



Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Schools

A Small School with Big
Opportunities for Each and
Every Student!

Superintendent's Report 02/17/2026

Budget

Compensatory aid for the current school year is projected at **\$1,791,480**, which matches the figures used in our current budget model. Preliminary projections for the 2026–27 school year show a potential **\$700,000 reduction** in compensatory aid. This projected decrease is largely tied to changes in how eligibility is calculated. Specifically, the shift away from paper applications for free and reduced lunch toward direct certification has impacted the count. Direct certification includes programs such as: SNAP, MFIP, FDPIR, Foster Care, Medical Assistance. These numbers are preliminary and not finalized. We will continue monitoring the formula and provide updates as more information becomes available.

Solar for Schools grant has entered another funding cycle. This round may allow awards of up to 100% of project costs. I have retained documentation and planning work from the previous two cycles and am again working with iDeal on the application. Prior analysis showed strong potential for placing a solar array over the geothermal pump system to work in conjunction with our current energy infrastructure. I will keep the board informed as the application progresses.

Enrollment: February is historically one of our lowest enrollment months. As of the end of February, enrollment stands at 984 students, compared to a high of 1,000 students at the end of September. The largest changes have occurred at the secondary level, most notably in grades 9 and 12. Historically, our final enrollment number tends to fall between the high and low points of the year. At this time, I anticipate ending the year with enrollment slightly higher than last year.

Surplus Auction: We are planning a surplus auction for items the district is not currently using but that still have value. I am working with custodial staff, administrators, and Career and Technical Education teachers to identify potential items. Lists of proposed items will be brought to the February and March board meetings for approval, as items must be board-approved before being sold. We are targeting June or July for the auction.

I have spoken with Mr. Gjerstad, and the FFA program has expressed interest in assisting with organizing the auction. In return, a portion of the net proceeds may support the FFA program. The goal is the responsible management of space and equipment that is no longer serving district needs.

Negotiations

Union Master Agreements: you will see agreements for the teacher, support, and clerical union



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in your board packet. We adjusted the teacher salary schedule that makes the starting wage \$50,000 in 26-2. The overall impact on teacher salaries is 3.9% in the first year and 4.2% in the second year using current staffing. Insurance and salary packages stay under 10% total for the two years.

Clerical has a very similar package with movement towards more uniform insurance payments and increases on longevity. Support has a very similar package to what was offered to Clerical, the package ends up being slightly higher just because of the large number that gain a year of experience in year two. The salary increase built in for that year of experience adds to the overall package in the second year.

Contract Language Highlights

Teaching Contract

- Clarified definition of part-time status
- Longevity pay tied to years of service at LPGE
- Extra-curricular longevity pay added
- Limit of three teachers absent for personal leave on a single day
- Stipend increase for using fewer than 16 hours of leave; small stipend added for fewer than 24 hours
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) added regarding the Read Act
- Reimbursement for college coursework in hard-to-fill positions

Clerical and Support Contracts

- Credit for up to three prior years of district experience at hire
- Easter Monday added as a holiday (whether school is in session or not)
- Insurance contributions prorated based on days on paid status
- 403(b) language aligned with the teacher contract

All Contracts

- 144 contracted days actually worked (excluding protected leave) required for salary schedule advancement
- 403(b) matching tied to continuous years of service
- Language updates to reflect current legal recommendations and statutes

Please feel free to call me at 357-3605 or email me at dludvigson@lpge.k12.mn.us with questions.

Daniel Ludvigson, the Superintendent of Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Public School