



Medford Public School  
ISD #763

*Providing quality education while preparing our children and community for the future*

## **School Board Agenda Item**

**Meeting Date:** February 2, 2015  
**Topic:** Community Solar Update

**Place on Agenda:** Reports, Superintendent  
**Presenter:** Rich Dahman

### **Background:**

As noted in the February 2015 newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, SWCE is launching a community solar panel project. This spring, they are constructing a 250-panel solar array at their Owatonna headquarters, with subscriptions of up to 20 panels available to SWCE members.

Members who purchase solar panel subscriptions would see a monthly kilowatt-hour (kWh) credit on their energy bill, reflecting their portion of the total energy produced during the previous month. Subscriptions would last for 20 years, through June 2035.

We are working with Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric to determine whether it would be financially beneficial for Medford Schools to purchase one or more solar panel subscriptions. We plan to compare our historical cost through Steele-Waseca with the projected cost through the community solar project. One benefit of being in the program would be that the initial cost would cover all maintenance/repairs and would lock us in to a consistent \$/kWh for the entire 20 years.

Whether or not we decide to purchase community solar subscriptions, we plan to work with Steele-Waseca to utilize the community solar project as a learning tool for the students of Medford Schools.