



## HOWARD LAKE • WAVERLY • WINSTED

**NATE WALBRUCH, SUPERINTENDENT**

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Board Members,

Please see the report below for the School Board Meeting on 11/13/23:

**Referendum Passage:** The operating levy passed! You can see a copy of the press release shared broadly by clicking [HERE](#). A huge thank you to Board Members for their constant commitment to the message and willingness to present and answer questions. I have received an avalanche of well wishes and congratulations from community members.

I have started to send out hand-written notes to supporters and will look to connect with the various groups we visited to listen to feedback from the referendum and begin planting seeds for future collaboration.

As I have mentioned to a few staff members, now begins the REAL work! Our communities have provided the financial support to keep us solvent, it is on us to organize ourselves and produce results. To that end, our next project on the horizon will be the strategic plan. I will be connecting with MSBA at the beginning of December to start laying out a plan. It does feel we are united in the importance of setting strategic priorities for our district and I look forward to involving our staff, students and community members in determining the direction we should head.

**Budget Work:** We have been working through different plans for the district's budget based on the results of the referendum. We are ridiculously grateful for the community's commitment to our school; however, the operating levy is not a windfall for the district in any sense of the word.

We will need to work carefully to determine priorities for the future and commit resources accordingly. Our biggest budget item is the teacher's master contract. I am grateful for the team's work so far in setting a collaborative atmosphere for negotiations. I am eager to find a path to provide adequately for the teachers that maintains the stability our referendum passage has afforded us.

**Superintendent Development:** I continue to be pleasantly surprised by the amount of support afforded new superintendent's like myself. The Great Start Cohort's recent emphasis on school financial issues has been particularly helpful. Additionally, the almost weekly meetings between different groups of

superintendents provide a lot of chances to ask questions and list folks that have been ridiculously successful. Also, Mr. Sellner continues to share his expertise in providing history, success/mistakes and lessons learned. Finally, Ms. Greely is amazing in her tireless work for the district. I appreciate her patience with me specifically and her expertise. There is not a set of words that adequately explains Marilyn's contributions to the district!

**We are lucky to have her!**

**Entry Plan:** Part of my development includes commitment to the [Entry Plan](#) I originally shared with you. Admittedly, the work of the referendum has pushed some of those efforts to the side; however, I am anxious to re-engage with this plan starting this week.

I would add the referendum work provided an appropriate backdrop for many of the components of the Entry Plan. I feel I have been better acquainted with community leaders, my relationship with each of you has continued to grow, I have learned more about our different communities and we collectively have built trust with our staff through our work.