

**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Mary Whitrock, Superintendent

WhitrockM@ripon.k12.wi.us

(920) 748-4600

**Ripon Area School District Business Manager Update**

**Ripon, WI** – The Ripon Area School District will have a new face in the district business office over the next few months as JJ Gutman completes his time in the district and pursues a career closer to his home in the Fox Valley. Gutman joined the district in July 2014, replacing Rick Ketter who retired. Gutman will be using up his banked vacation over the next several weeks so technically he is still with the district into early May. To help fill the gap until a new business manager begins, Debbie Pelgrin, the retired business manager from Little Chute, will be in the district part-time.

In his resignation letter Gutman thanked the school board for the opportunity of serving the students and taxpayers of Ripon adding “I have sincerely enjoyed the individuals I have worked with and the relationships I have built.” The Board has established a timeline to look for the next business manager and the process has begun with interviews taking place over the past month with the hopes of finding a candidate soon.

Superintendent Whitrock commented “I appreciate JJ giving the district plenty of notice to allow us the opportunity to start looking now for his replacement.” Once JJ announced his resignation, the district began working with Baird Financial Group in the event he decided to leave the district earlier. “Most people do not realize that the spring and summer are the business times for school districts as we live within two budget years. Knowing JJ was pursuing employment in the private sector made us a bit nervous as their business year does not align with that of a school district.”

Diane Perzborn and Keith Lucius, both from Baird, have been meeting with the district’s business team regularly over the past month. “Diane has been helping us wrap up this year’s budget and Keith, who is familiar with our forecasting software, is working on next year’s budget. Diane connected the district with Debbie Pelgrin so we can keep moving forward,” stated Superintendent Whitrock.

For more information, please contact Superintendent, Dr. Mary Whitrock, at whitrockm@ripon.k12.wi.us or 748-4600 with any questions.

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