



HOWARD LAKE • WAVERLY • WINSTED

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HLWW School Board Members:

The superintendent report for the September 8th, 2025 school board meeting includes the following highlights tied to our four strategic plan focus areas:

Student Achievement and Well Being

- We had a very successful first week of school with smooth transitions back at all levels. The 'ninth grade only' day was a huge success for our students and staff at the high school. Significant work was done at all levels to reestablish routines and begin to set the stage for a great school year for our students.
- Due to a leave of absence that came about shortly before the start of the school year, we had to secure a long term substitute and make some subsequent adjustments to our initial teaching assignments within the elective areas, most notably within the Ag program. We have a teacher in place for each of our courses and are providing some additional support by bringing in a community member on a part-time basis (9 hours per week) to provide content expertise, particularly in the area of welding. We are also in the process of addressing the co-curricular advising portion associated with this leave of absence as well. We are committed to providing a similar programming experience for our students during this time of transition and we will adjust our plans as we are able throughout the school year. We also have engaged with some parents of students within the program as well as the FFA alumni association to strategize other systems of support for the program at this time.

Effective Resource Management

- The new traffic flow patterns within the HS/MS parking have gotten a few days of 'testing' and things appear to be getting smoother and smoother each day, as people are adjusting to the new exit. We will continue to monitor this closely throughout the first month of the school year to assess how well the changes have brought about the desired results within this area of our campus and will be prepared to make adjustments as needed.
- Student enrollment continues to be something that we are closely monitoring as was shared earlier in tonight's meeting. October 1st is the next important date regarding data associated with enrollment and following that date, we

will be bringing additional levels of detail to this data to the school board in the month of October.

Family Partnership and Community Engagement

- The opportunities for engagement for our families has obviously really picked up in these past couple of weeks with back to school events at all levels, as well as numerous sporting events to kick off the fall season. I have met many members of our parent community and continue to look forward to many more opportunities in the coming weeks/months.
- The recent tragic event related to school safety at Annunciation School in Minneapolis certainly reminded all of us of the importance of strong safety protocols to be in place for the well being of our students and staff. It also provided me with opportunities to engage in additional conversations with our local police chiefs in both Winsted and Howard Lake, around our safety protocols and practices. The recent work that was done across our Wright County and within our HLWW school district regarding our Standard Response Protocols is key to our preparedness. We are deeply committed to continue enhancing our communication practices and protocols with our families around this topic that is so vitally important.

Staff Development and Support

- 'Workshop week' was a great opportunity for our staff to engage in their own professional development as they prepared for the 2025-26 school year. As I shared in the August 29th edition of the "Friday's 5", I was immensely impressed by our staff's deep level engagement in the learning. I was particularly impressed with their engagement in the learning around AI and how this reality is upon us and it is important that we continue to develop our understanding of how it is and will continue to impact the lives of our students moving forward. Critical thinking skills will continue to be one of the key 'life ready' skills that AI provides us with outstanding opportunities to engage with our students as they continue through our educational system.