

The music areas at Neenah Middle School will be named the Shattuck Performing Arts Center and a search firm has been hired to find a new superintendent following action by the Neenah Joint School District Board of Education at its January 9 meeting.

The middle school auditorium will continue to be called Pickard Auditorium, but the entire music area will be named in honor of the Shattuck family for their significant contributions to the District over its history. Some Board members asked why this was being done now and whether other parts of the District should bear the Shattuck name. It was noted that with Shattuck Middle School closing, it was important to maintain the Shattuck name in the District and Frank C. Shattuck contributed most of the funding for the auditorium when it was constructed in 1972. The other facilities in the District named after Neenah individuals are all based where they made their contributions.

The Board selected Hazard, Young, Attea Associates to assist with the search for the new superintendent. The firm will begin work this week to start establishing timelines and a plan for coordinating the search.

In other action, the Board approved the annual financial audit. The auditing firm of Kerber Rose had representatives at the meeting and noted that the District's financial reporting was done fairly and accurately over the past year. The annual open enrollment caps were also established for the upcoming year.

The Board also made an adjustment to the 2024-25 school calendar, shifting the previously scheduled Professional Learning Day from September 20 to September 27, since September 20 is the third Friday in September and would affect the enrollment reporting to the state. The Board supported several Wisconsin Association of School Board resolutions that will be voted upon at next week's State Education Convention.

In personnel moves, the Board approved the end-of-year resignation for middle school Associate Principal Dave Sonnabend and the end-of-year retirements for high school teacher David Dunning and educational assistant Lori Harness. A resignation for Spring Road educational assistant Andrea Grassl was approved, effective January 26.

Board Clerk Deb Watry announced that eight individuals have submitted nomination paperwork to run for three open positions on the Board this spring. A primary election will be held on February 20 to determine the six individuals on the final ballot on April 2.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 6.