



HOWARD LAKE • WAVERLY • WINSTED

NATE WALBRUCH, SUPERINTENDENT

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6/9/25

HLWW School Board,

Since January, a team of elementary school staff members have been meeting at least monthly to review information, discuss options and ultimately present a recommendation to you regarding the placement and assigning of grade levels at our elementary school buildings. The Transition Team has worked collaboratively, productively and examined data about our district and the communities we serve.

The Transition Team recommends assigning grades K-2 to Humphrey Elementary School and grades 3-4 to Winsted Elementary School. Preschool and Laker Care locations will be determined by Community Education leadership and will be based on enrollment trends for those programs. Also, The Team recommends the School Board continue to examine enrollment trends and be open to adjusting our programming in a way that continues to stabilize our district.

During the Transition Team's work, we found the following data generalizations most convincing and most supportive of the assignment recommendation::

- Developmental Differences- academic research, professional perspectives and instructional resources point towards 2nd grade having more in common with younger grades
- Student Supports- the structure, use and availability of our portfolio of supports for students supported the recommendation
- Room Utilization- access, type, and distribution of rooms between the buildings tilted our team to assigning more grades to Humphrey
- Similar Approach- as we explored districts that have recently made this change, there is a consistent split between 2nd and 3rd grades

The Transition Team felt motivated to highlight benefits our team spoke about at length relating to the recommendation:

- More efficient use of district budgets
- Creation of a more consistent “Laker Experience” for all students
- Facilitate the transition to Middle School
- Enhancement of student relationships across the district
- More equity in responding to increasing and decreasing enrollment
- More practical opportunities for collaboration between educators at the elementary level

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Transition Team,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nate Walbruch', written in a cursive style.

Nate Walbruch
Superintendent
Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted Schools