



Superintendent's Report

August 19, 2019

"Always Our Best"



Vision: Empowering all for lifelong learning

Mission: Creating an educational community where lifelong learning is valued, excellence is expected, and all are prepared for the future.

Staff Adjustments & New Hires -

Summer often brings unanticipated changes to our staff and this year has been no exception. Our kindergarten enrollment has grown to 50 students and we are in the process of hiring a new teacher for a third section. We also had a few teachers shuffle positions after the departure of an elementary teacher (Courtney Fricke). In the end we did not need to hire a 1.0 FTE replacement and will move forward without our planned technology integration assistant. We will cover some middle school electives with extended time from current staff.

1915 Steinway Model "A" Piano -

Lupe Myhro has been working with the school to help coordinate the donation of his daughter's Steinway piano to the school. As you recall, Sandra passed away in 2017.

The piano is located in New York and there will be a cost associated with shipping it to our location. The exact amount is not clear, but it goes without saying that this cost is well worth it when you look at the value of the piano. ([Link to pictures](#)) ([Link to history letter](#))

What a great and kind gesture by the family.

Special Board Meetings -

Through my conversations with you all, it appears that there is interest in looking at altering our Board meeting processes to increase discussion on academic and student centered topics. This might be best accomplished by working to shorten our regular business meetings and then schedule one special Board meeting each trimester. The agenda for these special meetings would not include action items or business. Instead, we would hear about classroom activities and program initiatives from the principals, teachers and students.

District Finance -

Another topic that was discussed with many of you was school finance. The thought being that developing an even greater understanding of our district's finances would be beneficial.

Mrs. Oian does a wonderful job presenting budget information each year, but it is difficult to build a strong understanding of the district's financial health through one budget meeting and one "Truth in Taxation" meeting each year. If our goal is to provide even better oversight of the budget on a yearly basis it is important that we learn to understand terminology, analyze trends, and are able to focus in on the key indicators of the districts financial health.

One suggestion would be to form a finance committee that would work closely with Mrs. Oian and Mr. Thompson. The other suggestion would be to spend time over the course of the year learning together. (New to Minnesota Supt. and Board)

Open Enrollment Transportation -

The district will be adjusting open enrollment transportation to better align our procedures outside of the district with those that we follow within the district. Specifically, we will be utilizing pick-up and drop-off locations inside the city boundaries of Winona to reduce the number of stops and distance traveled inside town.

We already do this within the city boundaries of Rushford.

Time For An Upgrade -

In the next few months we would like to provide new laptops for the Board and return the current ChromeBooks to the school's pool of available devices. The question for you is if you'd like to get Chromebooks again or HP laptops. (Teachers have HP laptops)

Speed Zone Study - Update - Information received from City Clerk, Kathy Zacher, last week.

The Speed Zone Study for Highway 43 has received approval at lower levels of MDOT and we are awaiting final approval from the District Office/Central Office. The engineer we have been working with says he has ordered the crosswalk at Pine Meadows Lane/Hwy 43 to be painted. The State will be providing and installing the new signage for the speed changes and sign language changes. We stressed to them the reason we submitted the study when we did was to prepare for and be ready for the 2020 start of school. As it looks now, the sign installation might not occur until after school starts.

3. The crosswalk painting on Pine Meadows Lane closer to the school is done by public works and that will get touched up as needed before school starts

