made in the way we fund our rural schools. In the current state budget, 169 school districts got less state aid than a year ago and now have to implement virtual learning.

Now that our schools are closed and have gone to online instruction, I wonder how many of our rural students lack access to the Internet? What happens if their laptop, tablet or smart phone doesn't work?

For years, experts have been predicting the telecommuting economy. People tend to resist change, but when a crisis occurs, we have to ask how can we do better? Here is a perfect opportunity for Wisconsin to help its small towns and rural schools by prioritizing high-speed Internet.

Research shows a company can save an average of \$24,000 a year for each employee who works entirely from home. Other gains are better employee productivity and big declines in sick-leave and worker turnover. Work-at-home employees save themselves an average of \$4,500 per year through reduced costs from travel, food and parking.

Finding good child care in rural areas is a problem for many families. The graying of America means more workers are caring for an aging parent. Juggling such responsibilities is easier for work-from-home employees. Gardens, animals and family chores can also enhance the responsibilities given to children and teenagers.

The success of the Wisconsin economy depends on the success of our rural communities. Let's make it easier to work remotely from home. Both employee and employer stand to benefit.

The telecommuting economy is currently getting a test-run in the United States and Wisconsin. With a little help from the state and from private businesses, we can encourage it more, making our economy stronger and more prepared for the next pandemic.

State Representative Don Vruwink represents parts of Rock, Walworth, Jefferson, and Dane counties. He can be reached at 608-266-3790, Rep.Vruwink@legis.wisconsin.gov, and P.O. Box 8953, Madison WI 53708.



VRUWINK

Guest Opinion

Alliant Energy's concern over COVID-19

From Alliant Energy

To our valued customers,

We understand the concern and uncertainty you may be experiencing surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19). At Alliant Energy, safety is a core value. I want to assure you that the health and well-being of our customers, employees and communities is our top priority. Protecting our workforce ensures we can continue serving our customers and provide the reliable service you count on.

While we are accustomed to preparing for storms and seasonal viruses such as the flu, we recognize this situation is very different and changing quickly. We are monitoring new information from state and federal governments, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We have also activated our comprehensive pandemic emergency plan and are acting swiftly to protect employees and customers.

We have made several changes to our work practices that include maintaining a social distance of at least six feet and the use of gloves when entering your home or business. Also, to maintain a healthy workforce, we are postponing non-essential work. We will remain focused on all activities that continue to provide safe and reliable operations.

We understand the ongoing COVID-19 situation may create financial difficulties for some customers, and we are here to help. Call us at 800-255-4268 to discuss your situation. You can also install our mobile app or visit our brand new My Account site 24/7 to obtain up-to-date account information. Sign up at alliantenergy.com/myaccount.

At Alliant Energy, we are doing everything we can to minimize risks and continue serving you while living our Values to Do the right thing and Care for others.

John Larsen
Chairman, President, and CEO

Guest Opinion

Wisconsin Law Enforcement leaders urge support for crime victims' constitutional amendment

From Marsy's Law for Wisconsin

A group of Wisconsin's law enforcement leaders has urged support for the proposed crime victims' constitutional amendment commonly known as Marsy's Law for Wisconsin. The prominent members of Wisconsin's law enforcement community represent the more than 300 sheriffs, police chiefs, and other law enforcement members from communities throughout Wisconsin who have endorsed the bipartisan initiative. They are now urging community members to join in support for the proposed constitutional amendment as it heads to a statewide vote on April 7.

Sturtevant Chief Sean M. Marschke, Past President of the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, said: "In my 25 years of law enforcement, I understand the horrific effects criminals leave on their victims. I believe as a state we need to work together to hold these criminals accountable and help give our victims a voice while they seek justice. I fully support Marsy's Law for Wisconsin and urge you to support it with your vote on April 7."

Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association past president, Pierce County Sheriff Nancy Hove, said: "Sheriffs and deputy sheriffs know firsthand the damage crime has on victims and Wisconsin communities. The Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association is proud to protect these victims of crime and ask that you support Marsy's Law on April 7."

Chief Bob Kowalski, Edgerton Police Department, said: "I encourage the residents of Wisconsin to vote in favor of Marsy's Law in the April election. Your voice and vote matters and will ensure that the victims of crimes will be properly informed and not become victims again."

City of Wausau Chief of Police Ben Bliven said: "We all know about the constitutional rights afforded to those accused of crime in the criminal justice system. But the victims of crime deserve rights to justice and due process as well and victims' rights should be vigorously defended."

Walworth County Sheriff Kurt Picknell said: "Marsy's Law will actually strengthen victims' rights up to a constitutional level, offering equal protection. Wisconsin has always been a leader in victims' rights and we can again with Marsy's Law."

Outagamie County District Attorney Melinda Tempelis said: "I think it's important that we pass Marsy's Law so that we can help support victims of crime in our communities and give them a voice. A yes vote on April 7 affords victims the opportunity to participate in the criminal justice system, have their voice heard, and elevate their rights to a constitutional level so that their input can be valued, appreciated, and enforced."

Racine County Sheriff Christopher Schmalzing said: "Marsy's Law for Wisconsin would be an empowering set of victim tools that we can all feel good about, and know that we can and will do more for victims in the state of Wisconsin. I hope all voters will

join me in voting 'Yes' to Marsy's Law on this spring's ballot."

As part of the effort, Marsy's Law for Wisconsin has also released a thirty second digital video ad featuring police chiefs from communities around Wisconsin sharing their support for the proposed crime victims' constitutional amendment. Nearly 150 Wisconsin Chiefs of Police have endorsed the bipartisan initiative. The ad will run on digital platforms throughout Wisconsin.

A full list of the more than 300 endorsements from Wisconsin's law enforcement leaders is available on the Marsy's Law for Wisconsin website, alongside the state's prominent law enforcement organizations which have endorsed the measure, including:

- Association of State Prosecutors
- Badger State Sheriff's Association
- Dane County Chiefs of Police Association
- Fraternal Order of Police
- Milwaukee Police Association
- Waukesha County Chiefs of Police Association
- Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association
- Wisconsin Association of Women Police
- Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association
- Wisconsin District Attorneys' Association
- Wisconsin Professional Police Association
- Wisconsin Troopers' Association

Introduced for second consideration as Assembly Joint Resolution 1/Senate Joint Resolution 2 the bipartisan victims' rights legislation was approved in 2019 for placement on the April 2020 ballot after passing the Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly with overwhelming bipartisan support in two consecutive legislative sessions. The upcoming April 7 ratification vote marks the final step in the approval process for the proposed constitutional amendment.

About Marsy's Law for Wisconsin

Marsy's Law for Wisconsin is a grassroots coalition that is advocating for a unique proposal to give victims of crime equal rights in our state Constitution, building on Wisconsin's laws and history of leading on this issue. The proposal passed with strong bipartisan support in the Legislature and will be before voters for ratification on April 7, 2020. Marsy's Law is named after Marsalee "Marsy" Nicholas of California who was stalked and killed by her ex-boyfriend in 1983. Only one week after her death, Marsy's mother and brother, Henry T. Nicholas, walked into a grocery store where they were confronted by the accused murderer. The family, who had just come from a visit to Marsy's grave, was unaware that the accused had been released on bail. In an effort to honor his sister, Dr. Nicholas has made it his life's mission to give victims and their families constitutional protections and equal rights.