

School Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic: Student & School Showcase
Presenter(s): School Principals & Staff

Nature of Action Requested by Board

Board action
Board information or scheduled report

Background Information

The purpose of these showcases is to celebrate and highlight the happenings in our schools and district. Each week a member of the Leadership Team will highlight an activity, group or individual from our district.

The showcase for tonight’s meeting is Tower View Robotics Club.

Coaches: Ben Slagle, Josh Nelson

This year’s team: Dominic Galicia, Xavier Kienholz, Julian Kurtz, Chayton Mendez Bolaina, Jaxon Oien, Tesla Short Bull, Connor Steffenhagen, Jaz Uecker, and Leona Wells

For fourteen years, Ben Slagle and Josh Nelson have coached our small but dedicated Tower View Robotics team. We have competed with passion and persistence against much larger schools in the annual regional competition held each year in Minneapolis.

What makes this program special is more than the robots our students build; it’s the teamwork, creativity, and resilience they develop along the way. In a school without traditional sports, Robotics provides an outlet for collaboration, problem-solving, and pride. It gives our students the opportunity to see their hard work come to life.

The Tower View Robotics Team traveled to Mariucci Arena on the campus of the University of Minnesota from April 2–4 to participate in their annual robotics competition. This year’s event was truly global. A total of 47 teams competed, representing Minnesota, Illinois, Alaska, the Czech Republic, Japan, and China. It was incredible to watch our students interact with teams from around the world who traveled to Minnesota to compete.

Tower View’s performance at the Minnesota North Star Regional was challenging but rewarding. We built a swerve-drive drivetrain that made us more competitive, but we also faced technical issues and a learning curve while driving it. The team persevered and approached each challenge with a positive attitude. What we learned this year will undoubtedly pay off in the future. One special highlight of the competition was when one of our team members sang the National Anthem during the Opening Ceremonies on April 3 in front of a packed arena. He did a remarkable job, and we could not have been prouder.