Agenda Item: 4

Board of Education

Regular Meeting – November 23, 2026

AGENDA SECTION: Recognitions

ITEM: Employees of the Month

COMMENTS BY: Robb Virgin, Superintendent

Wayzata Public Schools
November 2026 Employees of the Month
Anna Lawrence
West Middle School

West Middle School is proud to introduce Anna Lawrence as the November Employee of the Month! Anna has been a health and physical education teacher for five years, with the past three years being at West. Anna is a student-centered teacher who brings significant expertise, innovation and enthusiasm to the classroom every day.

During her time in Wayzata, Anna has served as a member of the Building Instructional Leadership Team. She has played a key role in setting the building's goals and leading the work to achieve those goals. Anna has gone above and beyond to support the implementation of student-centered instructional practices both in her classroom and throughout the building, never losing sight of the fact that the students are the most critical piece of the daily experiences she leads.

Anna also inspires her colleagues to grow as practitioners. Anna has facilitated numerous professional learning opportunities at West and has done so in a way that has allowed each staff member to take a next step in their instructional practice, whether through implementing intentional movement or finding ways for students to make meaning of their learning through collaboration. Her impact has influenced others to meet students where they are and to find ways to help them grow as students and citizens. Recently, Anna was chosen to present a session titled, *The Movement Mission,* at the annual Association of Middle Level Education National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Anna models and leads with positivity, a growth mindset, and a true passion for middle level education. In 2025, Anna was able to win a $14,000 grant from the Wayzata Education Fund to purchase cross country skis. Anna works to build community with her students and colleagues each and every day, which is integral in building a culture of learning and community. With our staff at West, she has organized staff wellness opportunities before school that have included yoga, basketball and pickleball.

Katelyn Palasek, a colleague at West Middle School, had this to say about Anna:
Anna embodies true commitment and passion in her role as our health and physical education teacher at West. She goes above and beyond for her students, using creative ideas and innovative techniques to keep everyone

actively engaged. By thoughtfully incorporating dynamic movement into her health lessons, she makes learning both meaningful and fun. Anna ensures that her gym and classroom are welcoming, supportive, and encouraging environments where every student feels valued, confident, and included. Her energy and commitment elevate our entire school community, making her a standout educator and truly deserving of this recognition.

Congratulations to Anna Lawrence on being named the Wayzata Public Schools November Employee of the Month!