

RAPHAEL
RITTENHOUSE



OBJECTIVE

To articulate a compelling vision of the public school mission using my extensive administrative experiences; unifying stakeholders through the observance of best instructional practice, utilizing strategies that build capacity, and ensuring success for all.

EDUCATION

Leadership Kalamazoo 2021-2022

Ed Leadership Doctoral Program Fall 2006
Eastern Michigan University

Leadership Grand Traverse May 2003

Michigan Leadership Institute March 2001

Masters in Education Leadership December 1997
Secondary Certification
Grand Valley State University

Bachelor of Music Education December 1991
K-12 Secondary Provisional Certificate
University of Michigan

EXPERIENCE

Superintendent Richland, MI
Gull Lake Community Schools July 2019-Present

Superintendent Iron Mountain, MI
Iron Mountain Public Schools July 2015-June 2019

K-12 Principal Suttons Bay, MI
Suttons Bay Public Schools July 2007- June 2015

Assistant Principal Grades 10-12 Traverse City, MI
TCAPS July 2001-June 2007



Instrumental Music Grades 6-12
Charlevoix Public Schools

Charlevoix, MI
1994-2001

Instrumental Music Grades 5-12
Vocal Music Grades 9-12
Hesperia Community Schools

Hesperia, MI
1992-1994

GULL LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

RESPONSIBILITIES

Currently serving a District with an enrollment of over 4,200 students with a combined FTE of 3,860. The District operates several schools and programs including traditional brick and mortar, virtual school, an alternative program, Early/Middle College, and a Shared Time program that serves both Parochial and Homeschool students. Oversee all aspects of a comprehensive program, manage capital bond projects, report to the Board of Education, bargain all contracts, oversee property acquisition and plan for long-range needs including facilities, staffing and other related services.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Grew District to the largest enrollment in its history.
- Oversaw the 64 million capital bond project during the Pandemic. Facilities upgraded on time and under budget, allowing for all wish list items to be added. Value engineered over 9 million to accomplish the goal. The Gull Lake Center for the Fine Arts is featured in the 2023 *American School & University Architectural Portfolio*.
- Supported Innovative Programs with technical requirements and regulatory changes.
- Acquired property adjacent to main campus for future facility needs related to continued District growth.
- Spearheaded significant safety and security upgrades across the District.
- District the first in Southwest Michigan to rebound learning after the Pandemic per the Education Recovery Scorecard.
- Developed and implemented the KVIC program that served the Pandemic virtual learning needs for 600 Kalamazoo County students from surrounding communities.
- Conducted District survey through EPIC-MRA. Top tier results returned from the community. Strategic Plan facilitator indicated no focus groups necessary as a result.
- Preserved the entire K-12 Admin Leadership Team over the past five years.
- Engaged Community Partners on multiple collaborative projects.

IRON MOUNTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RESPONSIBILITIES

Superintendent for a District of 840 students, administered all functions for a comprehensive EK-12 program that offered both traditional and online courses, Project-Based Learning, Dual Enrollment and Partnership programs for Shared-Time and Full-Time students. Oversaw all staff functions, reported to the Board of Education, managed the finances of the District to reflect fiscal discipline while improving programming and achievement for all students.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Led the District out of deep deficit, removing it from the Treasury watchlist.
- Implemented innovative new Project-Based Learning program.
- North Elementary a top 3 in the Upper Peninsula Elementary School based on CAP Score over a 3-year period.
- IMHS achieved the top letter grade in DIISD based on CAP Score over a 3-year period.
- Grew the enrollment of the District despite predicted demographic decline.
- Started a Partnership program serving non-traditional students and families.
- Worked with the local community to start a Community Center and Children's Museum on site.
- Successfully bargained contracts for all employee groups, maintained positive working relationships.
- Brokered new charter bus service after area 3rd party transportation service shut down.
- Maintained visibility and accessibility for students, families, staff and community.

SUTTONS BAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RESPONSIBILITIES

As the K-12 Principal served a population of 470 K-12 students and coordinated the Suttons Bay Early College program. Other roles served in addition to being a building principal included athletic director and interim head of school for the local Montessori school housed on campus, a feeder to the Suttons Bay 7-12 building. Staffed both certified and non-certified positions, mitigated prior designations of Disproportionality and Focus School, developed professional development for staff, evaluated seventeen certified staff annually, resourced staff with curriculum, guided curriculum revisions, developed the School Improvement Plan, attended IEP's, administered discipline policy, monitored and led school events/ceremonies, public speaking, communications, community relations, home visits, truancy process, coordinated fundraisers with the business community, and completed other duties as assigned.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Piloted and implemented Bay-Link, an integrated STEM program that helped meet student needs locally.
- Coordinated a student-led Powwow with fluent Anishinaabemowin instructor that became a yearly event involving students and community. Presented at the annual *Critical Issues in Native American Education* conference.
- Moved from 23rd Percentile to 79th Percentile on the Top to Bottom List.
- Implemented Suttons Bay Early College program, developed in conjunction with Northwestern Michigan College.
- Improved school climate, reducing discipline referrals and increasing the graduation rate for at-risk and minority students.
- Presented Credit Protection/Recovery program to MASSP at annual retreat.
- Presented Disproportionality work to MAASE administrators at annual conference.
- Resourced math curriculum K-12 by securing funds for Pearson Envisions, Digits and PH Math materials including Pearson program staff training. Implemented daily math lessons for 5th and 6th grade students and grouped them heterogeneously in a teamed instructional setting. Math program one of the select few on the national "What Works!" website.
- Worked with intermediate school district staff to develop working School Improvement Plan that braided together the various initiatives and prioritized district resources to support SIP goals.

TRAVERSE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RESPONSIBILITIES

Served a population of 540 grade level students and 190 special education caseload students. Led a team of ten special education staff, evaluated up to fifteen teaching and certified staff on a yearly basis, conducted academic conferences, designed transition activities for incoming 10th graders, directed the security team, managed staff crisis trainings, supervised the Focus Room, filled certified and non-certified positions, coordinated academic plans for expelled/suspended students, coordinated with truancy caseworkers, and operated a weekly conflict resolution program for at-risk students.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Piloted a groundbreaking alternative conflict resolution program that has contributed to the positive climate at West Senior High School, including a sizeable reduction in behavior referrals.
- Helped establish the Host Homes program for at-risk youth.
- Coordinated a live-broadcast Tsunami Relief telethon that netted \$10,000. The money was used to build new fishing boats that put six families back to work.
- Spearheaded a drive to create a collaborative tech website that assisted TCAPS in the implementation of the new Michigan Content Expectations.
- Supported LAN (Local Area Network) parties at the high school. Over 160 students participated and the event continued to grow in both scope and size.

CHARLEVOIX PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RESPONSIBILITIES

Duties included teaching instrumental music grades 6-12, marching band, pep band, jazz band and city band for a district of 1,440 students. The band program had an average enrollment of 230 members. The position involved participation in concerts, festivals, marching camps, community parades and theater productions. Other areas of supervision involved recruiting and maintaining a band booster executive committee, executing yearly fundraisers, planning extended band trips, proposing and implementing budgets, hiring camp instructors and maintaining a large inventory of music equipment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Regular participation at District and State Band/Orchestra festivals, including Superior I ratings at four District and three State festivals. Bands medaled at every festival.
- Proposed and implemented a marching band camp.
- Served as high school building chair of NCA Transitions accreditation process.

- Encouraged contact between a Chicago area sound recording professional, resulting in the installation of a professional recording studio in the band room. Sound Studio became a new course of study.
- Worked as the Charlevoix Venetian Festival Cultural Exchange chairperson to host European orchestras and choirs.
- Made use of the latest technology when creating marching drill and composing music for performance.

HESPERIA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

RESPONSIBILITIES

Duties included teaching instrumental music grades 5-12, vocal music grades 9-12, general music grade 5, marching band and stage band for a district of 1,200 students. The position involved participation in concerts, festivals, marching camps and community parades. Other tasks included managing the band boosters, conducting the yearly fundraiser and maintaining equipment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Instituted a summer band camp.
- Negotiated a more affordable instrument rental program.
- Established participation in sanctioned M.S.B.O.A. festivals.
- Developed a successful vocal music program.
- Member of the Newaygo County Madrigal Singers.
- Wrote a grant request that resulted in funding for new computers and music notation software for the classroom.
- Coached successful 7th and 8th grade boys basketball teams.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Rotarian
- Charter member of the Northern Michigan Brass Band
- Youth group sponsor
- Music coordinator for local congregations
- Charlevoix City Band director
- Venetian Festival Cultural Exchange chairperson

INTERESTS

Family activities, hiking, biking, reading, archery, music.