

News from Superintendent Malmberg and the Board of Education



District Strategic Plan Update

The complete strategic plan and the measurement piece of the accomplishments of the strategies and goals that have been achieved are available on our district website for you to view. The latest strategy achieved was the addition of a stipend to add a gifted and talented coordinator for the district to help train and share information to the rest of our staff. Erin Anderson has accepted this position and has already hit the ground running. We also have added more opportunities for students with the addition of Speech at the high school and a middle school musical next year. The measurement document is a constant changing and evolving tool that is updated as needed and as strategies change.

Slight Change in Student School Day for 2016-2017

There will be a small change in the school start and dismissal times for the upcoming school year. **The school day will start at 8:25am and will dismiss at 3:08pm.** The additional 13 minutes added back in will help with instructional time and with elementary bus dismissal. We ask that students not be dropped off prior to 8:10am. If you need daycare, Fun Stop is available to help all families in need of childcare.

Bussing Information

We are asking that every parent or guardian complete a transportation form at the beginning of each year whether you need transportation or not. Please return the form to Fornshell Bus Service by July 1st.

Curriculum Changes and Updates

The district has made a few changes in the area of curriculum for the upcoming school year. These changes are a constant evolution whether it is due to financial implications, staff availability, state mandates or school priorities. It is important that as a district we continue to invest in all areas to ensure that our students are receiving the skills that they need to become a 21st century learner. Teacher development and training, technology purchases and instruction, updated and revised curriculum and schedules are just a few of the examples in this area. Here are some changes for next fall:

- The district purchased new Math curriculum for grades K-12.
- At the high school, Chemistry, Trades Math, and Concepts of Industrial Electricity classes were added. The CIS program was moved to CLC from Lake Superior. With that move, come new class offerings in Music Theory and Intro to Literature Science Fiction/Fantasy.
- The specialist schedule in the elementary was revised by adding Technology for 2nd and 3rd grade and Art for the 4th grade. In order to do this, these students in these three grades have Physical Education two out of three days instead of every day. It is our goal to continue to help provide teacher training to help provide opportunities for movement to be built into the regular classroom. Kindergarten and 1st grade students will still have Physical Education five days a week.
- In the Middle School, they have added a program called Metier (more info next fall) and also they switched I.C.U. from lunch to homeroom.

- For the 2016 -17 school year, Technology Mobile will be working with Pillager School district to get students excited about different careers throughout Region 5. Technology Mobile, started through NJPA's Innovative Funding Project, is collaborating with CLC and M-State to bring amazing technologies to area schools in our area. In Kindergarten through 7th grade, students will be exposed to Electrical Technology, Transportation Technology and Robotic Technology. These units will introduce circuits and robotics through fun, hands-on, creative lessons. High School students (grades 8-12) may have the opportunity to learn using 3D printers, welding simulator, robotics, aquaponics, calipers, wood/plastic mill, X-ray technology and more. These resources will be in a variety of classrooms including art, science, and math.

Budget Update

The school board asked the administration to reduce our budget by making reductions this coming year of **\$200,000**. The district has a policy to maintain a 5-7% unreserved fund balance. With the reductions listed below and the increase of the levy this past year, we are confident that we will be within that fund balance for this upcoming fiscal year when we receive the final audit this fall. We have made that fund balance by reducing or cutting the following areas for the 2016-2017 fiscal year: reduced a 1.0 elementary teacher, reduced transportation costs, cut the Director of Education Services position, cut 3.5 hours high school secretary, reduced a .6 teacher at the MS/HS (shifted some Art, Physical Education, Technology to Elementary), reduced the supply budgets of each school, and reduced extra-curricular state tournament/clinic costs.

“Bright Future” Task Force Update

This past winter, the district sent out a survey seeking input from our district residents on the level of support for additional classrooms and a fine arts auditorium. We received 386 responses back from that survey. We then asked a small task force of twelve community members to analyze the data that we received and provide the school board with feedback on the surveys. They shared their concerns and any questions that they may have had on the surveys results. The committee unanimously shared that they felt enough support was there to continue moving forward with both ideas. That summary from the task force can be found on our website. The school board then had a work session on the topic and to discuss the committee feedback. The administration shared with them at that time our projected enrollment numbers of our current birth to 4 year olds and what the classroom needs would be in the future with that current enrollment. At that time the board has asked an architect to share some pre-referendum drawings to help provide them with more information to help make an informed decision. More information will come later on this topic.

Pillager Elementary Named ENVoY Demonstration Site

The Pillager Elementary School has been named as a demonstration site beginning with next school year. This past year, the elementary school received a \$50,000 grant from NJPA to become a demonstration site for the region. ENVoY is a non-verbal classroom management system where teachers systematically utilize the full range of non-verbal management skills to reinforce consistent and fair parameters while preserving their relationships with each student, regardless of unique learning styles or cultural backgrounds. In order to become an ENVoY demonstration site, a school had to have 80% of the teachers become ENVoY certified. On average, teachers who use ENVoY strategies gain one and a half hours of instructional time per week.

Have a Great Summer! Husky Pride!

Michael Malmberg
Superintendent