



HOWARD LAKE • WAVERLY • WINSTED

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HLWW School Board Members:

The superintendent report for the February 9th, 2026 school board meeting includes the following highlights tied to our four strategic plan focus areas:

Student Achievement and Well Being

- The ELA curriculum committee had a series of very productive meetings throughout the month of January as we continue to evaluate curricular resources that we feel are best suited to allow us to implement the Science of Reading practices that staff learned about through their READ Act training. We are now in the process of more deeply evaluating two resources, Arts & Letters and CKLA-Amplify, throughout the month of February, to help determine the best fit for our team and ultimately all teachers K-8. We have scheduled an additional Teaching and Learning Advisory meeting in mid-March to share updates, with the potential of having a recommendation for adoption ready to bring to the school board at the end of March.

Effective Resource Management

- Developing our budget for the 2026-2027 school year will really pick up steam in the coming weeks as high school registration comes to a close and we will begin to assess enrollment trends related to specific course requests. Preliminary elementary classroom teaching assignments have been determined and the resulting staff had an opportunity to come together as Humphrey and Winsted Elementary on Friday afternoon following conferences to begin working in their 'new' teams. This work will certainly continue to evolve throughout the months leading up to the launching of the new grade configuration at the elementary level.

We will plan to continue our board level budget conversations at the February 23rd work session as we all work toward a better understanding of our current budget situation and we plan for not only the 2026-2027 school year, but for multiple years to come.

Family Partnership and Community Engagement

- Our HS Juniors had an opportunity to participate in an outstanding learning opportunity this past week as they engaged in the "SouthPoint Budget City Event". A number of community members joined staff members from across

- the district as the students did an exercise of managing a monthly budget and had to make wise financial decisions (and on occasion, some unwise decisions), in order to better understand the real challenges of making ends meet. I personally enjoyed my task of “upselling” students as they contemplated their vehicle purchases. I was able to do my job well enough to result in three students having to come back and ‘return’ their vehicle in order to reconcile their monthly budget in order to ‘live’ within their means. I thoroughly enjoyed this experience and it was great to see members of our community engaging with our students in this valuable learning experience.
- Elementary Conferences were held this week and as always, this provides a wonderful opportunity for our staff to connect with families and share progress to date and establish important goals for the remainder of the school year. Having these very intentional opportunities to partner with parents in their child’s education is essential to creating a successful learning experience for all of our students and we highly value this partnership.

Staff Development and Support

- I had a wonderful opportunity to join with our HS social studies teachers on Friday morning during our late start Professional Development time as we engaged in a review of the recently adopted social studies standards. We had rich discussions focused on the concept of ‘bundling’ standards to ensure that the standards were not simply ‘covered’ in one course, instead, they were woven throughout our curriculum in order to ensure high levels of application and understanding for our students. This process occurred among other teams of staff as well.

Each time new standards come out for a content area the rigor increases and the expectation is that students are given a variety of opportunities to showcase their learning at higher levels than the previous standards. In order for this to happen it is vitally important that our teachers have opportunities such as the one afforded on Friday morning to dive deeply into the standards and brainstorm and share ways in which we can better meet the needs of our students.