

## AFE Annual Meeting

The AFE Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at 7pm on Pandl's Patio at 1319 East Henry Clay. A vote will take place on the proposed Board of Directors for 2009-2010. All AFE members are invited and encouraged to attend. Come out and meet our new Board Members!

### **Proposed slate:**

*President:* Tara Serebin, Molly Zillig

*President Elect:* Joanne Desien

*Secretary:* Diana Del Rosso

*Treasurer:* Carol Ogorchock

*Programs:* Carolyn MacIver, Patty Whaley

*Website:* Kate Gomoll

*Newsletter:* Karlene Fox, Lynn Sprenger

*Membership:* Julie Duval, Kitty Gaenslen, Renee Kirchner

*Advocacy:* Anne Davis, Liz Sanders

*Advisor:* Meredie Scrivner

## **AFE Welcomes new members:**

Julie Duval

Matt and Renee Kirchner

Tom and Liz Sanders

Lynn Sprenger

Rich and Ann Yurkowitz

Seth Zlotocha

## School Board Update



A representative from Bray Architects gave a presentation to the School Board at their April 29 meeting regarding the facilities study completed a year ago. The report was intended to bring new and continuing members of the board up to date on the contents and status of the report. Following the presentation, the School Board discussed the potential for a fall referendum to fund facility updates.

Also discussed was the development of a community survey that would educate a sample of residents and ask questions to gauge the likely level of support. The survey would be conducted by survey professionals and would help the board decide whether to move ahead with a referendum.

## **Thank You to Outgoing AFE Board Members**

Please join us in thanking our outgoing Board Members: **Stephanie Beatty, Tom DeMuth, Theresa Hoge, Gretchen Menard, Kathy Rogers, Gerry Steele and Kristin Yunker.** We appreciate their dedication to the public schools of Whitefish Bay!



# Advocates for EDUCATION of Whitefish Bay, Inc.

Spring 2009

[www.advocatesforeducation.org](http://www.advocatesforeducation.org)

## NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

The results are in! The newly elected members of the Whitefish Bay School Board are **Kathy Rogers** as the top vote getter with 1,707, followed closely by **Gerry Steele** at 1,645 and **Joe Martinelli** with 1,577. Debbie Frensz Taran received fourth place with 776 votes, followed by Tom DeMuth, who received 647 votes despite having dropped out of the race.

Whitefish Bay voters turned out in better-than-average numbers on April 7 to elect three new members of the Whitefish Bay School Board. Voter turnout in Whitefish Bay was 28%, compared to a statewide prediction of just under 20%.

## PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

In 2008, Whitefish Bay High School implemented a national engineering curriculum called **Project Lead the Way** (PLTW) supported by a \$35,000 grant from the Kern Foundation and with academic review support from the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE). Currently, there are over 40 students enrolled in this program, with a plan to add additional engineering courses over the next four years. This four year sequence of courses provides students the opportunity to integrate mathematics, design, and team problem solving utilizing industry standard software in the high school's recently upgraded graphics and design lab. In addition, students may be eligible to earn credit at MSOE if certain requirements are met.

**Project Lead the Way** is a national non-profit organization established to assist schools in providing students with the knowledge they need to excel in high-tech fields. Studies of PLTW's curriculum have proven that PLTW students become prepared,

competent, high-tech employees that U.S. industries need to stay competitive in the global market. Research shows – and continues to confirm – that students introduced to engineering principles, concepts, and real-world problems in high school are better prepared for college engineering programs and are more likely to be successful.

Currently, the Whitefish Bay High School Engineering and Design curriculum offers an annual course in Introduction to Engineering Design (IED). Principles of Engineering (POE) and a course in Civil Engineering and Architecture will be offered every other year on odd-numbered years beginning next year. Additional courses in Biotech Engineering and Digital Electronics will be added in the future.

For more information on **Project Lead the Way** in Wisconsin, go to [www.pltw-wi.org](http://www.pltw-wi.org) or for more information about the PLTW courses offered at WFBHS, go to [www.wfb-schools.com](http://www.wfb-schools.com).

## MISSION Statement

*Advocates for Education is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that works to promote high quality public education in Whitefish Bay by:*

- *Informing residents about education issues and encouraging public participation in matters affecting the schools*
- *Fostering a social and political climate favorable to public education*
- *Advocating for public policies that promote high quality public education in Whitefish Bay*

*Advocates for Education of Whitefish Bay*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

<i>Acting Co-Presidents</i>	<i>Joanne Desien Meredie Scrivner</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Diana Del Rosso</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Carol Ogorchock</i>
<i>Communications</i>	
<i>Web Site</i>	<i>Theresa Hoge</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>Stephanie Beatty</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Anne Davis Joanne Desien Gretchen Menard</i>
<i>Program</i>	<i>Carolyn MacIver Patty Whaley</i>
<i>Advocacy</i>	<i>Meredie Scrivner</i>
<i>Advocacy/Curriculum</i>	<i>Molly Zillig</i>
<i>Advisor</i>	<i>Tara Serebin</i>

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## Director of Curriculum Resigns from District

**Tony Frontier**, Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the past nine years, is resigning from his position at the end of the school year. Tony also spent two years as the Associate Principal at the High School. Many of Tony's accomplishments in his current position made significant progress towards meeting the needs of each child by developing student centered curricula for all kids at all levels. New course options, a better variety of reading requirements, changes to the math and reading support programs, implementation of

the Read 180 program, revisions to the Beyond Program, the expansion of AP course offerings and students taking AP courses and Project Lead The Way are just a few of the inspirational things Tony Frontier accomplished while working in this district. He will be teaching in the Doctoral Program at Cardinal Stritch University as well as working with Marzano Research Labs in Denver, CO and doing some consulting. Tony hopes to have more time to devote to his family, his writing and his music.

## District Teachers to Retire

Five district teachers and one counselor will be retiring at the end of this school year. They were asked for a few reflections on their careers and plans for their retirement:

**Peg Young:** I have taught in the district for my whole career beginning in 1973. I began teaching 7th grade Social Studies at what was then Henry Clay and then taught 7th and 8th grade English at both Cumberland and Richards. For the last 20 years I have been teaching 8th grade math. My post teaching plans include relaxing, traveling and preparing our house for a move to a condo. I also look forward to seeing and helping my children. I have so many fond memories, but I guess the one that stands out most is when my dad, Bob Hanel, retired from this district. He taught in WFB for 43 years – and he retired at the semester. I had been laid off and hired part-time and was given his job as an 8th grade English teacher when he retired.

**Terry Young:** I was at Hartford Union High School for 13 years and have been at Bay for the last 22 years – 35 total years of teaching. I have taught all courses from Pre-Algebra up through Pre-Calculus. I have been the Math Department Chair since the mid 90's and have been the math team advisor as well. My wife, Kathy, retired from Richards two years ago and we intend to travel a lot in the next few years. Playing golf and attending sports events are also in our plans.

I also may substitute teach or teach a graduate class at a local college. The students and staff at Whitefish Bay High School are outstanding and I will miss both. I have also appreciated the evolution of math instruction over my 35 years of teaching – hand held calculators and slide rules have transitioned into using graphing calculators and now Smart Boards!

**Kathy Linehan:** I have had the pleasure of teaching first grade at Richards School for the past 11 years. My family and I have been involved with the Whitefish Bay Schools for over 30 years and have appreciated the quality experiences at every level. Working with the students, parents, administrators and my esteemed colleagues has been a highlight of my career. It has been a most memorable and enjoyable time. I am looking forward to spending more time with my family and friends while pursuing my additional interests of traveling, gardening, biking, walking, sewing, knitting and volunteer activities.

**Larena Tatum:** I have so many fond memories of classroom teaching. I loved working with my students and wonderful families in the Whitefish Bay Schools. I keep in touch with many former students and especially love Richards School where I have been teaching fourth grade for almost 21 years. I have fond memories of school wide activities such as Spring Sing, Festival of Lights, pen

pals with the Windlake School, the Learning Fair, and being a sister school to the Chiba School District in Japan. I will always cherish the memories of my student Maggie Schumann, and colleagues, Cindy Nelson and Marg Howard who passed away. When not teaching I will spend more time with my family and friends and enjoy reading and working at home. I can also be found at Marquette University basketball games. I feel honored to have spent my teaching career in this district. There is no greater honor than that of "Teacher".

**Sandy O'Brien:** I have spent 25 years in the district teaching Junior Kindergarten, Senior Kindergarten, First Grade, Third Grade and currently serving as a Beyond Resource Teacher. I will be leaving public school to serve as an elementary administrator at St. Marcus Lutheran School in Milwaukee. I have so many fond memories from my teaching experience in Whitefish Bay. Overall, I'd have to say that the teaching staff has been consistently outstanding over the past 25 years. It has been an honor to work with them. As for student memories, I'd have to say that some of the funniest moments came from teaching kindergarten – between the amazing things four and five years olds say to some of their memorable performances.

**Susan Ramsey**, a counselor at Richards School, is also retiring.

# Chemical Dependency Therapist Speaks to Parents

On Tuesday evening, March 24th, **Ron Gammon**, a chemical dependency therapist for over 18 years, began his presentation to the Whitefish Bay community with the comment that “the only difference between drug abuse and suicide is time”. He urged the 100 plus parents that were in attendance to have the same urgency with drug abuse as they would with signs of suicide. Research is showing that drug abuse problems occur in all communities, but children are getting involved at a younger age.

Ron prompted parents to be good role models for their kids, to get directly involved with their lives, to ask questions about where they are going and with whom, and gave the audience the okay to search kids’ belongings. Finding items that we might not usually find in their rooms or backpacks such as rolled up dollar bills, foil, empty pens, cough medicine and even stored urine would be signs for concern.

Setting concrete rules such as reasonable curfews and being awake when they get home are good practices. “Talk to your children when they get home from a night out with friends and don’t be afraid to ask questions, look them in the eye and see if they have an odor,” Gammon suggested. Parents also need to watch how much money their children have and how they are spending it.

Cell phones are the number one way a teen communicates with friends

and possibly a drug dealer. Ron reminded us that owning a cell phone is a privilege for our children.

He encourages parents to check the phone records and see whom the kids are calling, watching for calls at odd times of the day or frequent calls to a number you don’t recognize, looking at the websites your children are viewing and being alert for a site, [www.erowid.com](http://www.erowid.com) which explains the how to and dosage for many illegal drugs.

*Cell phones are the number one way a teen communicates with friends and possibly a drug dealer.*

One of Ron’s most important points was for parents to talk to other parents. Calling to confirm your child’s plans for the evening is number one in keeping track of their whereabouts.

Warning signs or symptoms that may suggest drug or alcohol use are: Behavioral changes in eating habits, sleeping habits, peer groups, drop in grades or performance at school, mood changes, secretiveness or dishonesty. Physical changes such as staggering, red eyes, change in pupils, runny nose or bloody nose, unexplained weight loss or gain, inability to sleep, tremors or shakes of hands or extreme hyperactivity.

For more information about your role in keeping your child safe and away from drug or alcohol abuse, you may contact Renee Wendt, AODA Prevention Liaison for the Whitefish Bay School District at [Renee.Wendt@wfbschools.com](mailto:Renee.Wendt@wfbschools.com) or Ron Gammon of Chemical Dependency Treatment at [gammon-rj@aol.com](mailto:gammon-rj@aol.com), or get information at the following websites: [www.drugfree.org](http://www.drugfree.org), [www.nida.nih.gov](http://www.nida.nih.gov), [www.parentstrategies.com](http://www.parentstrategies.com).

**DID YOU FORGET?**

# RENEW

**TODAY!**

Advocates for Education of Whitefish Bay, Inc.

*Continue to be part of the team of voices speaking on behalf of children.*

- Active Member(s) (WFB resident or parent/guardian of WFB School District student) @ \$20 per household
- Supporting Member(s) @ \$20 per household
- Enclosed is an additional donation to support AFE. Due to the lobbying mission of AFE, donations are not tax-deductible.
- I am interested in volunteering for AFE. Please call me.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation enclosed.

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