INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #624

SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION PACKET

February 24, 2025

Independent School District No. 624

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the White Bear Lake Area School District, the community at the forefront of educational excellence, honoring our legacy and courageously building the future, is to ensure each student realizes their unique talents and abilities, and makes meaningful contributions with local and global impact through a vital system distinguished by:

- *Students who design and create their own future*
- *A culture that respects diverse people and ideas*
- *Safe, nurturing and inspiring experiences*
- *Exceptional staff and families committed to student success*
- *Abundant and engaged community partners*

Approved by White Bear Lake Area School Board on December 9, 2019

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 624
WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110

To: Members of the School Board

From: Dr. Wayne A. Kazmierczak
Superintendent of Schools

Date: February 19, 2025

A work session of the White Bear Lake Area School Board will be held on **Monday, February 24, 2025**, at 5:30 p.m. in Room 112 at the District Center, 4855 Bloom Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN. This meeting is open to the public.

WORK SESSION AGENDA

A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Update on MDE After School Community Learning Grant Programs
2. Mariner Middle School Update
3. Willow Lane Elementary Update
4. Student Transportation Primary Vendor Proposal

C. ADJOURNMENT

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM:	**Update on MDE After School Community Learning Grant Programs**
MEETING DATE:	**February 24, 2025**
SUGGESTED DISPOSITION:	**Discussion Item**
CONTACT PERSON(S):	**Tim Maurer, Director of Community Services and Recreation**

BACKGROUND:

Tim Maurer, Director of Community Services and Recreation and Nicole Oswald, Assistant Director of Out of School Time Programs, will provide an update on MDE After School Community Learning Grant Programs.

2024-25 Afterschool Community Learning Grant Update

What is the ACLG Grant?

PURPOSE: New funding stream through MDE

To connect schools and communities so that they can offer culturally affirming and enriching after-school and summer learning programs that meet the needs of young people and their families.

Grant Objectives:

1. Increase access to comprehensive and culturally affirming afterschool and summer learning and enrichment opportunities that meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of historically underserved young people.
2. Promote engagement in learning and connections to school and community.
3. Encourage school attendance and improve academic performance.

https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/oos/after/grant/

GO BEARS

THIS IS AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY FOR US!

- WBL was 1 out of 24 grantees across the state
- WBL was 1 out of 4 school districts including
  - SPPS, McGregor, ISD 622
- Provides $1.4 million dollars over three years



School Location	% of building student population qualifying for Educational Benefits	School Location	% of building student population qualifying for Educational Benefits
District-Wide	31.13%	Oneka	22.11%
Birch Lake	49.22%	North Star	28.27%
Lakeaires	41.22%	Otter Lake	19.21%
Vadnais Heights	42.14%	Lincoln	18.52%
Willow Lane	71.81%	Matoska	26.86%
Additionally lower enrollment in tuition based afterschool programs at Birch, Lakeaires, Vadnais, & Willow			

GO BEARS

Afterschool Community Learning Grant

SUMMER 2024 - Awarded Late May 2024

Camp Summer & Freedom School

Afterschool Programming: Community Learning Grant & Targeted Services

	CAMP SUMMER		FREEDOM SCHOOL	
	# of Courses	Students Served	Increased # of seats	Total Students Served
Afterschool Community Learning Grant Total of 100 summer hours	24	63 Session 1 75 Session 2	20	120
	• Added enrichment hour to afternoon • Goal for 2025: Serve 100 student each session at Vadnais location • Invites and registration were shared at parent teacher conferences		• Goal of first summer in 2024 was to increase number of students served. • Summer 2025: Maintain number of seats served and increase afternoon enrichment options.	

Evidence-Based Practices Applied

Summer 2024

Access to Basic Needs	Breakfast & Lunch, Transportation Welcoming Staff, Air Conditioning & Break Spaces
Class Sizes (12-15 students)	10-12 students / licensed teacher 20 students / licensed teacher & servant leader intern partnership
Setting High Goals & Expectations	Learning Plans created with Assessment Data
Project & Inquiry-Based Learning	Multiple options: Create your own Business, Animal Adaptations, Daily Wonderings, etc. National Day of Social Action
Benefits of Attendance	Communicated via phone, flyer & email to families
Enrichment Opportunities	Daily in afternoons for 1.5-2 hours!

Freedom School Schedule & Afternoon Enrichment

8:30	Breakfast with Scholars & Staff
9:00	Harambee! - Read Aloud Guest
9:30	IRC Reading Curriculum Classroom Time
11:00	Morning Break/Snack
11:15	IRC Reading Curriculum Part 2
12:15	D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything & Read)
12:30	Lunch / Recess Time
1:30	Afternoon Activities, Enrichment, & Academic Support Opportunities
3:30	Dismissal

Art/Crafts

Explore curriculum deeper through arts, crafts, and project based learning.

Physical Activity / Games

Scheduled games and physical activities

Music/Arts

Explore history through song, dance, and create end of program show

Create & Choose Your Own Topic

Student designed activities/clubs in partnership with staff.

Design your future. Create your success.





Freedom School







Camp Summer Schedule & Afternoon Enrichment

MONDAYS

The Great Outdoors

TUESDAYS

Science, Tech, Engineering & Math

WEDNESDAYS

Career Explorers

THURSDAYS

Health & Fun

7:45	Arrival & Breakfast
8:00	Morning Meeting & Team building
8:30	Present Topic for Day (Ex: Baking a Cake, Astronauts, Veggie Gardens, etc.)
9:30	Explore & practice skills
10:30	Phy-ed
11:00	Project based learning & skills
11:30	Lunch
12:00	Enrichment Activity
2:15	Dismissal







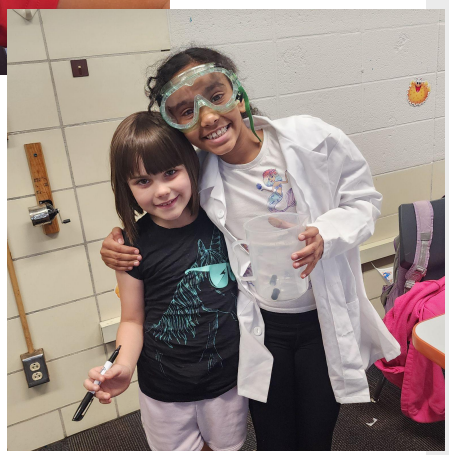




Outdoor Recreation

- **Baztec**
  - Fishing at the Pier
- **Twin Pandas**
  - Kayaking at Bellaire Beach
- **Fishing Library**
  - Casting practice & games
- **Teacher Led**
  - Fish life cycle & habitat sensory box
  - Wildlife Protection Agency





Science, Tech Engineering & Math

- **Mindworks Curriculum**
  - Grossology: Health-related science activities
  - All Stars: Teambuilding & Games
- **Teacher Led**









Career Exploration

- **Career Exploration BINGO**
  - Riddles with themed prizes
- **Local Author Visit**
  - Roxy Humphrey - Retired Teacher
- **Greeting Card Illustrator**
  - Laurel Avery - Retired Teacher
- **Graphic Designer**
  - Echo Nelson - Local Student
- **Small Business Entrepreneur**
  - Amy Nelson - Local Small Businesses
- **Community Muralist**
  - Cadex Herrera - Local activist and muralist





Health & Fun

- **Exploring Extended Day Spaces**
  - Dramatic Play
  - Free Art & Games
  - Creative Building
  - Scooter Games
  - Waterslide & Bounce House
- **Gym games**
  - Playworks curriculum
- **Produce Tasting & Health Lesson**
  - Nutrition Services
- **K-9 Safety Demonstration**
  - Local volunteer

White Bear Lake Area Schools ISD 624 Community Services & Recreation

Afterschool Community Learning Grant

SCHOOL YEAR 2024-25

Afternoon Schedule

TIME	ACTIVITY	STAFF LEADING
2:15-3:30	Check in & Snack Enrichment Class	Enrichment Vendor
3:30-5:00	Free choice Parent Pick up	High School Students w/Extended Day Staff
5:00	Transportation offered	NewTrax
5:30	Program Closed	











After School Enrichment

Afterschool Community Learning Grant # of Participants	SCHOOL YEAR 2024-25			
	# of Courses	Scholarships	Transport Home	Total Students Served
	151 (871 individual sessions)	50	23	319

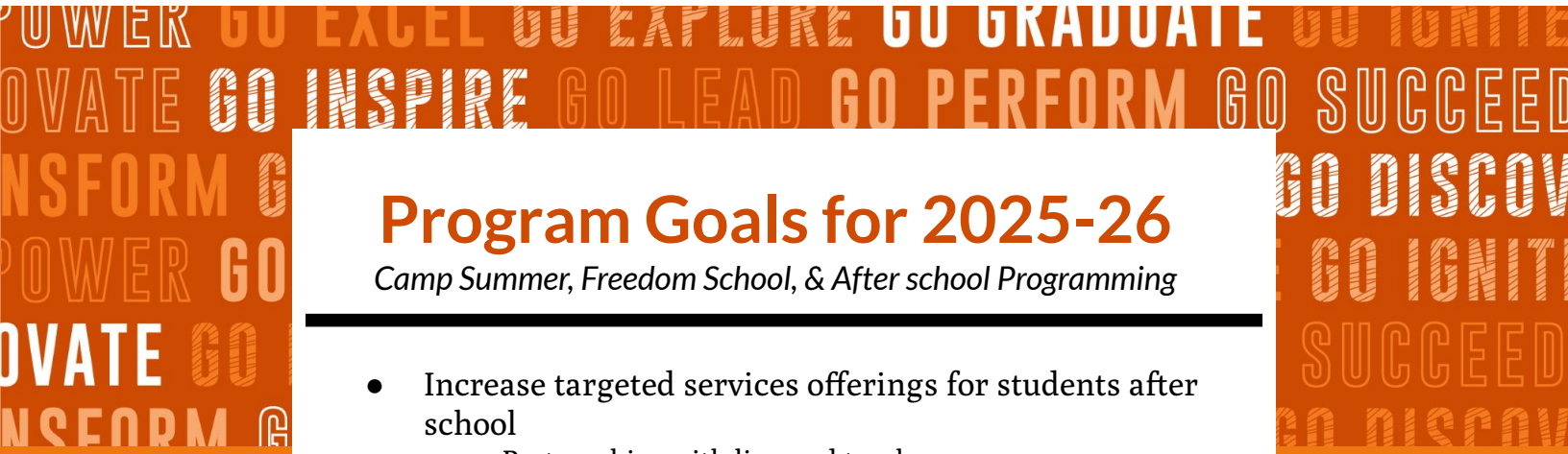
- After school programming provided at Birch, Lakeaires, Vadnais, & Willow
- October 21st, 2024 to June 6th, 2025
- Partnering community vendors from 2:15-3:30pm with high school students
- Transportation provided by NewTrax at 5:00pm daily or option to pick up from site by 5:30pm
- Students can choose between 2 and 4 options each afternoon

- 101 Dalmatians: First pilot targeted services & community vendor class at Vadnais

Afterschool Enrichment Partnerships

- **Language Sprout:** Spanish Courses
- **CSGA**: Robotics, Coding & Chess Club
- **Just Kidding Improv:** Improv Classes
- **ARDE:** Junior Architects, Dance, Ninja Warrior
- **DASH:** Sports Samplers
- **Abrakadoodle:** Art & Clay Club
- **United Jiu-Jitsu:** Brazilian Jiu-jitsu
- **Go Solar:** Solar power exploration
- **Badwolf:** Dungeons & Dragons
- **Gina Mayer:** Encanto & Toy Story
- **Ashland:** Press Play! Theater production
- **Tech Tac Toe:** Coding
- **Naske Native Games:** Explore Ojibwe culture
- **Kidcreate:** Potions & Slime Science Class
- **Young Rembrandts:** Drawing & Exploration
- **Engineering for Kids:** Engineering Club
- **Brian Richards:** Seuss on the Loose
- **Alex Carlson:** Bug's World
- **VAC:** Cooking Around the World
- **U of M Master Gardener:** Michelle Bruhn
- **Lakeshore Players:** 101 Dalmatians
    - 1st Targeted Services blended class with Students practicing literacy goals & standards

GO BEARS



Program Goals for 2025-26

Camp Summer, Freedom School, & After school Programming

- Increase targeted services offerings for students after school
    - Partnerships with licensed teachers
- Reach goal of serving 400 students across the 4 buildings
- Increase number of students accessing transportation
- Expand afternoon enrichment opportunities in Freedom Schools in collaboration with Camp Summer

Thank you!

Nicole Oswald: nicole.oswald@isd624.org
Tim Maurer: tim.maurer@isd624.org

Agenda Item B-2
February 24, 2025
School Board Work Session

AGENDA ITEM:	**Mariner Middle School Update**
MEETING DATE:	**February 24, 2025**
SUGGESTED DISPOSITION:	**Discussion Item**
CONTACT PERSON(S):	**Dr. Alison Gillespie, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning**

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Alison Gillespie, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Christina Pierre, Principal of Mariner Middle School will give an update on Mariner Middle School.

Mariner Middle School

Christina Pierre, Ed.D.
February 24, 2025

At Mariner Middle School, We...

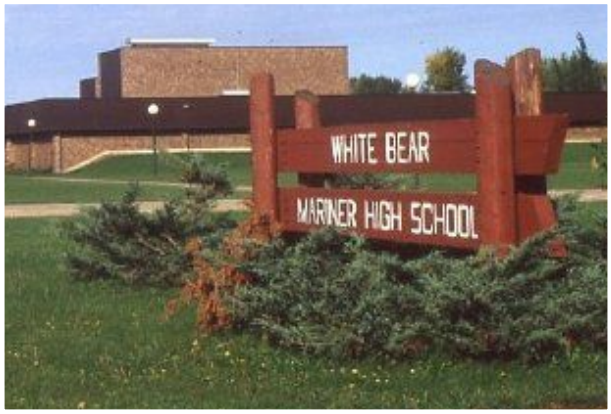
Love our diversity

Want our community to feel like a family

Value our students' unique strengths

Commit to the success of every learner

Building on the legacies of three White Bear Lake schools







1974

Mariner HS
First Graduation

50 years later

2024

Mariner MS
Opens

What have we been doing at Mariner?

Moving In and Setting Sail



Honoring Mariner High









Hosting Legislators





Enjoying Our New Spaces









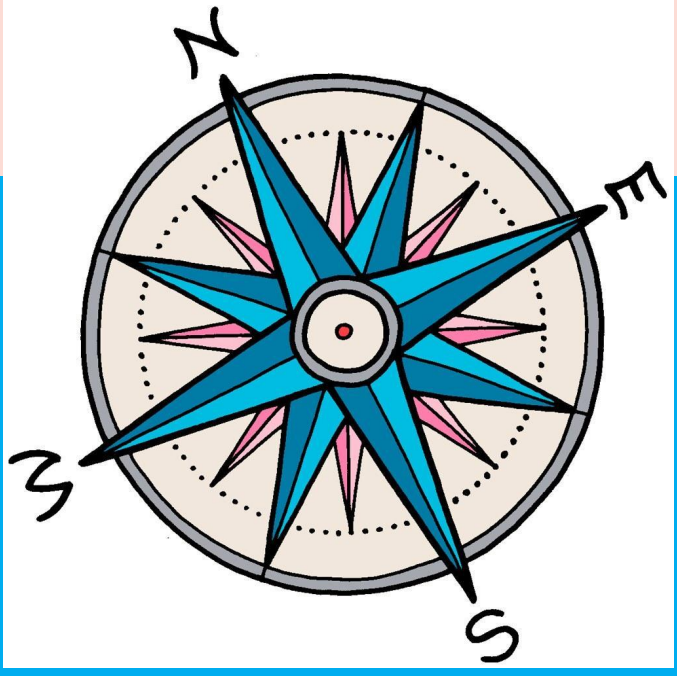
Learning and Having Fun!





Building Goals

Goal-Directed Behavior

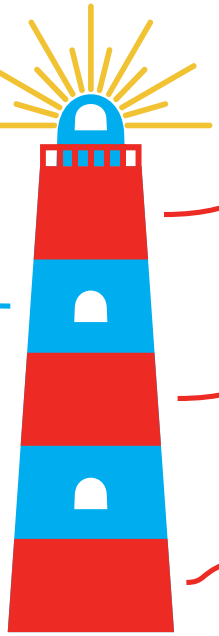


Literacy Achievement

Student Engagement

Student Agency & Recognition

Mariner Strategic Committees



Building Goals

Student Learning Goals

Action Research

Streamlined Focus & Workload

Teacher Empowerment

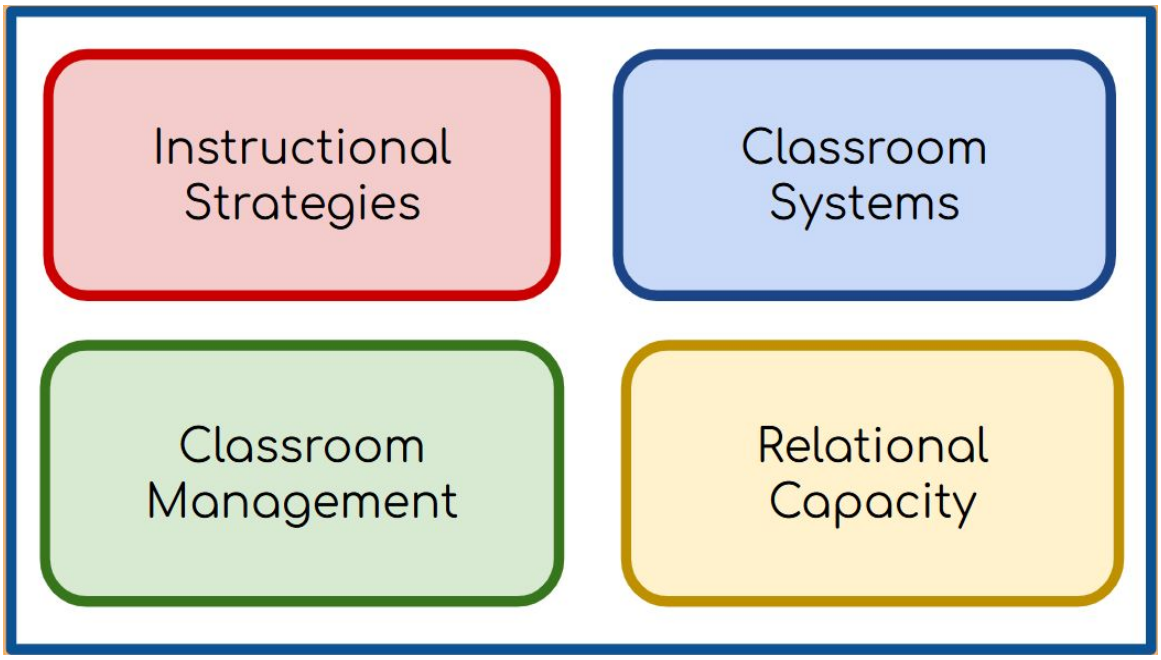
Led by Teacher Leaders & Administrators

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Action Research: Teachers identify and implement strategies, report back, reflect, adjust & try again

In Process: Student Engagement Toolbox

Student Engagement Toolbox



GOAL-DIRECTED BEHAVIOR

Reviewed research on goal setting and the middle school brain

Designed and implemented advisory lessons on goal setting

STUDENT AGENCY & RECOGNITION

Analyzed Student Belonging Data

Conducted Follow-Up Interviews

What's Next: Building Connections Among Students

LITERACY ACHIEVEMENT

Identified students and developed interventions to increase literacy

Next, gather data, reflect, adjust, and then design and implement the next round of interventions

Questions & Discussion

Agenda Item B-3
February 24, 2025
School Board Work Session

AGENDA ITEM:	**Willow Lane Elementary Update**
MEETING DATE:	**February 24, 2025**
SUGGESTED DISPOSITION:	**Discussion Item**
CONTACT PERSON(S):	**Dr. Alison Gillespie, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning**

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Alison Gillespie, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Matt Menier, Principal of Willow Lane Elementary will give an update on Willow Lane Elementary School.



Willow Lane Elementary

School Board Meeting Update

2.24.25

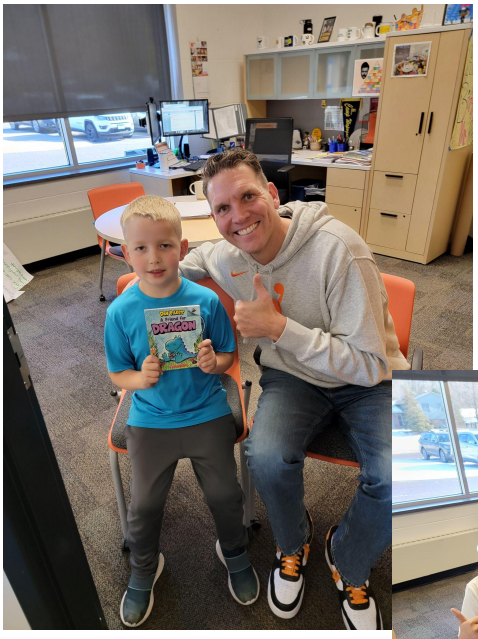


BEAUTIFUL WILLOW



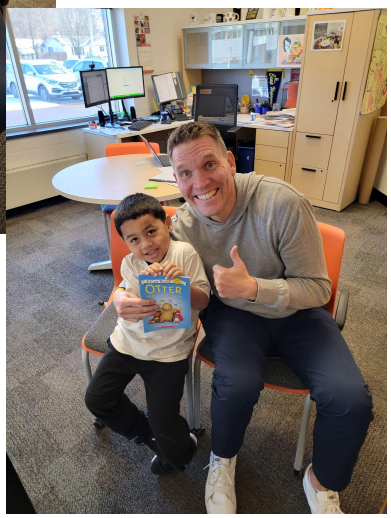


BEAR BOOKS









CAMPING









Minnow Tank







Intentional Focus on Student Outcomes & Success

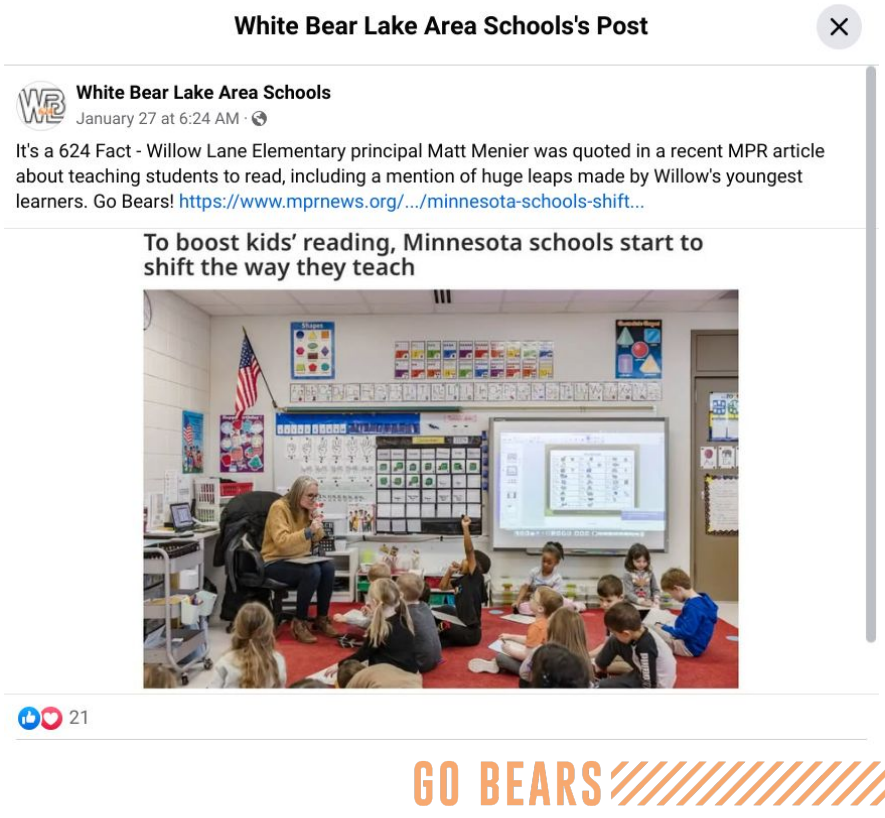
BARR

PRIORITIES

No more than two initiatives

- **Strong reading skills**
  - LETRs training
  - CKLA Curriculum
- **And they will always feel the love - relationships precede learning**
  - BARR
  - Second Step





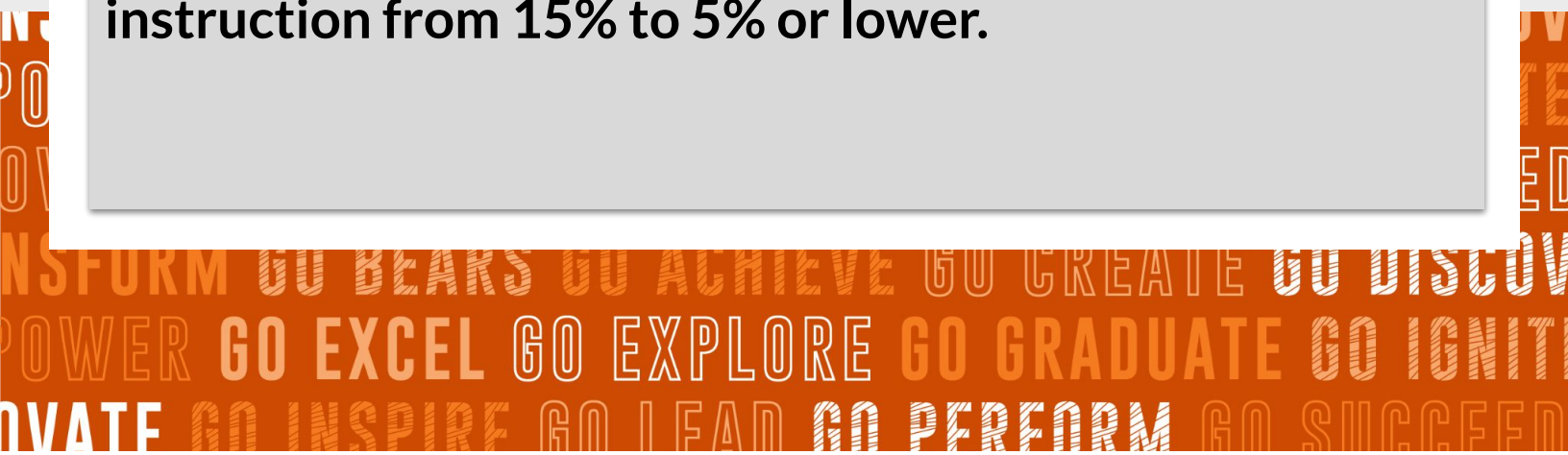
GO BEARS

Problem Solving Skills

Relationships Building Structures

Student Experience Goal

By Spring of 2025, as measured by the DESSA screener, we will decrease the number of students who need instruction from 15% to 5% or lower.



BARR

MTSS in Minnesota

- Infrastructure of Continuous Improvement
- Family & Community Engagement
- Multi-Layered Practices and Support
- Assessment
- Data Based Decision Making



Willow Lane Promise

- Self-Control
- Empathy
- Cooperation

Connected to
U-Times
Second Step Curriculum

GO BEARS

PERSEVERANCE



GO BEARS

BARR

Communication to Families

Hi _____,

_____ was nominated by her teacher for having a growth mindset, which is the theme we are focused on for October. Ms. Beyer said, "When it comes to math, _____ always wants to do more, practice more, and is the first to help others understand difficult problems when I'm busy helping others. She has goals and works hard to reach them! She's always striving for more!" Having a growth mindset connects to the Willow Lane Promise of showing empathy for others, cooperating with all and being in self-control.

To recognize _____ for her positivity and determination I asked her to do the morning announcements with me. The link to our announcements is below and she did a great job. It has been so good to see her grow into a very thoughtful, kind, and caring student who is dedicated to being the best she can be.

Thank you for your partnership and for entrusting her with us.

Matt

BARR

Parent Response

What a supreme joy it was to receive this message! Thanks for including the announcements video too — I smiled while i sipped my coffee and watched!

_____ is a phenomenal human being at home, with their friends, and I am unsurprised to see them bringing their growth mindset to school.

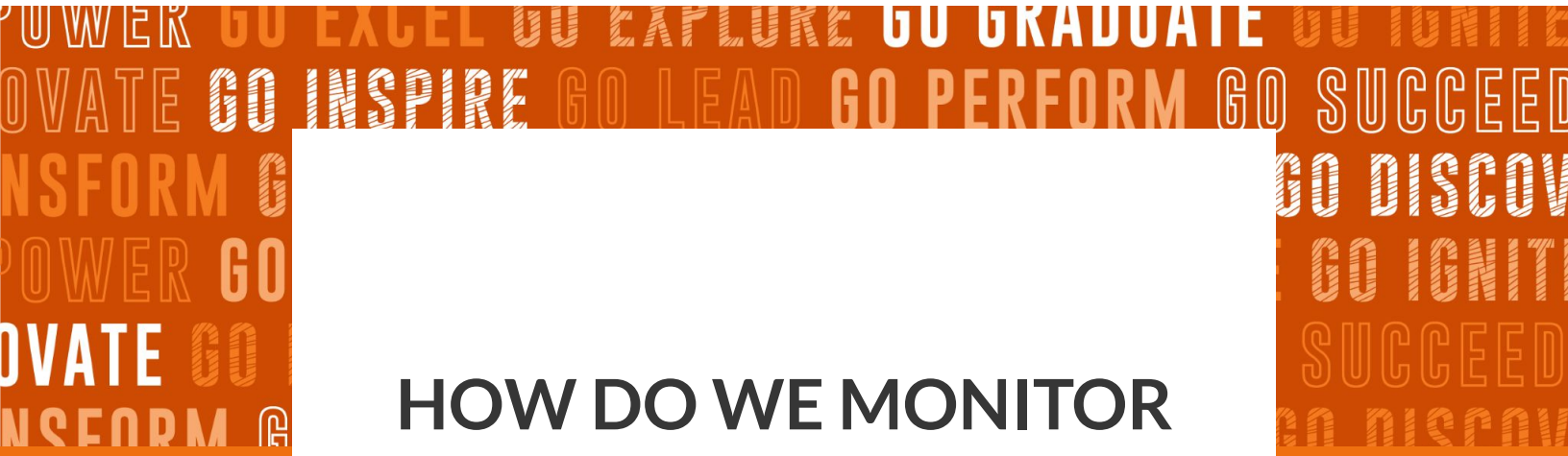
We are grateful to the kind, compassionate and silly leadership of Willow Lane. When we transferred a few years ago we didn't know what to expect. A parent always hopes that their child's school is a safe and supportive place for their student to not only learn academically, but also emotionally. I haven't interacted with a single soul who doesn't have a spirit of goodwill for the students and their families.

Your staff have made a considerable impact on my child's overall wellbeing. From navigating the changing educational landscape during the pandemic, to reincorporating community building, to parent-engagement nights... Willow Lane has hit the mark.

_____ regularly comes home sharing about their day and often talks about the various teachers and staff they encounter. Usually there's a funny story or two!

We are already sad to be in our final year there and have hope that their middle school will have the same excellence that Willow Lane has demonstrated.

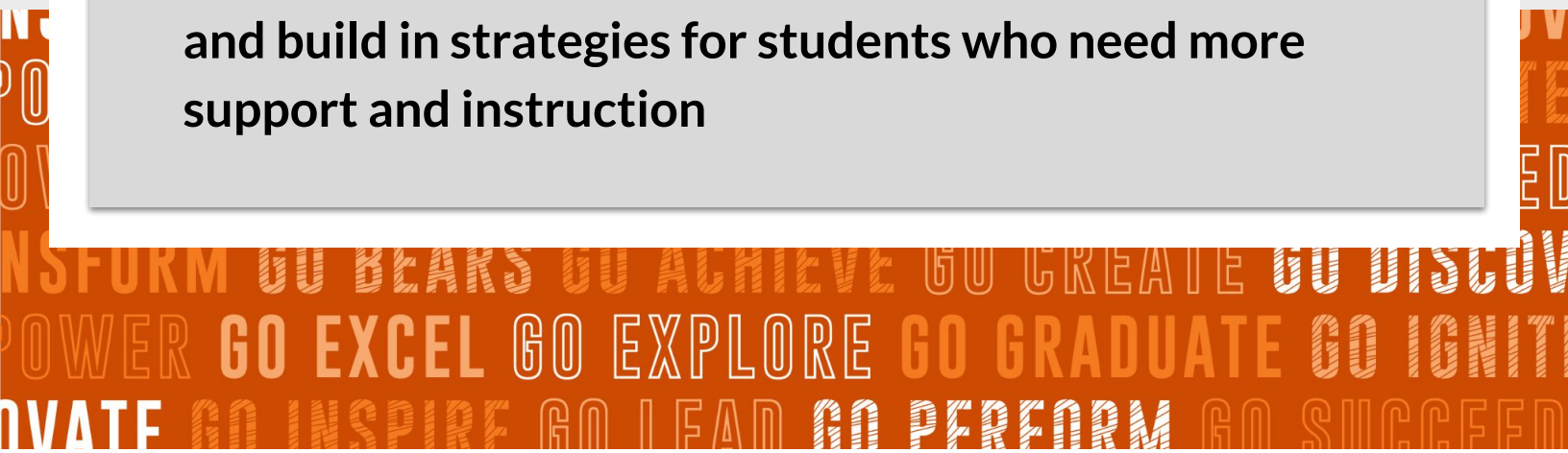
Thank you Mr. Menier and all the staff at Willow Lane.



HOW DO WE MONITOR STUDENT SUCCESS?

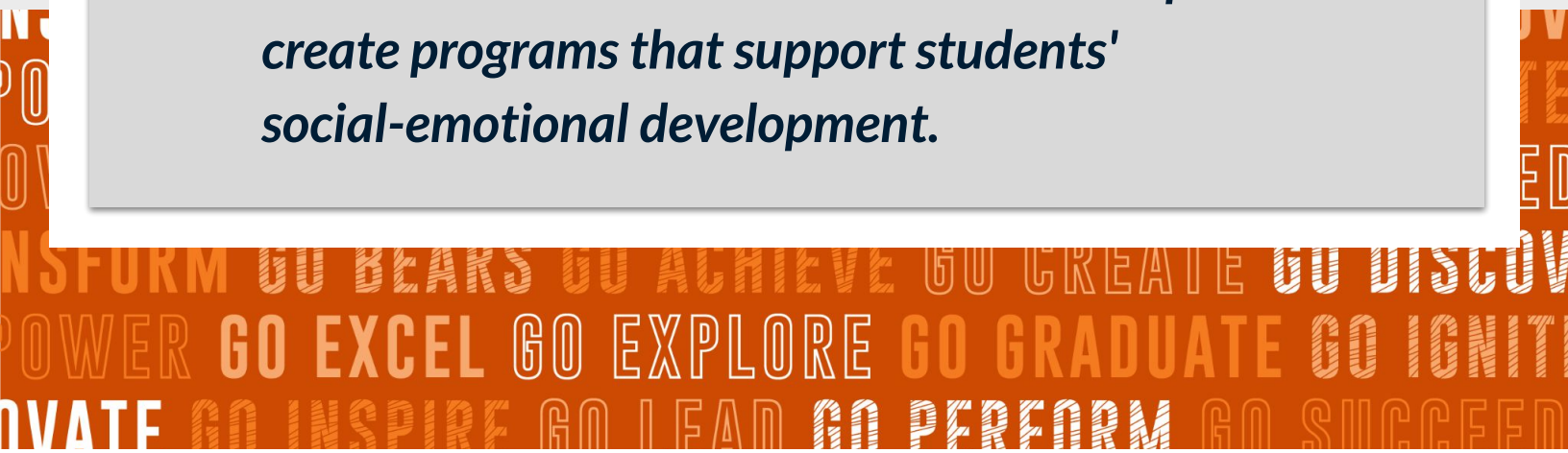
BLOCK MEETINGS

- We meet regularly to discuss students academic and social emotional progress
- Block Meetings allow us to highlight student strengths and build in strategies for students who need more support and instruction



DESSA

- What is DESSA?
  - *A questionnaire that measures a student's social and emotional skills. The DESSA is used to help educators create programs that support students' social-emotional development.*



Willow DESSA Overall Fall 2024→ Winter 2025



FEEDBACK & QUESTIONS

Design your future. Create your success.

GO BEARS

AGENDA ITEM:	**Student Transportation Primary Vendor Proposal**
MEETING DATE:	**February 24, 2025**
SUGGESTED DISPOSITION:	**Discussion Item**
CONTACT PERSON:	**Tim Wald, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; and David Johnson, Director of Transportation**

BACKGROUND:

In January, the District issued a Request for Quotes (RFQ) to qualified student transportation vendors to serve as the District's primary student transportation provider. Quotes were publicly opened on February 11, 2025.

Tim Wald, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, Dave Johnson, Director of Transportation, and Tom Watson, owner of Watson Consulting, will provide an overview of the expectations for the primary student transportation vendor and the RFQ process. The Board will be asked to approve contract awards at a future meeting.

White Bear Lake Area Schools

Student Transportation Contracts Update

Watson Consulting
The Watson Consulting Group
Thomas N. [Tom] Watson, CMC
Principal

Service Provider Options

- ***District service provider***
  Cost considerations -
  - Infrastructure and management, fleet and overhead expenses
    - Vehicle and capital budgeting needs, garage and storage
    - Repairs and maintenance costs as fleet ages
  - Labor costs
- ***Contract service provider***
  - Term - State law (MS Sec 123B.52, Subds 1 & 3) – allows terms up to 10 yrs
  - Must follow all District requirements and policies
- ***Combination of district and contract provider***
  - Balance of management, staff, and district control
  - District provides knowledge of school district and community

District Provided Services

Benefits:

- Local personnel who know the District, families
- Keeps jobs local, loyal and quality drivers
- Attract and retain employees - benefits incl insurance, pension, paid time off, etc
- Local control compared to a regional or national company
- Better personalized service

Our Process:

Step 1: Preparing Request for Quotations; Soliciting service providers. This includes:

- Determining the solicitation method to be used – bids, quotations, direct negotiation
- Preparing the solicitation documents – RFQ, legal notice (WB Press)
- Advertising and contacting service providers to request quotations, ~~bids~~ or proposals

Compliance with MN Stat 123B.52, Subds 1 & 3

Process Cont'd

Step 2: Opening and Evaluating Quotes

- Public opening on February 11, 2025
- Evaluating the quotations, bids, or proposals
- Negotiating terms

Step 3: Presenting the contract(s) recommendation(s) to District administration and School Board

- Responsible service provider
- Lowest cost service provider

Managing contracts:

Step 4: Managing the contract and monitoring the contractors' performance, including:

- Monitoring the contract against pre-established performance measures outlined in the RFP and/or contract
- Establishing points of contact between the District and the contractor or vendor
- Maintain good communication, monitor performance
- Addressing any disputes or problems

Current Full Service Providers

- First Student (FS)
- Metropolitan Transportation Network (MTN)

*Contracts expire July 31, 2025

CONTRACTOR EXPENDITURES	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
714 Trans, Multi Dist Integ/Deseg	$0	$0	$0
717 Late Act Pub Sch Pupils	$0	$0	$0
720 Trans,Reg To/From	$2,358,989	$2,198,527	$2,677,227
721 Trans, Summer School	$0	$77,722	$0
723 Trans, Disabled	$3,400,080	$3,244,834	$2,592,826
725 Trans Btn Schls Pub	$274,504	$0	$0
726 Trans Btn Schls Non-Pub	$0	$30,170	$0
728 Spec Trans Non SPED Pub	$505,939	$711,660	$407,970
733 Trans,Nonauthorized - Trips	$318,812	$195,889	$359,203
Total	$6,858,323	$6,458,803	$6,037,225

White Bear Lake Area Schools Contract

✔ Currently evaluating the quotes

✔ Received quotations from:

- 21 Type III Van Providers
  - Smaller passenger vehicles (vans, SUVs, and cars) that can seat 10 people or fewer that provide special transportation, including special needs and McKinney-Vento (displaced/homeless).
- 5 Full Service Providers – provide Regular and Type III service

White Bear Lake Area Schools Contract

- ✔ Cost of service analysis – Full Service Providers

Summary of Initial Rate Quotations

Contractor provided bus, driver, fuel				
	2024-25	2025-26	$ Inc	% Inc
United Transport (max 10 routes)		420.00		
Metro Transportation Network	518.37	522.00	3.63	0.7%
First Student	451.00	532.72	81.72	18.1%
American Transport		595.00		

Contractor provided bus, driver; District provided fuel				
	2024-25	2025-26	$ Inc	% Inc
First Student	416.18	487.00	70.82	17.0%

Contractor provided driver, fuel; District provided bus				
	2024-25	2025-26	$ Inc	% Inc
Dynamic Transport		450.00		

- ✔ Cost of service analysis - Type III Providers
  - Quotes are in the range of 14-32% increase
- ✔ Comparing quotations and negotiating with providers

Summary

- ✔ Present preliminary quotation information tonight
  - We have some work ahead considering the proposed cost increases included with the submitted quotations
- ✔ Complete contract negotiations by March 14
- ✔ Plan to present contract recommendations at the March 24 School Board meeting

Questions?