



HOWARD LAKE • WAVERLY • WINSTED

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HLWW School Board Members:

The superintendent report for the November 15th, 2025 school board meeting includes the following highlights tied to our four strategic plan focus areas:

Student Achievement and Well Being

- There continue to be a number of staff conversations across the district that have been focused around our continued work at utilizing our recent learning through the CORE OL&LA training to support the literacy skills of our students. As we move into January we are preparing to bring in curricular resources that align with the Science of Reading for review by our Reading/ELA committee, to help us determine the best course of action regarding curriculum adoption. This is extremely important work to ensure that we equip our staff with the necessary tools to help move our student achievement forward in this specific area. We will certainly continue to provide the school board with updates as this work progresses.

Effective Resource Management

- We will be fully hitting the ground running in January in the shaping of our budget for the 2026-2027 school year. Our leadership team has been and will continue to be deeply engaged in analysis of all aspects of our budgets to make sure that we are maximizing our resources to the fullest extent. We will plan for a significant conversation with the full board at our January work session related to the shaping of our upcoming budget. Included in these conversations will be giving careful consideration to the concept of also including key investments that would be important to continue helping our school district address all of the elements of the strategic plan.

Family Partnership and Community Engagement

- It has certainly been a very busy month of December with multiple opportunities to engage with our families and community, particularly through our co-curricular programming with numerous concerts and games. Each of these events continues to remind me of what an important role our schools play as a “hub” for our broader community and what a wonderful opportunity these events provide to showcase our students and their numerous talents. Once again, a lot of planning and preparation by so many

- staff goes into making these events happen for our families and communities, so I want to once again offer a huge thank you to those people responsible.
- I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the recent work of our Community Relations committee and the depth of thought and consideration that has gone into these conversations that have been had at these meetings. We are certainly discussing a number of those topics at this evening's board meeting and definitely feel strongly that it is increasingly important for us to continue engaging in these conversations in the spirit of becoming the best "Laker family" we can be!

Staff Development and Support

- As a part of our monthly Principal/Director meeting, we recently engaged in some professional development facilitated by our partner, Studer Education, focused on the practice of "rounding". As our leaders reflected on what they have been able to learn from those they serve through the practice of rounding over the past few months, it was a great opportunity to think about why we are engaging in this practice. Specifically, one of the key points shared by our presenter was, "Rounding isn't powerful because we ask questions—it's powerful because we close loops." As I shared with our leadership team at our fall kickoff back in August, one of the key visions I have for us as a group is to be visible, accessible, and accountable to the people we lead and serve. I have shared before, learning, growing, developing is something that we all must be engaged in as a learning organization and rounding is one simple tool that if utilized effectively, can significantly increase our capacity for learning and improving.
- I would like to take this opportunity to once again encourage each of you as board members to continue giving consideration to the possibility of attending the annual MSBA Leadership conference entitled "Coming together for Student Success", January 15-16 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. As I have shared in the past, I firmly believe that the strongest school districts have deep levels of alignment from the board room to the classroom and to that end, I would welcome the opportunity to engage with any of you in learning together at this conference so that we can continue that alignment in HLWW schools moving forward. Registration closes on January 5th.