

January 9, 2026

Greetings All,

I will be on my way to Nashville on Monday. I may or may not be available remotely. The agenda is relatively short. There will be four policies on for the first reading. I will be able to answer any questions between Monday and the second reading.

As you may know our special education cooperative PAWN includes five school districts: Park Rapids, Pine Point, WHA, Nevis and UNLC. Our SPED Director is retiring at the end of the year. We, the superintendents of these districts are evaluating whether we should join a larger SPED cooperative in the area. The two options we are looking at are BRIC to the north and west of us and Freshwater to the south and west of us. Both of these cooperatives, have eleven member districts and each would offer us some additional services and we are examining whether we would save money due to the economy of scale. We are making our current employees in these areas our top priority in this decision if we make a change. Our goal is that they all be held harmless in their positions and compensation. Whatever we do, this will have to move quickly.

Sourcewell offers the services of a communications company (CESO) as an option for districts. We have engaged these services. The admin team with our communications staff completed a survey, which is the first step in the analysis and recommendations by the consultant. I will keep you posted on the next steps.

Cass county got a grant to map school buildings in the county. We have joined this grant and the mapping began last week.

I am in the process of filling out the paperwork for rezoning the two houses we purchased so we can pave them.

I have the following tentative topics for our work session on February 23rd.

1. Data Updates from Fastbridge and MCAs
2. Tour of the MN Report Card
 - a. Demographics: Students, Staff
 - b. Staff/Student Ratio
 - c. Graduation Rates
 - d. Spending Ratios
3. Calendar Options with construction for the summer of 2027 in Mind
4. State of the district
 - a. Enrollment/Open Enrollment History and Projections
 - b. Current Budget and Budget forecast

As always, reach out if you have questions.

Kevin Wellen, Superintendent