

**For Immediate Release**

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**Murray Park and Quest Elementary Discuss Uniting**

Ripon, WI - The following message was sent by Principal Jessi Johnson to the parents at both Murray Park and Quest Elementary Schools:

*"Earlier this year, Quest staff and the Governance Council began discussions about the renewal of the charter. The current Quest contract expires at the end of the 2024 - 2025 school year. To continue as a charter school, the Council must request a renewal with the Ripon School Board in February prior to the state-wide open enrollment application period for the 2025- 2026 school year which runs from February 3 - April 30.*

*The question about the charter renewal led to the conversation about unifying Quest Elementary and Murray Park Elementary as one school. Both Quest and Murray Park Staff have expressed interest in combining best practices into one school. Meetings are being held with teachers to discuss this potential change."*

To ensure transparency and community involvement, all parents from Quest Elementary and Murray Park Elementary Schools were encouraged to complete a parent survey and then invited to attend a parent meeting in December. The survey is intended to gather valuable feedback to inform the council's decision-making process. The results will be compiled and shared during the parent meeting to guide discussions.

"I believe in a collaborative process and want to ensure that all voices of our school communities have an opportunity to be heard," shared Mrs. Johnson. "This decision will have a

lasting impact on our students, staff, and families, and we want to approach it with care and consideration.”

Quest opened in the fall of 2010 as a 3 - 5 Project-Based Learning (PBL) charter school using inquiry-based approaches. Learners are taught core grade-level content and standards through interdisciplinary projects focused around a driving question. Real-world problem-solving and collaboration are key pieces to the project process. Since the beginning of Quest, students have enrolled via a lottery process for the available classroom seats. If more students apply than the seats available, a waiting list is utilized.

Any comments or questions, please contact Mrs. Johnson at (920) 748-4595.

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