

OCTOBER 2025 - FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE:

Our office has been spending the last few weeks working with our auditors and getting them the documentation and paperwork for the 2024-2025 school year. For the most part, the audit went very smoothly and we are now in the stages of wrapping everything up in preparation for our preliminary audit meeting on November 5th. This is a meeting we have with our lead auditor, her supervisor and an administrator in the Creative Planning firm. This is our opportunity for a firsthand look at the financials, an ability for us to ask questions and get clarifications on what is presented and also to find out if there are any corrective actions we need to take for the coming year. Once we are done with that meeting, the Creative Planning team will finalize and prepare the audit on their end, and send us the PDF version to include with the November board packet.

We are also prepping for the open enrollment period for our health benefits. Our health insurance rates are bid on and offered by the Sourcewell consortium along with our broker, National Insurance Services. The school district had an increase of approximately 8% in our premiums, which although seems high, it is well below the national average of 20%. This open enrollment period is an opportunity for staff to add or change any other offerings such as dental, eyes, etc. We are inviting representatives from our various benefit companies to come to our November 3rd Professional Development day at the high school. This provides our staff with an opportunity to ask any last minute, specific questions they might have for their personal choices.

Along with the benefit information we are providing to our staff on November 3rd, we are also going to be presenting a half day of training on our emergency procedures, and specifically how Long Prairie-Grey Eagle incorporates ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) and Reunification training in case of emergencies such as an intruder, Haz Mat, medical or any other situations that might arise during our school day. We will also be meeting with individual groups of the staff to drill down even further on expectations and procedures based on position classification in our district. There are quite a few moving pieces to emergency procedures and keeping our training current and relevant will assist in making sure Long Prairie-Grey Eagle is as safe and secure as possible.

One more item of interest I wanted to provide for your information is a link that PMA Securities, one of our investment companies, sent to school districts across the state. If you copy and paste this link into a browser, you will find a tax calculator that compares our district to other districts across the state for total school taxes in 2025. I found it very interesting just to take a look at where we stand.

<https://tinyurl.com/yhj7dhzp>

As always, please call or stop in if you have any questions for me or any of the other folks in the District Office. We enjoy your visits.

Sherri Evenson