

Letter from the Executive Director

I hope your school year is starting off on a positive note. I know many of you are struggling with staffing issues, heat, COVID-related problems (again), and more. Please know my thoughts are with you and your schools.

On January 1, 2021, I announced my retirement date of September 30, 2021 to the WRISA Board of Directors. Since January, the Board conducted both a local and national search and selected a Wisconsin resident to move into the Executive Director position when I retire.

Jean Suttie was selected as the new Executive Director for WRISA. Jean started August 1st and has been working with me to learn her new responsibilities. Jean is a US Army Veteran. She has an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from UW Whitewater, and a graduate degree in School Administration from UW Superior. She has over 25 years of elementary school principal experience and was awarded the Herb Kohl Principal Leadership Award in 2019. Jean is well-versed in the accrediting process having had experience conducting accreditation Self-Studies, writing Annual Reports, and mentoring new schools in various stages of the accreditation process. In addition, Jean has participated on many Site Visits in small and large schools, and is familiar with the parental choice programs. Jean is looking forward to the new challenges ahead and to meeting everyone in the WRISA community.

Here are a few things to know:

- Jean Suttie will assume the full responsibilities for the Executive Director position on October 1, 2021.
- The new mailing address for WRISA is P. O. Box 154, Sparta, WI 54656 (All correspondence should be sent to the Sparta address and NOT to the Muskego address.)
- The WRISA email address will remain the same: wrisa@wrisa.net.
- I am still available through the month of September to respond to any questions you might have or contact your jurisdiction's representative.

As I close out 20 years of serving as Executive Director, I want to thank each of you for the work you do in your schools on a daily basis to provide the best education for your children during this most challenging of times. Thank you for selecting WRISA as your accrediting association. Together, we have worked to strengthen you in your mission and focus on school improvement by upholding the Standards of accreditation. It has been both a privilege and an honor to be part of the Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation (WRISA).

Sincerely,



Beatrice Weiland

Executive Director, WRISA