February 13, 2015

Dear MMSD Employees,

We are excited to announce the launch of our District’s employee wellness program! The program has been developed together with our employee unions, to provide opportunities and resources for all of us to improve our health. By working together to develop and implement the program, we hope that we can better support our employees, and ultimately teaching and learning in our schools.

The following individuals are the team that was selected to support district wellness and design the program activities that will be focused on improving the health and energy of all staff in the district:

Tammy Thompson-Kapp – Principal at Lapham Elementary
Iris Tirado – Coordinator-Food Services
Jessica Cady-Bartholomew – MSCR-Rec Specialist-50+ Programs
Jean O’Leary - MSCR-Rec Specialist-50+ Programs
Tony Rodriguez – Communication Office-Webmaster/Web Team Leader
Doug Keillor – Assistant to Executive Director of Madison Teachers Inc.
Andy Waity – Crestwood-Grade 4 Teacher
Kathy Chrisler – Ed Services-Instructional Program Accounting Specialist
Cheryl Nelson – Chavez Elementary-Special Ed Assistant
Amy Taebel – Lapham Elementary-Physical Therapist
Favian McMurray(AFSCME) – Spring Harbor – Building Custodian
Dave Branson (Building Trades) – Executive Director-Building and Construction Trades Council of South Central Wisconsin

The first step is designing a program that works for you. To do that, we are asking employees to sign up for biometric screenings and health risk assessments. Information from both of these assessments will help us develop a program that is specifically tailored to the needs of our employees. It is important for you to know that no personally identifiable medical information will be shared with the district and/or the joint committee (i.e. only aggregate data will be shared to assist with program design). Keep an eye out for signup information. Additional information on the biometric screenings and health risk assessments will be coming soon.

Next, we’ll continue to work on the design of the program with our Joint MTI/MMSD wellness committee. We want to thank all employees who volunteered to work as part of that group. The Joint MTI/MMSD Committee will begin meeting in February and will be vital to the development of a program that supports all of our employees. Regular updates will be provided employees as the Joint Committee work proceeds.

We are excited the program will provide opportunities for all of us to improve our health. We anticipate great participation, and would love to see all employees take advantage of it to improve health, support teaching and learning in our schools and reduce the impact of health care costs on our employees and district.

Our plan for the wellness program next year includes a 3% employee premium health insurance contribution effective January 1, 2016, which employees can avoid by participating in the biometric screenings and health risk assessments. As we go through the budget process for next year, our health
insurance plans are always subject to change, including contributions, but our goal, both in the wellness program and budget in general, is to minimize the impact on employees.

More information about our wellness program will be coming soon. We are excited to launch this program together!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cheatham  
Superintendent

John Matthews  
MTI

Favian McMurray  
AFSCME

Dave Branson  
Building and Construction Trades