



HOWARD LAKE • WAVERLY • WINSTED

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4/8/24

Board Members,

Please see the report below for the School Board Meeting on April 8th, 2024:

Budget Work: During the past month, next year's budget has taken the majority of our time and focus. I have been meeting with principals, directors and others to get input into expenses for next year and beyond. Additionally, Megan and I have been collaborating to build next year's budget.

It is my opinion that our budget is structurally unstable. Meaning, the rising expenses of our programs continue to outpace increases in revenue. We will need to look at pandemic-era services critically and identify additional revenue streams to maintain programming in the face of rising costs of labor, unfunded mandates, utilities, supplies and equipment. We will need to be innovative and commit to stabilizing our budget to continue providing great educational programming for our students.

Strategic Planning: Our planning process continues! We have completed two of three planning session meetings with a third planned for Wednesday, April 10th. I have enjoyed listening to the conversations and interactions between our different participants. Ms. Gilman continues to express her positive feedback regarding our response rates, participation and data.

We will be finalizing our plan during the work session on April 22nd. We look forward to implementing the plan throughout the rest of the year.

Emergency Planning: I have been working to collect additional procedures and protocols for an updated emergency plan for next school year. I will be working to train administrators, secretaries and directors before the next year begins. The plan will include responses to a cybersecurity emergency as well.

Winsted School of Excellence: Another congratulations to Ms. Olson and the staff at Winsted Elementary. Their hard work paid off big time with a great award! It was great to see a number of previous staff members and get a video message from Adam Theilen!

Negotiations: We will begin negotiations with our remaining work-groups once our plan for next year's budget is settled. Three groups have reached out to

provide their letters to be open to negotiations so far. During informal discussions with each of the groups, I anticipate a collaborative discussion and collective work towards a wise outcome for both sides.