



Madison, IN: Schutte joins MCS as Cub Enterprises Coordinator

On June 1, 2023, the Madison Board of Trustees approved the hiring of John Schutte as the new Cub Enterprises Coordinator. “This position is important and will allow us to move forward our plan to provide more opportunities for students,” shared Superintendent Dr. Teresa Brown. “John brings a wealth of experience in business, strategy, leadership, and business development that will be the perfect addition to our Cub program and what we need to move it forward.”



After retiring from Batesville Casket Company in 2021, John knew it would likely not be for forever - just yet. As a parent, coach, and spouse of an employee, Schutte is familiar with the district. His son is a recent graduate and was involved with Cub Engineering while at MCHS so John is familiar with the huge benefits Cub Enterprises offers students. “I know a lot about the concept and am familiar with the incredible work that has been done over the years to create impactful partnerships and unique opportunities for students at Madison,” Schutte shared. “I have always been impressed with the leadership mindset and cutting-edge approach to the curriculum and programs the high school offers as part of the Career & Technical Education fields.”

During his 34-year tenure with Hillenbrand Industries and Batesville Casket Company, Schutte has built a reputation for strategic vision, leadership development, and for building relationships that have lasted for decades. While all of that was done with adult employees, Schutte sees an immediate way to begin implementing similar things with the Cub model and students at MCHS. Schutte strongly believes the greatest impact we can have on our community is to be invested in the success of our youth. “When we work together for the success of our youth, our community becomes stronger, he shared. “When education becomes a highly-valued priority, our community thrives. When we approach educating our children with energy and compassion, our community becomes a network of opportunity for everyone. I look forward to working with our current partners, our teachers, and students to continue to grow Cub Enterprises into more and more opportunities.”

In addition to the Enterprise responsibilities, Schutte will also spend time in a leadership coaching role working with the district’s administration. “We are in a unique position where our building principals are very young in terms of years of experience,” shared Brown. “While most of them have some experience, they are all very new to their positions within our district, and some of them specifically in the role of instructional leaders. We have a wonderful opportunity to help them develop as leaders, outside of educational requirements, through utilizing John’s experience. He will provide an outside perspective and a sounding board for them to build upon their strengths and assess areas for growth.”

As part of the district’s Strategic Plan, relationships and connection is woven throughout. The three areas of focus are Growth and Achievement, Health, Wellness, and Safety, and Talent Recruiting and Retention - “relationships will be key to successful implementation across the board,” Brown stated. “Relationships are at the center of every daily exchange we have. Each interaction can leave you with a good or bad impression, make you feel safe or unsafe, or help or hinder your ability to learn or work. Sometimes we get caught up in the daily requirements of education, standards, assessments, etc. and we forget about creating authentic connections - we are investing in building relationships.”

Schutte began his career at Batesville Casket giving customer plant tours where he learned the value of and formed life-long relationships. Growing up professionally in a corporate climate lends itself to a great deal of growth and perspective that can be transplanted to numerous other areas. "Leadership development is very similar regardless of where it takes place," Schutte commented. "While I am new to the education sector, I am very excited to learn more about it in both roles." Holding numerous leadership roles ranging from sales to business development, Schutte retired as the Vice President of Sales for Batesville Casket Company. He was responsible for the development of sales strategy and management, infrastructure for successful international growth, and managed a budget of \$40M. He led a professionally dynamic team of 10 Divisional Directors, and 130 sales consultants, was responsible for the Batesville Training and Development program, and was part of the corporate leadership team who was responsible for driving the success of the company and its 3,000 employees daily.

John is a graduate of Batesville High School and holds a degree in Business Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University. John is a veteran of the armed services dedicating four years of active duty in the United States Navy. He is actively involved with youth in the community and has volunteered his time for the last twelve years as the head coach of the H2O Swim Club and the head coach for the MCHS and MJHS swim teams.