

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

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Ripon Area School District Looking for New Business Manager

Ripon, WI – The Ripon Area School District has begun a search for its next business manager. JJ Gutman resigned his position as Business Manager effective June 30, 2018 to pursue a career closer to his home in the Fox Valley. Gutman joined the district in July 2014, replacing Rick Ketter who retired.

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. It comes as a difficult decision, however, I have decided to tender my resignation effective July 1, 2018. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity for working in the district and wish all of you the best.”

Gutman noted “the hour long commute each way to Ripon has put a strain on my children’s lives and since my spouse recently completed medical school we are financially stable to make the decision for me to leave the district.”

The Board has established a timeline to look for the next business manager and the position has been posted. Superintendent Whitrock commented “I appreciate JJ giving the district plenty of notice to allow us the opportunity to start looking now for his replacement. Our goal is to have the next business manager selected by early March. This will provide time for JJ to work with the new person to ensure a smooth transition.” Whitrock added, “Rick Ketter announced his retirement in December 2013 and Gutman was hired in February 2014.”

Whitrock noted, “Gutman’s contributions to the district stating JJ’s auditor background allowed him to review the entire budget during his time in Ripon and realize savings in areas previously untapped. Over the course of Gutman’s four year tenure, he helped pass the \$29.1 million 6-12 facilities referendum and the five year \$500,000 operational referendum and in spite of those two referendums, Ripon taxpayers saw their school taxes drop over \$237 for a \$100,000 home. That was possible through a combination of refinancing debt and strategically splitting the additional \$1.9 million in building funds approved by the Board over two budget years.”

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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