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## **MTSD to Enhance Student Support Programming by Adding Two Social-Emotional Coaches**

MEQUON, Wis. — The Mequon-Thiensville School District is pleased to announce that it will add two new full-time social-emotional coach positions for the 2017-18 school year to support students' learning and growth. MTSD will also transition its three current social workers and one elementary counselor to become social-emotional coaches.

The additions and transitions will equate to one full-time professional at each MTSD school, whose work will be to intervene, identify and eliminate barriers to students' academic achievement and social-emotional development. Previously, the counselor or social workers served more than one building, limiting their accessibility.

The school district sought and received bids on its medical insurance coverage in the month of April. By negotiating a favorable bid, the district now has a surplus of \$330,000 for the 2017-2018 school year, allowing district officials to realize this new initiative in student support.

"Social and emotional learning enhances students' capacity to integrate skills, attitudes and behaviors to deal effectively and ethically with daily tasks and challenges," said Rachel Fellenz, executive director of student services. "The integrated framework of our coaching model will promote students' intrapersonal, interpersonal, and cognitive competence."

MTSD's Social-emotional coaches will work with three constituent groups including students, staff members and families. Working directly with students, coaches will provide instruction and support to grow skills and competencies, and overcome barriers to learning. They will further provide consistent support for school leadership teams, analyzing behavioral data, and will work to build teacher capacity by providing professional development. Coaches will additionally empower parents as the parent-school liaison, providing families with the skills and techniques to support the development of their child through workshops, coaching and resources.

"The addition and shifting of these professional roles in our buildings is aligned with our strategic goal to further enhance student supports," said Dr. Demond A. Means, Ed.D. "These professionals are a significant resource in our critically important work to prepare students for post-secondary success."

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