

ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
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Aberdeen School Board presents award to Jerry Salstrom

The Aberdeen School Board presented the Jane F. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award to Jerry Salstrom at its meeting on Tuesday to recognize his years of dedication to the children of Aberdeen and the community as a whole.

Mr. Salstrom's service in the Aberdeen School District dates to 1969 when he was hired to teach math. He was the principal at Miller Junior High School from 1989 to 1999. In his retirement, he has continued to work and volunteer in various roles. He currently is the math tutor in the GEAR UP program at Aberdeen High School.

Most recently, Mr. Salstrom spearheaded the Miller Junior High Centennial Celebration, which became a community-wide event that packed the gymnasium on Jan. 28.

Mr. Salstrom had been asked to attend the School Board meeting to report on the celebration.

In his report, he focused on the student and community partnerships that were forged in the months leading up to the event. He recapped the work of the students, teachers and the community members, and he also shared photos from the event. The goal was not just to hold an event. "We wanted it to be an experience – and a lasting experience," he said. "And most importantly a connection with our entire community. ... It truly was a community effort."

Mr. Salstrom said the next goal is to maintain the connections that have been made between the schools and community. "My motto from the time I first heard it in an education class over 55 years ago has been 'Kids don't care how much you know until they know how much you care,' " he said.

"... The relationships and engagement that we develop with our students promotes learning in all areas," he added. "Building connections and experiences between our students and the larger community will only enhance their engagement, development and success. I want to thank everyone who made our celebration possible."

As Mr. Salstrom stepped away from the podium, President Jennifer Durney asked him to remain because, "We're not done yet." He tried to wave her off and continue to his seat, but she insisted.

In presenting the award, President Durney noted that Jane Goldberg served on the school board for 20 years, including 13 years as president. Her service was so impactful that upon her departure from the board in 1995, the Jane F. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award was created.

"Tonight, that commitment to community is remembered as we thank Mr. Jerry Salstrom for your extraordinary support of our schools and programs," she said, "which was exemplified most recently through your tireless efforts leading up to the Miller Centennial Celebration."

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