

HARTFORD



UNION AND YOU



Ovations

JANUARY 2024

Superintendent Jeff Walters



Greetings!

It is with great hope and excitement for the new year that I write to you today. Planning for the 2024-25 school year is underway, and we are super excited to share all of the great things happening at HUHS. Our annual Showcase Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31 from 6pm-8pm or if you'd like to schedule a special tour, let me know. Everyone from our school communities is welcome to come and see for yourself!

We also know that as we plan for next year, our district is facing a deficit that exceeds 1.5 million dollars.

HUHS is not alone, as many districts across the state are being challenged by how schools are funded as well as ongoing and increasing operational costs. Our leadership team is working diligently with staff to identify areas to reduce expenses or to increase revenue in moving towards a more balanced budget. Please monitor our website and social media for future opportunities to engage in these very important conversations.

Thank you to Mr. James Gumm and Mr. Ross Kirley who will be finish their three-year term serving on the school board. We appreciate your commitment and dedication. Four community residents are running for these two vacated seats and will appear on the April 2, 2024 ballot. Thank you to Ms. Heather Barrie, Mr. Ian Gronbeck, Mr. Nolan Jackett, and Mr. Damon Morgan for your desire to serve!

It is my pleasure to serve the Hartford Union High School District, and I look forward to connecting with you at the many events happening across our district's 225 square miles. Please send me an email at jeff.walters@huhs.org, or give me a call at (262) 670-3200, ext. 4010 should you have any feedback or questions about what is happening in our district.

Go Orioles!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Walters
Superintendent
Hartford Union High School District



Board of Education

Ross Kirley, Craig Westfall, President Tracy Hennes,
James Gumm, Don Pridemore

Message from School Board Member Craig Westfall

Considering the two open Board of Education seats is crucial, as these positions often hold significant influence in forming policies that impact our students, our staff, and ultimately our community. By making an informed choice, you are ensuring that those who align with your views and values are in positions of power, thus making your voice count in a truly meaningful way.

If you feel only one candidate aligns with your position, it is acceptable to only vote for that candidate. Your vote will still count if you only vote for one candidate.

To help you make a more informed decision, the District asked each of the four school board candidates to fill out a form answering the same questions. You'll see their answers on the following pages.

I hope to see you at the polls on April 2, 2024!

Craig Westfall
Board of Education, Clerk



Meet the Candidates

Current Occupation: Marketing Manager

Resident of which K-8 District: Holy Hill Area Schools

Have you attended HUHS, had/have children attend

HUHS, or been an HUHS employee?: My three children are graduates of HUHS.

What do you see as the district's greatest celebrations?

HUHS is well equipped to offer students an outstanding educational experience. The curriculum is exceptional, offering students many Advanced Placement courses, as well as state-of-the-art hands-on experience in a wide variety of trades. HUHS also offers students the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports and extracurricular activities to round-out their educational journey.

What do you see as the district's greatest challenges?

The greatest challenge HUHS faces is ensuring every student has a successful educational journey while attending HUHS. Every student has the ability and capability to succeed and become an outstanding citizen in our community.

The challenge lies in teaching to a student's strength while helping them overcome their weaknesses and arming them with the confidence to endure any challenge that comes their way, facing headwinds with an invincible, can-do attitude.

Education is a three-way partnership between teachers, students and family. The more that partnership is in sync, each accepting accountability for the successful outcome of the student's educational journey, the more likely the student will succeed. Another huge challenge of the school, district, state, country is our tolerance of such inexcusable low reading scores. Reading is an essential life skillset. The inability of any student to read at their grade level or above clearly demonstrates how the educational system is failing our students. This is detrimental to our communities in so many ways and at so many levels.

What relevant experience do you have that would serve you well in this role?

As a parent, I've collectively spent 39 years in the HUHS system advocating for my three children during their educational journey. Many times during this journey we encountered roadblocks, challenges and less than desirable situations. As an advocate for my children, we worked around the roadblocks, faced the challenges head-on and turned less than desirable situations into workable solutions all for the betterment of my children's education. I'm a hard worker, dedicated and willing to do what it takes to get the job done. I'm not a quitter -- I'm a problem solver. I'm approachable, transparent and accountable. I'm trustworthy, compassionate and demonstrate integrity. My passion for education and my commitment to advocating for the student body is why I am running for the HUHS School Board.



Heather Barrie

Meet the Candidates



Ian Gronbeck

Current Occupation: Department Manager/Electrician

Resident of which K-8 District: Hartford Joint One District

Have you attended HUHS, had/have children attend HUHS, or been an HUHS employee?:

Our daughter is a sophomore at HUHS with our second daughter in 8th grade. Our oldest boy in 6th grade with our second boy in the 4th grade at Rossman.

What do you see as the district's greatest celebrations?

We are a community that treats each other as family and we all come together in tough times, like MT2 (Student Michael Turner Fundraiser). The district's focus on Technical Education which helps local businesses and engage the students in the community, like the VISION house.

I feel the district has a great music program because of the teachers and staff. The district has an athletics program that helps engage younger athletes as they grow and eventually attend HUHS. Although, not as well known, the district does offer the opportunity for the community to engage in committees such as Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Human Growth and Development (HG&D) to help make recommendations to the Board of Education.

What do you see as the district's greatest challenges?

I feel that we struggle to capture all of those that could be attending HUHS. We may lose to many students that live in the districts boundary, meaning the students that do not live in Hartford or relatively close to the high school. It appears we struggle to include the students that choose to use their intellect, and/or all the students that do not engage in athletics. As a member of the CAC, it has become clear for far too long (more than 5 yrs), we have struggled keeping up on the buildings infrastructure, with planning for replacement of the multiple heating/cooling units for example. Although I can't necessarily pin point to any thing but what the district offers teachers for insurance, I feel we are nearing or at the very beginning to struggle to retain teachers and staff.

What relevant experience do you have that would serve you well in this role?

Although I have been an electrician for 20 years, my current position for the last 3 + years has been department manager in the service call and Jobbing Branch. In this position, I oversee annual budgets, organize manpower from 2 to 10 electricians, and day-to-day manager duties in customer service. I manage jobs that range from 1 day to 3 month or longer. For my parish, I have served in several lay position such as financial clerk, executive secretary to the pastor, and counselor to an adult male quorum. As one of the counselors, we help men realize their potential in leading their family and work to engage in caring for other members of our parish.

Meet the Candidates



Nolan Jackett

Current Occupation: Electrician

Resident of which K-8 District: Holy Hill Area School District

Have you attended HUHS, had/have children attend

HUHS, or been an HUHS employee?: I attended the Richfield School District K-8 and HUHS 9-12.

What do you see as the district's greatest celebrations?

The district's greatest celebrations are the technical education department and the community pride in the district!

What do you see as the district's greatest challenges?

The district's greatest challenges are poor academic performances and the projected 1.6 million dollar budget deficit for the 2024/2025 school year.

What relevant experience do you have that would serve you well in this role?

I am a lifelong district resident and graduate of Hartford Union High School. Additionally, my youth will bring a new and much-needed perspective to the school board. For years, I along with many of my classmates, felt unrepresented and ignored in the district. Ensuring that the board can connect with students, listen to them, and build an environment in the district that creates a positive culture among the student body is pivotal to raising academic performance. As an Eagle Scout, I know what it's like to lead, which is what I will do as a member of the board.



ISABELLE
HAEFT



AUDREY
LABUDA

Meet the Candidates

Current Occupation: Sr. Project Manager (R&D) at Brady Corporation

Resident of which K-8 District: Hartford Joint District -1

Have you attended HUHS, had/have children attend HUHS, or been an HUHS employee?: My son is a Sophomore at HUHS.

What do you see as the district's greatest celebrations?

The recent improvements to the State Scorecard is the easy answer. What drew us to HUHS is the variety of educational options available to our son. The curriculum and thoughtfully curated course selection caters to a wide variety of learning objectives whether they be further education or vocational.

What do you see as the district's greatest challenges?

The greatest single challenge is and will be continuing the upward trajectory with respect to state metrics while maintaining the broad spectrum of educational options in the face of imminent budget constraints.

What relevant experience do you have that would serve you well in this role?

I served as President of the School Advisory Council (School Board Equivalent) while two of my children attended Ningbo International School during my expat assignment in 2011-2012. I am a 12 year Veteran of the US Navy (1988 - 2000) where I made multiple deployments (including Desert Shield / Desert Storm) as well as serving on shore duty as an instructor and curriculum developer at Service School Great Lakes (Gas Turbine "A" School).

As a civilian I have worked in multiple manufacturing, operational, and product development positions for both private and publicly held companies. I routinely develop and adhere to multi-million dollar budgets in support of complex projects while guiding diverse, cross-functional teams. I am adept at evaluating Voice of Customer detail and translating this to tangible cost-effective solutions. I am first and foremost a servant leader.



Damon D. Morgan

*We Are Here To Serve you!
Tell Us What you Need
Scan QR Code and Fill Out Our
Customer Service Survey*



Great HUHS Graduate Stories

Hi! I'm Julia Loosen - Class of 2014

I am currently a first-year resident physician at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland. In my job as a doctor, I care for adults both in the hospital and in the clinic and see a wide range of medical problems in my day-to-day job. After I finish my three years as a resident physician, I plan to pursue further training in geriatrics, which is a field of medicine focused on the care of older adults. After that I will be able to practice independently as a doctor!

The teachers at HUHS were a crucial part of my success in high school and moving on to college. No one in my family had pursued a career in the medical field before, **but the support of my teachers made me feel confident that I could reach my goal of going to college and becoming a doctor someday.**



Hi! I'm Luke Switalski - Class of 2010

I am currently a police officer with the City of Brookfield Police Department for the last eight years. I hold specialty positions as a member of Waukesha County Civil Disturbance Unit, Honor Guard for our Department, DARE officer, a drone operator for the Waukesha County SWAT team and a vehicle contacts instructor. I am also happily married to my wife and a proud father of three beautiful children.

My advice to students - **be kind to everyone and never get caught up in the drama.** Live in the moment and never wish to speed time up. These years in high school are some of the best memories you will have for your entire life.

**Are You A HUHS Graduate and
Want to Share Your Story?
Scan and Fill Out The Form**



HARTFORD UNION HIGH SCHOOL
805 Cedar Street
Hartford, WI 53027

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PEWAUKEE, WI

Hartford Union High School District

CITIZENSHIP IS PART OF OUR MISSION

From our H-Club projects to our Day of Service, our students are inspired to serve our community now and after graduation. **This year's Day of Service is May 22nd.**

If you need help or would like to be a sponsor, please email dayofservice@huhs.org or call 262-670-3200



Hartford Union High School District

HUHS NOMINATED FOR "VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR"

HARTFORD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Upcoming Events

January

31 HUHS Showcase Open House
6pm - 8pm

February

7 School Board Workshop
19 No School - Professional Dev.
26 School Board Meeting
21 Parent Teacher Conferences

March

21 End of Third Term
22 No School- Professional Dev.
25-29 Spring Break

Nondiscrimination Statement: It is the policy of the Hartford Union High School District, pursuant to s. 118.13, WI Stats., and PI 9 that no person, on the basis of race, color, age, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, sex (including transgender status, change of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity), pregnancy, marital or parental status, military status, genetic information, or physical, mental, emotional, learning disability or handicap, may be denied participation, be denied admission to any school in this District or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any co-curricular, pupil service, recreation, or other programs. This policy also prohibits discrimination as defined by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 (sex), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race and national origin), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Hartford Union High School District has adopted a policy of nondiscrimination. In addition, the District has adopted procedures regarding the processing of discrimination complaints. Copies of the policy, procedures, and complaint forms are available, upon request from any administrator. It is the policy of the Hartford Union High School District, pursuant to PI 41.04(1)(a), to provide for the reasonable accommodation of a student's sincerely held religious beliefs with regard to examinations and other academic requirements. Requests for accommodations may be directed to any administrator. Questions or concerns regarding the District's nondiscrimination policy and procedures should be directed to the Human Resources Supervisor or the Director of Business Services, Hartford Union High School, 805 Cedar Street, Hartford, WI 53027, (262) 670-3200. Illustrations and artwork courtesy of canva.com.