

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 highlight for tonight's meeting is Molly Paulson and Ashlyn Werner with the SES Therapy Dog Program and they will Introduce Gus & Archie.

Quick overview of their training experiences and how they are kept certified

- Alliance of Therapy Dogs based in River Falls, WI
- Dogs go through basic tests to make sure they are obedient (no barking, not scared of people with unusual walks or running kids, walking on a short leash)
- Dogs go to various locations and are observed in how they interact with different populations (daycares, schools, nursing homes)
- Certification is renewed yearly. Dogs carry insurance and also a yearly fee is paid.

Archie:

- Archie was initially a rescue dog, but we quickly realized how much he enjoys being around people and comforting them when they are sad or ill
- Archie has come to Sunnyside every Friday for the past two years
- Archie is a very calm dog and enjoys snuggling, being pet, and reading with kids

Gus:

- Gus joined the Paulson family in 2020 near the beginning of the pandemic
- Gus loves being around people of all ages
- Gus has come to Sunnyside at least once a week for the past 3 years
- Gus is full of energy, he loves playing fetch and hide-and-seek, but he can also be calm and loves getting head scratches