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## **Superintendent Jeff Elstad's Board Report**

*April 2024*

### ❖ Important Dates

- May 13: School Board Work Session, 5:30 p.m.
- May 27: School District Closed - Memorial Day
- May 28 (Tuesday): School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

### ❖ District Updates

- We are closing in on the end of the school year. I am looking forward to our graduation ceremony at the new OHS.
- The Facilities Committee will be reviewing a draft of an RFP (Request for Proposal) that will be discussed by the entire board at an upcoming meeting. This RFP will be intended for the sale of the current District Office building. Later this summer, the same process will be used for the Rose Street building.
- The District honored Jeff Fetters from Federated with an honorary plaque yesterday for his contributions to our community and our new high school. Mr. Fetters has announced his retirement from Federated later this year. I am grateful for his leadership and vision to help us build a better future for our school district and community.
- The Legislature is in full swing and both the Senate and House have put forth their respective policy bills. Now we look to the deadline and joint committee work to hammer out the details. I am keeping a close watch on some of the provisions and will report out to the board.

## **Human Resources**

*Chris Picha, Director*

- 75% completed with filling our current open positions
- Staffing planning meetings - discussions continue, scheduling, staffing Owatonna Online
- Interviews for Wilson Elementary Principal Position - 4/24/24

- Interviewing and hiring with a goal of May 15, 2024 to fill all positions that are open as of 3/31/24
- Participant in Teacher Apprenticeship Program Design Phase with MSU-Mankato and Minneapolis
- Training in new HR Specialist
- Employee Relations issues
- Policy Committee Meetings

## **Roosevelt/Community Education**

*Deb McDermott-Johnson, Director*

- Summer SAC Staff has been placed and families are enrolling, with 100 contracts filed to-date;
- Enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year SAC program will be underway just prior to the April School Board meeting;
- SAC children participated in a logo creation process and a winner has been selected. The new logo and creative artist behind it will soon be ready to broadcast;
- Lydia Yahnke and Jackie Skalicky from our ABE Team were featured presenters at the April 19th Adult Career Pathway Virtual Institute. Topics they addressed included the IET (Integrated Education and Training) application process and innovative career exploration models for English Language Learners;
- The Adult Education Center is currently partnering with their third local business requesting workplace English language instruction customized to employee needs. The creation process is nearly complete with implementation scheduled for May and running through mid-summer.

## **Finance & Operations**

Lori Volz, Director

### **Finance/ Business Office**

- The 24-25 and 25-26 Financial Forecast is complete and will be reviewed by the Board Finance Committee on April 24th. This forecast reflects enrollment projections, revenue changes, actual contract settlements with our collective bargaining units and other items.
- Negotiations with the Owatonna Bus Company regarding the 24-25 transportation contract will continue in April.
- Financial planning/updating our Ten Year Long Term Facility Maintenance (LTFM) plan is in process.
- The district owned 35 farmland acres have been rented to our FFA for this coming crop season. The FFA will contract with Lucas Arndt for the custom farming service.

- FY25 Compensatory Aid reallocation plan has been developed and will be brought to the school board for formal approval. FY25 staffing plans for the Compensatory funding have been developed accordingly.

#### **Food & Nutrition Services:**

- A Request For Proposal/Bid process has been completed for our Prime Vendor Food contract for the 24-25 fiscal year and will be brought to the school board for approval.

### **Lincoln Elementary**

*Mary Hawkins, Principal*

#### **Important Dates**

- April 4th and April 5th-Let's Smile Dental Clinic at Lincoln
- April 11th-Lincoln Spring Concert
- April 10th-Student Council meeting at 2:45
- April 15th through April 19th-MCA reading testing
- April 23rd through April 26th-MCA math testing
- April 22nd through April 26th-PTO book fair
- April 26th-PTO Book Bingo from 5:30 to 7:00 in the Lincoln small gym
- April 27th-Regional Science Fair at MSU
- April 29th through April 30th-MCA science testing

#### **Lincoln Updates**

- OMS instrumental music visited the 3rd and 4th grade students at Lincoln on Monday, April 1st.
- The Lincoln 2nd and 3rd graders along with the choir performed a variety of songs pertaining to the concert theme of "Summer Days and Campfire Nights."
- New Lincoln Principal, Justin Lang, will be at Lincoln a couple days in April to work on plans for next school year.
- So far we have 4 retirements from Lincoln including: Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Holzerland, Mrs. Pelton, and Mrs. Brown.

### **McKinley Elementary**

*Justin Kiel, Principal*

April brings a time for finishing up & celebrating the current year, as well as planning ahead for the 24-25 school year!

New Student Open House (May 1) - each of our elementary schools are offering an open house to those students who will be transferring for the 24-25 school year. We are excited to welcome our new McKinley students on May 1!

Kindergarten Interviews (May 7 & 9) - we are excited to welcome our newest McKinley Kindergartners to their spring interview. This is a time for families and students to see Kindergarten!

Field Trips & Track Meet (May 8) - Spring brings a time of many field trips, as well as our 3-5th grade track meet at OHS.

It's been an amazing year - we are excited to enter into spring celebrating this!

### **Washington Elementary**

*Libby Zeman, Principal*

- Our student council planned and completed a food drive to support Community Pathways.
- The spring music concert (choir, second and third grade) was a fun event that showcased students playing a variety of instruments (in addition to singing).
- We continue to analyze data and align interventions to make the most use of our fourth quarter learning.

### **Wilson Elementary**

*Matt Zurbriggen, Principal*

#### ❖ Important Dates

- MCA Testing - Weeks of 4/15, 4/22, and Science (Grade 5), 4/29
- April 30, 2024 - Wilson Track Meet
- May 16, 2024 - Camping Under the Stars Event
  - Students receive a scavenger hunt map and have a chance to participate in the following activities:
    - Campfire Cake Walk
    - Bonfire Bingo
    - Bag Decorating
    - Family Portraits
    - Tent Under the Stars Silent Reading
  - This event is part of our TITLE Night support for families. Pizza and Cookies are served as well.

#### ❖ Highlights

- Our spring music concert was held on April 16, 2024. A shout out to Mrs. Dant and Mrs. Schack for their animation, energy, and commitment to beautiful music. The students were phenomenal and the smiles said it all!
- We continue to celebrate students with positive referrals for the skills that they demonstrate on a daily basis. Students receive an Applebee's Kids Meal card to enjoy along with their positive referral. It's a great way to celebrate success.

❖ Motto

- Wilson's motto for the year is "BETTER NEVER STOPS!"

## **Owatonna High School**

*Kory Kath, Principal*

We are 35 days away from the end of the school year. That means a lot of final pushes for coursework and graduation. Students can definitely sense the end of the year and staff is there to support them as they make final decisions for courses and any other needs they have in the classroom. This also brings testing season. We have over 240 juniors signed up for the ACT and Accuplacer which will support them as they look to goals and plans post high school. Juniors and Sophomores also take the MCA exams and a lot of staff work hard to ensure it is a great testing experience that can inform us of how our system is progressing in the areas of math, reading and science.

Spring activities have started and we strongly encourage people to come watch our events over the last 7 weeks of the school year! There are many amazing music concerts and sporting events that you can attend and cheer on our talented students.

### Upcoming Dates:

- Wednesday, April 17 - COMPASS DAY
- Tuesday, April 23 - ACT (11th & 12th graders that opted in to test)
- Saturday, April 27 - OHS PROM & After Prom