



**FOREST LAKE AREA SCHOOLS
FOREST LAKE, MN 55025**

August 20, 2015

AGENDA ITEM: 4.3

TOPIC: APPROVE ROOFTOP SOLAR PROJECT

BACKGROUND: The School District has worked with Apex Efficiency Solutions for various health and safety projects in the past. In 2014, the business office asked Apex to assist the district in the analysis of solar energy projects. Community solar gardens have been explored, and while they remain a viable option, direct placement of solar energy panels upon roofs and/or grounds yields the most aggressive savings.

PROCESS: The School Board's Building & Grounds and Finance Committees reviewed these concepts several times during the 2014-2015 school year. The business office contracted with Apex in the Spring of 2015 to perform a directed engineering study.

Apex will act as the coordinator of the project. The district is not required to do any maintenance on the solar panels, and would not be responsible for snow removal either. Students and teachers of the district will have access to solar panel performance data, which will enhance science curricular opportunities for our students.

Energy savings are anticipated to be \$80,000 or more a year, increasing to over \$100,000 a year through the 20th year. The first year savings is anticipated to exceed \$200,000.

RECOMMENDATION: Request approval to implement the rooftop solar project at the five schools and the Forest Lake Sports Center.