



A Note from Susan...

Dear Dollar Bay-Tamarack City Area School District Staff, Parents and Community Members:

My name is (Dr.) Susan Miko, and I am DELIGHTED to introduce myself to you as your newest school superintendent. I had the honor of interviewing with the Board during late July and being selected as your new school superintendent shortly thereafter. My family and I couldn't be happier to move to your area to establish our permanent home in this extraordinary part of Michigan!!!

There's always the question with a new superintendent of "just who is she, and where does she come from"? My husband Chris and I are actually Michigan "born and bred", but we come to you from Northwest Ohio, where my husband has served as a faculty member at Bowling Green State University for the past 30+ years. Originally high school sweethearts from the Detroit area with undergrad and Master's degrees from Wayne State University, our first major family move in the early part of our marriage and careers was to the East Lansing area when my husband accepted a position with Michigan State University. I served as a home ec, English, biology, social studies and science teacher in assorted Michigan school districts and also worked for Michigan State University as a Human Ecology (home ec) librarian for four years while my husband was also working there. He eventually received a position with Bowling Green State University as a librarian, and our family followed him there. We have one son, now grown, who is a doctor at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. We've been in Ohio for 30 years, and during that time I was attracted to school administration, as I always knew I wanted to be a school superintendent someday. I obtained my Ph.D. in Educational Administration and Leadership from Bowling Green State University in 2006, and served as a school superintendent for 11 years in rural districts in Ohio. My husband and I always knew we would eventually return to Michigan, and with him now eligible for retirement (in Ohio it takes 30 years to fully qualify for their state retirement system), we knew that the timing was perfect for us to return. We were looking for a place to call home – permanently – and the Houghton-Hancock area (especially Dollar Bay-Tamarack City Area Schools from my perspective, as it really does seem to be an EXCEPTIONAL school district) seemed to fit the bill, perfectly. We love the four seasons, even if one of them leads to lots and lots of snow – and it's been fascinating to me that my grandmother (my dad's mother), Veronica Koehler, was born in Hancock and lived there for several years while her father, Bernard, worked the copper mines. Family recall says that the copper mine eventually closed, and my grandmother and her family relocated to the Detroit area. The rest, as they say, is "history". ☺

You will see me at many school events as I LOVE seeing kids "in their element", enjoying academics, athletics, and all the special things that make school life so memorable. I cannot imagine a better place to be than here with you, as I've heard SO many positive things about the students, staff, and community members. I will be arriving the weekend of August 27th and at work by the 30th, hoping to meet as many of you as possible right from the "get go". My family, including my husband along with my almost 95 year old dad, will follow me here once our house in Northwest Ohio sells. I'm keeping fingers crossed that happens quickly as we're all eager to settle in and begin to build our new "roots" in this special area that you call home. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 419-966-1048 (my cell) or smiko@bright.net (my email) if you have any questions or just want to converse, and I'll be happy to "meet you" via phone or online. And I look forward to seeing you in person, very soon!

Susan Miko