



Thursday, November 20, 2014

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MyCommunityNOW.com

Judge dismisses WEAC lawsuit

Retiree health benefits
were issue in case

By **JEFF RUMAGE**

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Whitefish Bay — A lawsuit filed by four retired Whitefish Bay teachers against their

former employer has been dismissed.

The lawsuit, which was filed in July 2013 against the Whitefish Bay School District and former human resources director Mark Kapocius, alleged that the district violated the law in 2012, when it capped its contribution

to retiree health insurance premiums at 2012 levels. By capping retiree health insurance premiums, retirees would be forced to cover any increase in health insurance premiums between 2012 and the time they become eligible for Medicare.

The change in retirement

benefits was part of the district's larger plan to modify post employment benefits. The changes — which included pushing back the minimum retirement age to 57 and eliminating post-retirement health insurance and severance for new hires — reduced the district's post employment

benefit liability from \$27.9 million to \$2.4 million and reduced the district's annual contribution to post employment benefits from \$3.8 million to \$900,000.

Those changes came after the

Please see **DISMISSES**, Page 17



No more clownin' around

Israeli Medical Clowns Hagar Hofesh (left) and Shoshi Ofir talk with guest before the start of a presentation on Medical Clowning hosted by Partnership2Gether at the Harry and Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center on Nov. 18. More photos from the event can be seen on Pages 8-9.

Staff Photo by C.T. Kruger

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From Israel

Staff Photos by C.T. Kruger

A group of medical clowns from Israel shared their expertise with local health care professionals and Milwaukee area residents during presentations and workshops this week.



Israeli Medical Clown Hamutal Ende describes the group's work.



Israeli Medical Clown Hagar Hofesh marches into the conference room at the start of a program describing the work of Medical Clowns as part of medical teams dealing with medical and psychological trauma during a presentation by Partnership2Gether at the Harry and Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center on Nov. 18.

with laughs

Medical clowning is an expanding professional field that assists medical treatment for children and adults suffering from PTSD, sexual abuse, autism, dementia and more. The delegation that came to Milwaukee is part of The Dream Doctors Project in Israel, whose members participate in more than 40 medical procedures and are integrated into healthcare teams in 25 Israeli medical centers. The project also helped establish the first bachelor's program in medical clowning at the University of Haifa.



Israeli Medical Clowns Shoshi Ofir (left), Hagar Hofesh and Hamutal Ende share a laugh during Tuesday's discussion.



Israeli Medical Clown Hamutal Ende talks with some children before the start of Tuesday's presentation.



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Beautiful handmade and artisan objects of desire in the shops. Plus historic speakers, Civil War era music, carolers, cultural highlights, food and more through the decades. Kapco Kids 2 Kids Christmas Toy Drive. Free.

Friday, Dec. 12, 5-9 pm **Santa's Workshop**
Visit with Santa Claus, Children's Craft & Cookie Decorating, David HB Drake's Songs of the Season, Kapco Kids 2 Kids Christmas Toy Drive. Free.

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