

Directors' Report
CCS Board of Education Meeting, February 12, 2024

MCA planning, training, proctoring schedules are underway! Thanks to Abi Swenson for your organization and detail-oriented nature!

We have been discussing and thinking about a number of situations regarding our school's finances. A lot of changes and projects are in the works and we will keep the finance committee and board informed as we make progress.

We are working through the draft operational plan developed by TeamWorks as the last stage of our Strategic Planning process, as a cumulative product of the work done by the Strategic Planning team. The updated plan will be presented to the board at the first board strategic planning session (dates discussed at a different point in this meeting agenda).

We are working on a grant application with Prairie Care that would help support our Mental Health offerings for students. More info will be presented as we know more!

Online Program

Current online enrollment is 337 (31: K-8, 48: 6-8, 258: 9-12). We are full and on a waiting list for grades 6-8, at 82% for K-5 and 94% for 9-12! Our special education numbers have increased, necessitating an increase of .3 FTE of our Special Education teaching staff as discussed at a different point in this meeting agenda.

We have identified five testing sites for MCAs this year: Crosslake (all dates per the testing calendar), St. Paul on March 13-14, St. Cloud on March 20-21, Duluth on April 3, and Moorhead on April 4. Students/parents are asked to register for their chosen session by Friday, February 16 - after that point we will start assigning them to sessions.

We are looking at our options for changing our Learning Management System (LMS). Currently our main LMS is Edgenuity, and there have been some needs identified that Edgenuity isn't able to support. This will be a big transition and our plan is to research this year, make a decision in early 2025, get training over spring/summer, and implement a new system in the Fall (if we decide to go the route of making a change).

We had professional development on Monday, February 5 where we learned more about FastBridge testing for next year and Mandated Reporting as specific to an online setting. Both trainings were very helpful and thought-provoking!

Long Lake Astronomy field trip: Clare T has been organizing an overnight field trip for middle school students in February! It's so exciting that we are able to offer these new opportunities for our students!

Osprey Wilds field trip update: We currently have 27 students, plus numerous parent and staff chaperones interested in attending this overnight trip. We have students from elementary, middle school, and high

school. It should be enjoyable and interesting. Logistics and more information will be worked through in the coming weeks.

Seat Based Program

February has been a random acts of kindness month. An announcement is made each morning for kids to practice little kindness reminders: hold the door for someone, ask someone how their day is, write your teacher a note.... This has been a fun thing!

The Cabin Fever night was an amazing success! We had over 142 in attendance, had multiple new kids enroll and had great staff participation. This is one of the community engagement activities that we report to our authorizer, Osprey Wilds, so it is great when we have an awesome turnout! This night gives us a great snapshot of what our enrollment might be next year, so it's looking good!

The LAKE foundation had a board meeting on February 2. I reported the following initiatives to them: the process of a yurt being constructed on our property, summer school, possible Middle School enrollment solutions including a van or suburban to transport students to Pequot Lakes for sports, and advertising. I also requested that they take care of down trees in the school forest, which they will be taking care of the 3rd week of February.

Summer School: Depending upon staffing, we are looking at 3 days a week, Happening in June only as we found the attendance in August really dwindled, so we are capitalizing on the time!

During the month of January, students took part in a community service project. Staff participated in a tater tot hotdish showdown.

Our technology staff has been installing the security cameras that the LAKE Foundation purchased. The outside view of the playground especially will be a nice addition.

The solarium received an overhaul by Melanie Donley and Bud Roberts. The garden beds have a new watering system that flows back into the fish tank providing oxygen, etc to the fish. There are lights and plants in the tank. It's great! Special thanks to Happy Dancing Turtle for their assistance.

Archery Club has been doing well. The numbers are small, but the individual attention is resulting in quite a few kids 'shooting' their personal best and some very impressive numbers!

I have completed the three Responsive Classroom classroom trainings that were part of my Professional Development goal for this school year. These training sessions are amazing and I will continue to implement the Responsive Classroom way as much as possible.

I have been working on non-teaching staff evaluations as well as spending time in the classroom. Truly our staff is amazing!

We are brainstorming Ideas to maintain middle school students and to make our school stand out and be attractive to more people. Some preliminary ideas include more clubs, transportation to Pequot Lakes, changes in the weekly schedule, extra classes and other initiatives.