

**BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**

DATE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION

**FROM: COLLEEN CARDENUTO, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND ADMIN
SERVICES**

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO ACCEPT GRANT

COMMENTS:

Title of Grant: Northern Snowmobile Club Grant

Type of Grant: Northern Snowmobile Club

Grant Preparer: Lindsay Potter

Amount of Grant: \$2,500

Purpose: We are hoping to create a permanent outdoor storybook walk at Northern Elementary on our nature trail. The pedestals would be placed along the trail and each one would contain a page from a story in order to stop and read. As you keep walking you get to read another page from a storybook until you get to the last page of the story at the end of the trail. The pedestals also open and lock shut so that stories can be interchangeable! The closest permanent storybook walk is in the Twin Cities area so we would be the first location in Northern Minnesota to have one to share with our school families and our community!

District Responsibility: As an ISD 31 employee and grant writer I would oversee the permanent storybook walk project from start to finish. I will place the order for the pedestals using the 502 Minnesota Ave address. Once the order is delivered I can also come transport the order to Northern. My husband and his coworkers at Ziegler Caterpillar have offered to donate their time and the use of a machine to help dig post holes. I will also be helping with installation.