

**J&H Consulting and JM Walsh and Company**  
**Update to the NWAB School Board**  
**March 2024**

**Legislative Visits:**

NWABSD Superintendent Teri Walker, Megan Williams and two principals, Cherita Willams and



Gary Perkins, met with Reps. Mina, Baker, Tomaszewski, Prax, Story, Himschoot, and Cronk and Sens. Olson, Hoffman and Stedman. These meetings focused on the increased costs of school operations and the impact of reductions in services for students. The team also addressed the many capital infrastructure needs.

NWABSD Superintendent Teri Walker, and board members Margaret Hansen, Tillie Ticket and Marie Green met with Reps. Sumner, Wright, Stapp, Cronk, Schrage, Baker and

McCormick. On the Senate side, the team met with Sens. Tobin, Kiehl, Hoffman, Olson, and Bishop. During these meetings, the team focused on the legislative priorities with specific focus on the needs for an increased BSA, capital infrastructure needs, the impact of inflation and rising costs on the budget and anticipated impacts without any increased funding. The prepared hand-outs were left at each office. The group was well received. The group also had dinner one evening with the youth leaders to support and inspire them.

Youth Leaders met with Reps. Baker, McCormick, Armstrong, Mina, Diebert and Sens. Dunbar Olson, Hoffman and Stedman. They had the opportunity to be introduced on the House Floor as well. As the students became more comfortable with the process their advocacy for their needs improved and they become more out-spoken. It was a great learning opportunity for them. Youth leaders included Alice Gregg, Keegan Pungalik, Zevadiah Dexter, Shaun Patterson. Andie Zink and Jay Panillo chaperoned the students.

Update on SB 140: The three main issues are the amount of a BSA increase, whether charter schools should be decided by the State Board of Education or at the local level, and whether to fund \$58 million in teacher bonuses for 3 years.

Update on the BAGS grant: HB 193 is the companion bill to SB 140. The bill is identical to the original version of Senator Hoffman's Senate Bill 140, which increases internet speed from 25 to 100 megabytes. HB 193 is in House Rules and is being posed to move quickly in case SB 140 fails to move.

Update on legislative process: Subcommittees reviewing department budgets. Bills moving in committees.

Chris, Reggie and John

