

Connecting

JANUARY 2023

NEWS FOR MANAGERS & MECHANICS

Mike Hennek...How Did He Get Here?

Mike began his career as a mechanic, literally working his way from the ground up in the School Bus Industry. He was employed with Palmer Bus Service first as a mechanic and then a manager. He began his own company with Prairie Bus Service in 1994 with a little negotiating with Brenda Gould to manage the location while he continued working for Palmer. It was Mike's innovative approach to student transportation that offered school districts different solutions to bussing.

In 1998, Mound-Westonka school district was the second company that expanded in 2001 to a grounds maintenance business for school properties. This is where Bob started at the ground level, mowing lawn and subbing as a bus driver.

For his accomplishments in the bussing industry, Mike received the prestigious Golden Merit Award from the National School Transportation Association in 2004 for his excellence in service, safety, and community.



His business expanded to Glencoe in 2003 which was a low process. The first year we managed the routes, then the next year managing the drivers and fleet, and eventually the whole operation in 2006. Minnesota was added in 2005 starting the expansion in the West.

As his business grew so did the name of the company. Mike was looking for a name that stood for the level of service he provided. After some thought the company became 4.0 School Services in 2006 with the motto, Surpassing your greatest expectations.

From that point there was steady growth with five companies joining the group. St. Peter, Rockford, and Norwood in 2007 and the following year Tracy and Ivanhoe. Since many of these districts had busses that were feeling their age, the need for a place to rehab the fleet became the Custom Shop in 2011. There was a high demand for parts and a need to streamline the process and the addition of the St. Peter Napa Store kept progress on track.

Between 2012 and 2013, Pine City and Wabasso joined the organization. Bob's responsibilities were also changing, becoming the assistant manager with Krystal Pierce as legal counsel.

There was tremendous growth over the next five years with eleven schools looking for assistance in transportation. Between 2014 - 2016 six school districts were welcomed including Cromwell, East Central, Chisago Lakes, Milroy, and Howard Lake, and supplemental bussing for Cleveland. During this time, Mike Hennek was also a third party CDL tester so 4.0 could have an easier process for employees needing to acquire a commercial driver license. Dan Hilligoss's role changed to compliance officer because of his background with law enforcement. Barb Myers had a passion for safety and became the Company trainer in an effort to keep the driver training standards up-to-date.

The party continued between 2017-2019 with five more companies added to the family which were: Seven Hills, Carlton, Floodwood, North Branch, and Sibley East. This doesn't even take into account the school districts we have aided to help get through numerous state inspections.

With all this expansion there was also a need for more support in the 4.0 management team. Mike appointed Dan to become General Manager, Bill Drummer is assistant general manager, Aaron Smith is in charge of Human Resources, Terry's role changed and became the company CDL road tester. More recently in 2021, we welcomed Renee Matejcek for accounts receivable.

2020 through today, is the addition of Metro 4.0, Eden Valley, Belle Plaine, and an additional Type III company in Mankato.

4.

With over 28 years of experience, Mike Hennek has surpassed the expectations of many but there is still room to expand and be of service to school children and communities in Minnesota. Who's next to join the family?

2022
107
ACCIDENT TOTAL



Connecting

DATES TO KNOW

- FEBRUARY 2ND—CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING—GLENCOE @9:30
- FEBRUARY 20TH— WEST REGIONAL MEETING—MINNEOTA
- FEBRUARY 21ST—METRO REGIONAL MEETING—ROSEVILLE
- **FEBRUARY 22ND—BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY**
- FEBRUARY 22ND— NORTH REGIONAL MEETING—PINE CITY
- APRIL 29TH—1ST PERIOD RANDOM TESTS MUST BE COMPLETE

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

4th – Aaron Smith
15th – Barb Myers
16th – Nick Rosier
19th – Michale Carroll
25th – Levi Allen
30th – Mike Schlueter

What's Going On The West Side Of Frozen North?

The **Floodwood School District** is located in beautiful Northeast Minnesota surrounded by trees and water. At the center of the school district is where the Floodwood River and the Savanna River meet the St. Louis River. Geographically Floodwood is located on Highway 2 halfway between Duluth and Grand Rapids.

The Floodwood School has been in existence since 1893 when the first school, a log building, was constructed. In 1911 the first building was built on the present site of the school. It was a six room, brick building. This was also the year that the school district became Independent School District No. 19. The children were transported to school with a team and wagon or sled. A man and team were paid twenty-eight dollars a month for hauling children twenty-four miles a day. The children that lived too far from town were boarded at homes in town. Their room and board were paid by the state.

Two communities make up the district of **Cromwell-Wright Public School**. Cromwell is a small town located in Northeast Minnesota, about 50 miles southwest of Duluth. Wright is approximately 6 miles directly to the West on Highway 210.

Jessica Larson joined the 4.0 team in the summer of 2017 as a manager in Floodwood. Jessica and Tim are such a great team that she took over the managing of Cromwell in 2019 with Tim staying connected as the mechanic for the Frozen North.

Jessica would have never guessed that she would be involved in school transportation since she holds a degree in Criminal Justice and really wanted to become a boarder patrol officer.

Jessica stays busy on the Larson Farm with gardening, canning, raising beef cattle, and design projects. She is an avid Softball enthusiast and loves spending her summer at weekend ball games with her daughter Dakota.

4.

How Will You
"Be Of Service"
To Your Employees
February 22nd



Top: The Floodwood bus garage is shared with the school district vehicles throughout the year. There are three route buses and van that are kept at this location. Floodwood School has a current student body of about 200 students in grades Pre-K through 12.

Bottom: Cromwell-Wright has a larger garage with the mechanics bay that is also utilized as Jessica's office. The garage is across the street from the school. The district services about 290 students and has five bus routes.



JANUARY

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----|--------------|---|--------------------|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 PAYROLL | 5 PO LISTS DUE | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 SCHOOL DIST. BILLING | 17 | 18 | 19 PAYROLL | 20 PO LISTS DUE | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 <i>Glencoe Regional Mtg @ 9:30</i> | 3 | 4 |