



MEDIA CONTACT:  
Jill Peeters  
Marketing and Community Coordinator  
(920) 788-7900  
jpeeters@kimberly.k12.wi.us

425 S. WASHINGTON STREET  
COMBINED LOCKS WI 54113

(920) 788-7900  
FAX (920) 788-7919

www.kimberly.k12.wi.us

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Administrative Team Honored with State Literacy Award

**Kimberly, Wis. – February 12, 2020** – A The elementary team of principals for the [Kimberly Area School District](#) has been honored by the [Wisconsin State Reading Association](#) (WSRA) as Outstanding Administrators. Dr. Timothy Doleysh ([Woodland Elementary](#)), Sean Fitzgerald ([Sunrise Elementary/4K Center for Literacy](#)), Dr. Hercules Nikolaou ([Janssen Elementary](#)), and Jonathan Peterson ([Westside Elementary](#)) were nominated by the Mid-East Reading Council for their work supporting elementary teachers in high-quality research-based literacy practices.

Led by Dr. Kathy Champeau, an expert in the literacy field, the four principals have worked side-by-side with teachers studying the research of Marie Clay, Peter Johnston, Katie Wood Ray, Matt Glover and others. Building towards the vision of what has been called a “dialogic approach” to literacy, the principals set aside time for teachers to learn and grow as professionals and also made sure to

dedicate their own collaboration time to understand how to coach and support teachers as they learned. Dr. Holly Prast, Assistant Superintendent of the district had high praise for the team. “These four gentlemen have worked hard to create an aligned vision of literacy for our elementary schools. I am proud to call them colleagues and cannot think of a team more deserving of this honor.” A “dialogic approach” to literacy focuses on helping students



Principals Doleysh, Fitzgerald, Peterson and Nikolaou

-more-

verbalize their thinking during the reading and writing process so that teachers can better tailor the instruction to meet each individual child's literacy needs. The teachers in a dialogic classroom work to ensure that in addition to decoding, comprehending, and reading fluently, students also feel a sense of meaningfulness, competence, autonomy, and belonging in the literacy classroom. The team was recognized and given their award on Saturday, February 8 at the 2020 WSRA Conference in Milwaukee.

### **About the Kimberly Area School District**

The Kimberly Area School District is a progressive public school district committed to providing the best possible education available to students. Its responsibility is to help lead the way in developing well-rounded students and future citizens. The District wants every student to be given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts and co-curricular activities. It encompasses approximately 17 square miles and serves over 5,100 students in one 4K center, four elementary schools (5K-4), two intermediate schools (5-6), one middle school (7-8) and one high school (9-12). To learn more about the Kimberly Area School District, call (920)788-7900 or visit [www.kimberly.k12.wi.us](http://www.kimberly.k12.wi.us).