

Superintendent Comments October 27, 2025

1. Transportation RFQ
I recommend a motion to approve a call for a Request for Quotations for student transportation services beginning in FY27, (next school year). This is the first step in the process of securing a contract for transportation. There are many factors to consider including, but not limited to, cost, route structure, routing, extra-curricular and special education transportation.
2. First Reading of Policy 707
I recommend a motion to approve the first reading of Policy 707. There are times when students require treatment outside of the district. These are generally referred to as care and treatment programs. The district may establish reasonable restrictions on how far we will travel. GCED has established a recommendation that all GCED member districts follow the same restrictions. The district will follow the limitations set in GCED policy 707, which currently is 60 miles.
3. Second Reading of Policy 524.1
I recommend a motion to approve the second reading of Policy 524.1. Policy 524.1 is a new policy that is a supplement to Policy 524 which is the Internet and Technology Acceptable Use Policy. The new policy incorporates items related to artificial intelligence use.
4. Current Student Enrollment
Numbers have remained relatively stable since the beginning of the school year. We finished last school year with 2251 students. As of Friday, enrollment is 2243. The preliminary budget was created with an estimate of 2172, so we are 71 students above that estimate. This change will be reflected in the budget revision in December
5. Staffing Update
In the consent agenda there are two positions that I would like to highlight for informational purposes. Lindsay Woycheck, TOSA (Teacher on Special Assignment): District Assessment Coordinator/Instructional Coach. This is a new position that is needed due to additional duties that have been placed on the Director of Teaching and Learning Position including the AI grant, the Read Act, growth in staff development, and many others. The second is Laura Olson, Reconciliation & Benefits Coordinator. The business and HR offices have been stretched thin since I arrived. As a result, timely reconciliations have been difficult. Add in substantial new programs implemented by the State, such as the Paid Family and Medical Leave Act make the workload on current staff unsustainable.

6. Impact of the Federal Government Shutdown

To this point, there has not been an interruption of services, but the longer the shutdown goes, the more likely that will change. There will likely be families that will be impacted by food insecurity. Another federal program is Head Start. They currently serve about 30 students at Colville. When the funding cliff hits, I am not certain what happens with that program. The District General Fund balance is going to be very important for cash flow purposes in the near and long term.

7. Hiawatha Valley

The following message was received from the Hiawatha Valley League.

Hi All - I am excited to announce that Red Wing's request for admission to the Hiawatha Valley League has been accepted by a unanimous 9-0 vote. The Winger's will join the HVL starting with the 2026-2027 school year giving our conference 10 member schools. The addition of Red Wing promises to be a great fit with the many Athletic and Fine Arts opportunities our league has to offer! Welcome Wingers!