



Independent School District No. 829

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Dear Waseca Area Staff and Community:

Last year, the School Board approved a new Strategic Plan. This plan has five strategies that will assure continual improvement for the Waseca Public Schools over the next five years. These strategies are:

- 1) Assuring a guaranteed and viable curriculum and programs fostered by staff training.
- 2) Assuring facilities and transportation that are safe and meet program needs.
- 3) Assuring quality technology systems for students and staff of today and of the future.
- 4) Assuring effective communications to our families and community.
- 5) Securing adequate funding to accomplish our vision.

Each of the top four strategies necessitated the formation of Strategic Action Teams. The Team for Strategy 2 recently delivered their report to the Board. Their work revealed that our facilities are older and have significant needs. Included in this folder are items intended to inform the community about these needs and the costs associated to address them.

In many ways, our story is not unlike the story of many homeowners. In the case of homeowners, they recognize the fact that homes are in constant need of repair. They need to keep their home functional and up-to-date both for the purpose of meeting the current living needs of their families and for future resale value. In the case of our schools, the community is the "homeowner".

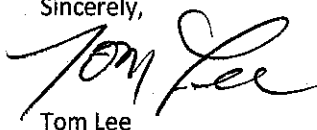
The information contained in this folder is intended to inform the community (the homeowners of the schools) of the physical and programmatic needs of our schools. Equipped with this information, it is our hope to gather input from the community regarding these needs and to gauge the community's interest in addressing these needs.

Our vision statement states, "In collaboration with our community . . ." We know that we cannot move forward with any facility plan without community support.

Please review the information in this folder. We will be making presentations to community service organizations in the next few weeks. We will hold community meetings after MEA break. We have a spot within this folder to gather any input and/or feedback you may have. There are currently several options presented that will allow us to address the needs provided in the reports. It is our hope that by getting the information out to you and receiving input/feedback, we will be able to assess the community's level of commitment to addressing these needs and narrow the options. Once narrowed, we plan to conduct a community survey to gain increased clarity on the community's level of support. If we find there is significant support for specific steps, we intend to put a capital bond measure on the ballot sometime in the future. This measure would be entirely based on the community input.

If you have specific questions or concerns about this information, either contact me directly or attend one of the planned community meetings. We want to do everything possible to inform the citizens of Waseca. If you would like a presentation to your group or organization, please contact me. I welcome every chance to talk about our schools. Thank you for your valued partnership in assuring the finest schools possible for our kids.

Sincerely,



Tom Lee