



## HOWARD LAKE • WAVERLY • WINSTED

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Board Members,

Please see the report below for the School Board Meeting on 1/17/24:

**School Closing Processes:** We have been working on updating our processes for determining when/if to make adjustments to school based on weather conditions. I am grateful for a great network across the region that provides consensus and guidance. We will be working to push our families to the school district website to provide specific details on closings. Naturally, we will be using our various messaging services to send alerts across the district. Additionally, we have an administrative “phone tree” to provide pertinent information to our leadership and departments in a timely manner.

**School Events:** The past month has been loaded with school-sponsored events! It has been great to attend these, and to see our staff and students show off their hard work. Our staff deserve kudos for all the preparation and leadership of their students. The students make us proud! They are skilled, talented and eager to show off!

**Strategic Plan:** We are ready to embark on our process! We will be working hard to gather stakeholder input/feedback. This will be through surveys and listening sessions. Gail Gilman from MSBA will help facilitate our listening sessions and will compile the data from our stakeholders. Our Strategic Planning Committee will be charged with creating the plan. Finally, we will begin initial implementation of the plan before school lets out in June.

**Highly Qualified (HQ) Paraprofessionals:** We are finalizing a plan to help our Special Education paraprofessionals achieve HQ status. This is required by the Federal government; however, it has not been an actively enforced rule, until recently. Paraprofessionals not able to be HQ using their credentials, will be able to receive training and opportunities to pass a competency exam. We are currently accepting input into our proposed plan and will seek to finalize in the next month.

**Crisis Plans:** We are working to upgrade our crisis response in the event we need to evacuate a facility. Specifically, we are designing ways to safely reunite students with their families. Also, we are continuing to gather information from our departments regarding their online programs in anticipation of creating a crisis response to a cyber event.