

Dear School Board members,

Tonight, I am pleased to recognize Lauren Deasy, Juniper Kelly-Sing, Adele Mamedova and Amir Mamedov, members of the Duluth East Debate Team.

Students who participate in debate programs develop confidence, curiosity, critical thinking, communication skills, creativity, camaraderie, leadership skills and control over the fear of speaking in public.

Debate also promotes problem solving and innovative thinking, and helps students to build links between words and ideas that make concepts more meaningful.

These are all life long skills that will help these students be successful in the future.

Lauren, Juniper, Adele and Amir – qualified and competed in the State Debate Tournament last week at the University of Minnesota.

They debated the resolution that the United States Federal Government should increase its diplomatic efforts to peacefully resolve internal armed conflicts in West Asia.

Their coaches were Brian Schilling, Fred Freidman and our own board chair Jill Lofald.

So join me in congratulating these students on their accomplishments.