

## District Administrator's Report

### February 2014

#### Open Enrollment Has Begun

Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend school districts other than the one in which they live. Applications may be submitted to three nonresident school districts.

Students in 5-year-old kindergarten to grade 12 may apply to participate in open enrollment. Open enrollment for prekindergarten, 4-year-old kindergarten and early childhood education is limited. Parents should call their resident school districts to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify for open enrollment.

The open enrollment application period for the 2014-15 school year is from February 3-April 30, 2014. The application period closes at 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2014. Late applications will not be accepted for any reason.

Parents may apply in one of two ways:

- On-line (recommended) at [http://sms.dpi.wi.gov/sms\\_psctoc](http://sms.dpi.wi.gov/sms_psctoc).
- Although the on-line application is recommended, paper applications may be obtained from the Department of Public Instruction and must be delivered (hand-delivery is recommended) to the nonresident school district.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has provided a brochure to help answer questions for parents. It can be found online at <http://sms.dpi.wi.gov/files/sms/pdf/OE%20brochure%202014-15.pdf>.

#### Facilities Study To Be Used For Long-Range Planning

Unity School District will be conducting a facilities study as a part of the renewal of its *Long-Range Facilities Plan*. The *Long-Range Facilities Plan* is a blue-print for building maintenance projects that keep the facilities in a condition that best meets the needs of our students and community. The energy efficiency improvements completed two years ago have provided a strong foundation for further improvements. There continues to be some limiting factors that affect how the District meets the needs of its students and community, most notable are: lack of gymnasium space, fitness center limitations, back-up steam boiler, auditorium size, and parking lot layout.

The Committee will request proposals from some architectural firms to conduct the study. The selection of a firm will bring expertise and experience in dealing with this process. The Committee developed a timeline for the study that will be completed by the end of the school year.



RCU School Sense  
Recognized as 2013  
Governor's Financial  
Literacy Award  
Winner!

February 17th Has Been  
Changed to a School Day  
To Make-Up For Inclement  
Weather Days

Increase student achievement in reading through curriculum development, consistency of instruction, and effective instructional strategies.

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#### School Entry Procedures to Change

Unity School District is updating several important safety measures. Entry procedures will change as it installs door buzzer systems and visitor management systems at each main entrance door. The changes are in support of the District's Safety Plan and are part of our comprehensive, proactive approach to school safety. Unity is also one of the few school districts in the area with a school resource officer, who offers security as well as safety and positive choice programming.

The addition of the buzzer system will allow the District to keep all exterior doors locked during the school day. Currently the elementary school, high school, and district office doors are the only ones open during the school day. Once the new system is installed, the doors will be locked and accessible through the door buzzer system. Visitors during the school day will now identify themselves on the video camera to be buzzed in by one of the office secretaries.

The visitor management system is a computerized check-in process for visitors (contractors, vendors, and guests) during the school day. People checking in at the computer terminal will scan their state issued identification card (driver's license). An instant background check is conducted from a national database. He/She will then be issued an adhesive badge with his/her photo on it. The system not only logs when the visitor checks in and out, but can also be used to track volunteer hours.

Additionally, the Long-Range Planning and Facilities Committee directed that the glass at the entrances be upgraded. The new security glass will be installed to complement the other systems. The glass upgrade has been considered for some time, but with the installation of the new entrance procedures, the Committee determined that the installation would be prudent.

The changes to the main entrances are all part of the District's emphasis on student safety. The changes are meant to complement the District's Safety Plan by securing the campus during the school day. The three components are to be installed within the next month. Written communication regarding the new procedures will be sent out to parents in the next few weeks.

#### District Works to Secure Grant Funding

Unity School District received approximately 12% state aid for the 2013-2014 school year. With increasing federal and state mandates, with little to no funding attached, Unity School District is actively pursuing grants in several areas. These grant funds may provide an opportunity for continued programming or may encourage a new and unique activity or program. Most recently, Unity School District has secured funding for the Food Service Program for fresh fruit and vegetables to be served to elementary students for snack-time. Additionally, some smaller grants have been awarded to the agriculture program. The grants provide an opportunity for learning about and producing fresh fruit and vegetables for the Farm to School program.

Implement and incorporate the District's Response to Intervention Model throughout pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade programming for students of all academic and behavioral needs.

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#### Professional Development Efforts

Unity School District is committed to providing quality professional development and training opportunities for its staff. Initiatives such as the Response to Intervention (RtI) Model planning, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Common Core Standards, Educator Effectiveness Program, successful transitions planning, and technology integration are at the center of the District's goals and efforts for the school year.

##### Upcoming Efforts:

- February 17: Changed to a School Day
- April 17: Whole Child Programming/Suicide Prevention



#### Unity Wall of Honor Nominations Sought

The Unity Board of Education has established a "Wall of Honor" to recognize and honor the accomplishments of Unity alumni and employees. Criteria for selection to the "Wall of Honor" will be based on contributions in the areas of education, business, human services, government, athletic, military, fine arts, and community involvement. Alumni selection is based on post-high school accomplishments. The nominee will be screened by a selection committee, which will meet in early March. Deadline for applications each year is March 1st.

If you know of someone who is worthy of being considered for the "Wall of Honor," nomination forms are available at Unity's District and School offices. Additionally, application forms are available on the District website at [www.unity.k12.wi.us](http://www.unity.k12.wi.us). If you have any questions, call or write to Unity Wall of Honor, Unity School District, 1908 150th St./Hwy 46N, Balsam Lake, WI 54810; (715) 825-3515.

#### 2013-2014 School District Goals

(Adopted 8-13)

- Increase student achievement in reading through curriculum development, consistency of instruction, and effective instructional strategies.
- Implement and incorporate the District's Response to Intervention Model throughout pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade programming for students of all academic and behavioral needs.
- Promote school spirit and pride through increasing community and parent involvement.
- Integrate technology into the teaching and learning process to best prepare our students for their future.

#### SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

##### PARENTS:

Please make sure that your contact information is updated with your child's school office. This will ensure that you receive the Skylert parent notification phone calls.

School Closing Information can be found at these media outlets.

WCCO Channel 4, [www.wcco.com](http://www.wcco.com)  
 KSTP Channel 5, [www.kstp.com](http://www.kstp.com)  
 KMSP Channel 9, [www.myfox9.com](http://www.myfox9.com)  
 KARE Channel 11, [www.kare11.com](http://www.kare11.com)

Promote school spirit and pride through increasing community and parent involvement.

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### Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	MEETING	PLACE	TIME
Tuesday, February 11	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Thursday, February 13	District Technology Committee Meeting	Board Room	7:30 AM
Friday, February 14	CESA II Superintendent Meeting	Turtle Lake	9:30 AM
Monday, February 17	Inclement Weather Make-Up Day	District	
Tuesday, February 18	Lakeland Conference Superintendent Meeting	Rice Lake	9:00 AM
Thursday, February 27	Curriculum Committee Meeting	Elem. Conf. Room	7:30 AM
Wednesday, March 5	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	9:30 AM
Thursday, March 6	Professional Staff Development Meeting	Elem. Conf. Room	7:40 AM
March 10-14	No School- Spring Break	District	
Thursday, March 13	District Technology Committee Meeting	Board Room	7:30 AM
Friday, March 14	CESA II Superintendent Meeting	Turtle Lake	9:00 AM
Tuesday, March 18	Parent Teacher Conferences	District	
Wednesday, March 19	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	9:30 AM
Tuesday, March 25	Parent Teacher Conferences	District	
Tuesday, April 1	Spring Election	District	
April 6-8	National Kinship Conference	Amery	

"Expect Great Things"

Integrate technology into the teaching and learning process to best prepare our students for their future.

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### Inclement Weather Information

The decision to close or delay school due to inclement weather is a complicated one. There are many factors that must be considered and each school district is different. Unity School District is unique in that most of the students are bussed or transported to school daily. Each decision at Unity School District regarding school closings or delays includes consultation with others, such as the Polk County Highway Department, National Weather Service, and other area school districts.

Unity School District considers school closings or delays due to inclement weather when there is a significant concern for student safety. Generally, school closings or delays due to cold weather may be considered when temperatures are below -20°F and/or wind chill temperatures are below -40°F.

Unity School District considers school closings or delays due to snow or freezing rain when road conditions are hazardous. Closings or delays due to snow are dependent upon road conditions and not total snow accumulations. Snow accumulations vary greatly by location and are a concern when adversely impacting road conditions.

If school remains in session, it is important to clothe your child appropriately for the conditions. Ensuring that there is no exposed skin in cold weather, in addition to warm insulated clothing, is very important. The playground remains open for outside recess to -10°F, so please send appropriate winter apparel to school with your child. If appropriate apparel is needed, please contact the elementary principal or counselor.

If conditions are a concern where you live, please communicate those conditions to your child's school office. It is important to note whether a road or driveway is hazardous or unplowed. Additionally, please communicate with your child's office if your child will be absent due to acute inclement weather issues where you live, when school is in session.

The Parent Notification System will continue to keep you informed of Unity's school closings and other important announcements. Please share with your child's office any changes to your contact information.



Safety is Our Highest Priority.