



HOWARD LAKE • WAVERLY • WINSTED

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Board Members,

Please see the report below for the School Board Meeting on 9/11/23:

Pre-school Workshop Week - The week before we welcome students is a busy one; between getting rooms ready, lesson planning, staff development, meetings and more! Our staff was professional during the week. I enjoyed participating in the camaraderie and work. The majority of the new staff development involved learning about the science of reading and trauma informed education.

Science of reading training is directly tied to the recent action by the legislature. The Read Act seeks to centralize and standardize reading instruction across the state. MDE is working with the University of Minnesota to identify best reading practices and deploy these across the state. This will be a multi-year process.

Trauma informed educators understand the impact traumatic events have on students and families. As a result, learning different approaches to support these stakeholders allows us to better serve.

First Day - First Day was a success due to the planning and preparation of our staff! As I spoke to staff members throughout the day many remarked as to how smooth the day went. Students appeared to know where to go and what to do. A huge thank you to our maintenance staff for their work during the summer. Also, compliments to 4.0! Nicole and her team did a great job communicating with parents and students.

Referendum Progress - Work continues on our messaging and coordinating. Thank you board members for your feedback and willingness to get involved. We are putting the finishing touches on the referendum website, public presentations and Fact Sheet.

During September, we are going to be doing public presentations! We need to work together to set dates and make sure we have a couple of us ready to go. I will plan on being in attendance at most of the presentations and will default to giving the presentation unless we decide otherwise.

FCC License - As mentioned previously, we have been approached by TMobile again to purchase our FCC License for WND309. I am still working to get up to full speed on this asset. We currently receive about \$50,000 each year for

leasing it to TMobile. Allegedly, this license is valuable. We have been approached for purchase in the past and the offer was too low. An initial meeting is set for Tuesday, September 12th.

Strategic Planning - Later in the Fall, we will start the process of strategic planning. The first step is to participate in MSBA's School Board Self Evaluation. This will allow us to better understand where we and the district are at. Then, we will begin collecting feedback and information from our stakeholders as part of the first steps towards setting a strategic direction.

Entry Plan - Now that I have completed the "Arrival" phase, I will begin to assemble information we could use as part of our strategic plan. During my discussions with staff I feel there were three consistent themes. First, the financial status of the district is of consistent concern. Second, staff are eager for great collaboration, coordination and relationships with leadership. Finally, staff love our district! They are proud of their work, feel we are the "right size" and are hungry to achieve more.