



THREE LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.threelakessd.k12.wi.us

Contact: Jennifer West, PR/Communications Director
jwest@threelakessd.k12.wi.us, 715-546-3496, x3322

Three Lakes School District Mourns Loss of Board Member Terry McCloskey

Three Lakes, Wisconsin — Three Lakes School District is saddened to announce the passing of Board of Education member and vice president Capt. Terry John McCloskey. McCloskey, 84, died on Feb. 11, 2023. The McCloskey family hosted a celebration of life service at the Three Lakes school on Friday, Feb. 17.

McCloskey was a passionate proponent of public education and of the Three Lakes School District. He began his tenure on the board in 2007, and this year marked 16 years of service at TLSD. During that time, he was instrumental in several large improvements at the district including the creation of Fab Lab Three Lakes, implementation of the school fitness center and the installment of the downtown Three Lakes marquee sign.

"I think Terry's greatest strength was his passion for students," said Board President Mike Kwaterski. "If he felt something was important, he never let go. He would be the one who constantly reminded us, 'Where are we at with this?' That was his way of getting things done."

It was that tenacity that helped make Fab Lab Three Lakes a reality. On Sept. 17, 2014, Three Lakes Fab Lab officially opened as the first K-12 fab lab in Wisconsin. Since then, school leaders from around the state have visited Three Lakes to tour the facility and to learn more about funding, curriculum and fab lab implementation. The lab remained a high-interest area to McCloskey throughout his time on the school board, and he supported many efforts to highlight it throughout the state.

"Captain McCloskey loved Three Lakes School District down to his very core," said District Administrator Teri Maney. "He felt the district was an extension of his family. His motivation was to better the experiences of our students and public education."

McCloskey's passion for public education continued at the state and national level. He represented Region 2 at the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, and in 2017, he became the president of WASB, a position that allowed him to speak with state- and national-level politicians including Gov. Scott Walker, Sen. Tammy Baldwin, Sen. Ron Johnson, Rep. Sean Duffy and more.

"Terry was not afraid to spend enormous amounts of time working for the district, not only at the local but at the regional, state and even national level. I give [Terry's wife] MaryAnn and her children a huge credit because you have to have support behind you and you don't do that alone," said Kwaterski. "It was one of those rare combinations where you have family support and you have someone who is able to do things for students. And that's a rare thing. Those stars just don't line up all of the time."

ABOUT TLSD - Three Lakes School District is located in Oneida County, Wisconsin, in the heart of the Northwoods. Our district includes Sugar Camp Elementary, Three Lakes Elementary and Three Lakes Jr./Sr. High schools and the communities of Hiles, Monico, Piehl, Stella, Sugar Camp and Three Lakes. Our award-winning district has received a 2017 Magna Award Honorable Mention and has been recognized as a Title 1 School of Recognition.