

DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS #170

"A Place to Grow"

www.dps170.org

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Margo D. Empen – Superintendent
Doug Stansford – Asst. Superintendent
Marc Campbell – Chief School Business

Official

August 26, 2024

Re: KSB Hospital/OSF Healthcare Affiliation

My name is Margo Empen, and I am the Superintendent of Dixon Unit School District #170. I have been a consumer of KSB Services, been an instructor in their Babysitting Academy, and have served as a member of their Governance and Advisory Council. I am wholeheartedly in favor of this affiliation for a variety of reasons. It is imperative that our community have an established health care system. Keeping an established health care system supports a healthy community, provides local jobs to enhance our workforce, and enables our citizens to receive quality healthcare without having to travel outside of Dixon. I have utilized both KSB and OSF for a variety of personal healthcare needs, and I support the affiliation of these two entities.

KSB's mission is to restore, maintain, and enhance health by providing superior care now and in the future. We need this affiliation to occur to uphold the mission to not only maintain healthcare in the Sauk Valley, but to enhance and grow care opportunities for the immediate future. To lose such a vital part of our community would be catastrophic to the overall health and wellness of our community. People need local healthcare that is easy and convenient to access. If asked to travel outside of Dixon, there are people who can't or won't access healthcare. That will impact our community in a negative way. KSB's vision is to be the community's first choice for health services. Dixonites are proud of their community and the services and supports offered to our citizens. People would much rather access quality healthcare within their community versus traveling outside of town. Traveling for specialists is one thing, but good quality healthcare within a community cannot be underestimated. I believe OSF will be able to expand primary care services which is vital for those young and old.

Recently, I had a serious health scare. The support I received from KSB along with specialized services from OSF were second to none. I felt in very capable hands since we have experienced, top notch health care, from both entities over the last 30+ years. At crucial times like I experienced, knowing the depth of knowledge and the level of commitment from both entities made for two areas I didn't need to worry about. My focus was on treatment and recovery.

Please consider this affiliation between KSB and OSF. Our community needs to know there is some place to turn when healthcare advice and help is needed. These two entities will ensure that for our communities provide outstanding health care now and in the years to come.

Dixon Public Schools, in cooperation with the community, will provide students with a comprehensive educational program that produces well-educated, self-sufficient, and involved citizens.

I am available for further discussions if needed. I thank you for your time, care and attention to the needs of our community in your decision making.

Sincerely,

Margo D. Empen

Margo D Empen
Superintendent-Dixon USD #170

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