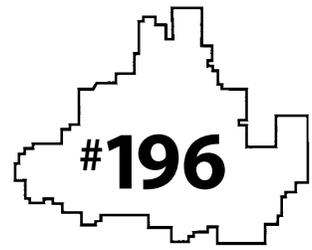




Spotlight



Spring 2016

District196.org

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Safety and elementary space are priorities in bond project schedule

Safety and security improvements and adding space at the elementary level are the top priorities in a tentative schedule of bond referendum construction projects that was presented to the School Board in January.

Safety, space and technology are the three components of the \$180 million referendum question that was approved by District 196 voters Nov. 3. Director of

Finance and Operations **Jeff Solomon** said all of the safety and space improvements included in the referendum, as well as the infrastructure portion of the technology improvements, will be completed over the next three years using proceeds from a bond sale that was held Jan. 20 (*see related article on p.6*). Increased access to technology, he added, will also be phased in over the next three years and maintained for

another seven years beyond that with funding from the 10-year, \$5 million per year capital project levy that was part of the referendum question.

Solomon is heading up a district Facilities Steering Team that is overseeing all the individual projects included in the referendum. The team, which includes other district administrators, facilities staff

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Magnuson elected School Board chair for ninth time

Jackie Magnuson

was elected chairperson of the School Board for 2016 at the board's annual organization meeting in January. This is Magnuson's ninth year as chairperson during her 27 years on the board. She was first elected to the board in 1989 and previously served as chairperson in 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2010, 2011 and 2012.



The board also elected **Gary Huusko** to be vice chairperson, **Joel Albright** as clerk and **Bob Schutte** as treasurer this year and approved assignments to four board committees and organizations on which the School Board is represented.

Magnuson, Schutte and **Rob Duchscher** took the oath of office to start the Jan. 4 organization meeting and Albright took the oath at the Feb. 8 board meeting. All four were re-elected to new four-year terms in the Nov. 3 School Board election.



Fabrication celebration

Apple Valley High School student **Eleydi Rios Hernandez** showed Superintendent **Jane K. Berenz** how the vinyl cutter works during the grand opening celebration of the school's new fabrication lab in November. The fab lab contains machines that give students the ability to make almost anything. Plans are to offer fab-lab classes for the public.

Possible sites for new school narrowed to four p.2

Stabilized state funding is top legislative priority p.5

A perfect AP exam and other outstanding achievements. . . p.10

District maintains high 'capture rate' among resident students

Eighty-seven percent of school-aged children who live in District 196 are attending District 196 schools this year, according to student enrollment and census data maintained by the district.

There were 30,286 school-aged children living within District 196 as of Jan. 27. Of those children, 26,291 are attending District 196 schools, giving the district an 87 percent "capture rate" among resident students. Anything over 80 percent is considered high for a school district in Minnesota, according to former state demographer **Hazel Reinhardt** of Hazel Reinhardt Consulting. Reinhardt says capture rate is a reflection on the quality of local public schools, as well as the presence of charter schools, nonpublic schools and other educational alternatives in and near the district.

The number of children living in District 196 who are home schooled or attend traditional non-public schools remains stable at 7.4 percent. The other 5.8 percent of school-aged children in District 196 attend charter schools or public schools in other districts. Students who open enroll into the district are not included when calculating capture rate.

Independent School District 196

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Spotlight is a quarterly publication mailed to every household in District 196 to inform parents and other residents about district news.

Send comments on *Spotlight* to
Tony.Taschner@District196.org

District 196 does not discriminate in employment or in any of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, familial status, membership or activity in a local human rights commission, disability, sexual orientation, age or genetic information. District 196 provides equal access to designated youth groups. The Director of Human Resources (651-423-7859) has been designated to respond to employment-related inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies. The Director of Elementary Education (651-423-7782) and the Director of Secondary Education (651-423-7712) have been designated to respond to student-related inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies. The Director of Special Education (651-423-7629) has been designated to respond to inquiries concerning the rights of a student with a disability. The mailing address for all directors is 3455 153rd Street W, Rosemount, MN 55068.

Possible sites for new school narrowed to four

The list of possible sites for a new elementary school in District 196 has been narrowed to four, including one in Apple Valley, two in Lakeville and one in Rosemount.

The School Board authorized district administration to begin negotiating for the purchase of any of the four parcels of land following discussion at a special board meeting Jan. 20. Negotiations were underway when this issue of *Spotlight* went to press and the administration hoped to have a purchase agreement on a site in February.

All four sites under consideration are in the southeast part of the district, which is where most of the current overcrowding and future enrollment growth will occur. The Apple Valley location, known as the Fischer site, is located west of Pilot Knob Road at the intersection of 155th Street. The Traditions site, one of two being considered in Lakeville, is on the south side

of 160th Street, west of Diamond Path. The other Lakeville location, known as the Anderson site, is on the southwest corner of the intersection of 160th Street and Pilot Knob Road. The Nelson site in Rosemount is located north of Connemara Trail at Biscayne Avenue.

The site ultimately purchased by the board will become home to the district's 19th elementary school. Funding for the land purchase and construction of the school was included in the \$180 million bond referendum and capital projects levy that was approved by voters in November.

Site selection and construction of the new elementary is the top priority on the district's schedule of referendum improvements that will be completed over the next three years. The schedule (*see p.7*) calls for site work to begin this summer and for construction of the building to be complete in August 2017, in time for the start of the 2017-18 school year.

Man faces felony for calling in threat to school

A 30-year-old Milaca man faces one count of threats of violence in connection with a call made to Rosemount Middle School on Nov. 10 inferring there was an explosive on school grounds.

Justin Hopp was charged by the Dakota County Attorney's Office Jan. 26. He had not made his first court appearance when this issue of *Spotlight* went to press.

According to the criminal complaint, Rosemount Police were dispatched to the school at approximately 7 a.m. Nov. 10 on a report of a threatening phone message that had been left on the school's attendance line. Police officers and explosive-detection dogs from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport conducted a search of the building and exterior. No explosives were detected and police determined there was no active threat.

Police were able to trace the call to a cell phone that was used from an address in St. Cloud. They contacted the cell phone company and were informed that the phone belonged to Hopp. During an initial interview with police, Hopp admitted he was working construction on an apartment building near the school. The complaint states that he later admitted to calling in the threat because he did not want to go into work that morning and didn't think it would turn into such a big deal.

"Threats such as this are not harmless pranks," said Dakota County Attorney **James Backstrom**. "They are serious crimes and they will be treated as such."

Threats of violence (threatens explosive device present) is a felony that carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a \$3,000 fine.

Si usted habla español y tiene preguntas, favor de llamar al teléfono (952)431-8993.

**HADDI ADD SOMAAALI TAHAY
OO AAD QABTID WAX SUAAL
AH FADLAN LA SOO XIRIIR
FAISAL MADAR (952)769-7625**

إذا كنت تتكلم اللغة العربية و
كانت لديك أسئلة حول المدرسة
الرجاء الإتصال بفيصل مطر (Faissal Madar)
و رقمه 769-7625 (952)

If you speak (Spanish/Somali/Arabic) and have questions, call...



Student safety and learning drive district decisions

By Jane K. Berenz, superintendent

Difficult decisions come with the territory in an organization with 3,500 employees, 155,000 residents and 28,000 students, who live in seven different cities that are divided into four distinct high school communities. There are many competing interests in a large school district like ours and our challenges can vary from day to day, minute by minute, but the goal is always the same: Do what is best for all students – for their safety and their learning – and do it in the most efficient and effective way possible.

Some decisions are made collaboratively over a period of time, after researching, sharing information and gathering input from a variety of stakeholders. Our recent bond referendum is a good example: needs were identified and researched beginning in 2012; a plan was developed with input from staff and parents, then presented to the public in December 2014; the School Board took action last August to call for the referendum question, and on Nov. 3, 2015 – roughly three years after the process started – 69 percent of participating district voters approved it.

Others decisions, such as those dealing with safety, require immediate action by administration and staff to keep students safe on a daily basis at our 31 schools and two learning centers. The following are some of the challenges we face and the factors to consider in making decisions that impact safety and learning at all District 196 schools.

Keeping Students Safe

“Snow Days” – The decision to cancel or delay school is never easy, nor is it taken lightly. We know these decisions impact work schedules and require some parents to find alternative care when school is canceled, delayed or dismissed early like it was for the Groundhog Day snowstorm earlier this month. These are among the toughest and most frustrating

decisions superintendents have to make because of the number of people impacted and the fact there will always be people who disagree with the decision, either way.

Threatening Messages – School administrators have to make immediate decisions about student safety when a threatening message is made by phone or discovered in writing. Although rare, when these threats do happen we work in close cooperation with police to determine the credibility of the threat and take appropriate action to ensure student safety. Depending on the nature of the threat, that could involve going into lockdown, sheltering in place or evacuating the building. Decisions involving a threatening message left on the Rosemount Middle School attendance line in November are described in an article on page 2 about a felony criminal charge that has resulted from that call. In these types of situations, decisions are communicated to parents as quickly and thoroughly as possible after determining there is no threat and students are safe.

Building and Site Safety – The decision to review our district’s safety procedures and building security was made following the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012. As a result of that review, we changed our procedures on how we respond to an intruder situation and conducted simulated training at each of our schools. Our Emergency Team, which includes staff and police representatives, also recommended the entrance, site and security equipment improvements that will be made as a result of our voters’ decision on the referendum. For specific projects, refer to the tentative construction and implementation schedule on page 7.

Improving Student Learning

New Elementary School – Another exciting result of the successful referendum will be the opening of a new elementary school in fall 2017. There are

many important decisions to make during the process of planning for, constructing and opening the new school. The first of those is where to build it. By the time you are reading this, the district will likely have negotiated the purchase of a site for the new school (*see p.2*). This decision started with a review of 13 potential sites, which was narrowed to a final four that were then ranked on the following criteria: proximity to the areas of overcrowding and growth in the south and eastern parts of the district, cost, availability and the number of students that would need to change schools. Decisions on attendance-area adjustments necessary to populate the new school will be made this fall with input from families that might be impacted.

Magnet Schools – Last year, our School Board decided to convert Echo Park and Oak Ridge to elementary magnet schools in fall 2016. The board’s decision came in response to a state mandate to better integrate these schools. Faced with a similar situation 10 years ago, the decision to convert Cedar Park and Glacier Hills has proved very successful and popular. Racial balance has improved at both schools and they are providing school-choice opportunities for families throughout the district. The bond referendum also provides funding for additions to all the elementary magnet schools, including Cedar Park, Glacier Hills, Diamond Path, Echo Park and Oak Ridge, further expanding these opportunities to more students.

As we move forward with these and other important decisions facing our district, we will continue to inform and involve stakeholders, and will remain focused on doing what is best for the safety and learning of all students.

Tax levy increases due to approved bond referendum

In December, the School Board approved a 2015 (payable 2016) property tax levy of \$85.6 million, which represents an increase of just over \$7 million (9 percent) from the payable 2015 levy of \$78.5 million.

The preliminary tax levy, which had to be approved before the November referendum election, was \$77.8 million, or approximately 1 percent less than the current year's levy.

School district taxes have been relatively stable over the past six years, declining from \$79.4 million in 2010 to \$73.8 million in 2013, then increasing the last three years to the \$85.6 million the board approved for payable 2016. The recent increases have been the result of an approved operating levy referendum in 2013 and the bond referendum and capital projects levy voters approved in November.

Superintendent **Jane K. Berenz** said the approved operating levy has allowed the district to avoid budget cuts last year and this year, as promised to voters during the 2013 election, and no cuts are planned for next year. The referendum approved in November gives the district bonding authority to pay for safety improvements, additional space for learning and upgrading technology infrastructure, along with capital project levy authority to increase access to technology for all students.

Local property taxes represent approximately 19 percent of revenues District 196 will receive this year. Approximately 48 percent of these local taxes are the result of the voter-approved bond and operating levy referendums. The other sources of district revenues are state aids and credits (62 percent) federal aid (3 percent) and the remaining 16 percent comes from other sources such as self-insurance, gifts, donations and miscellaneous revenues from fees and admissions.

Did You Know?

District 196 has received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International for 13 years in a row.



Apples of appreciation

Members of Apple Valley American Legion Post 1776 delivered more than 4,000 apples to schools and the District Office (pictured) Nov. 19 as part of American Education Week. The Legion provides the apples each year as a way to recognize the efforts of teachers and other district employees. Thank you, Legion and Legion Auxiliary members for all you do for the community!

District recognized for budgeting excellence

The District 196 Finance Department has received the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International for the 2015-16 budget year.

The Meritorious Budget Award program promotes and recognizes excellence in school budget presentation. The award is conferred only on school districts that have met or exceeded the program's stringent criteria, following a rigorous review by professional auditors. Only one other school district in Minnesota (Marshall Public Schools) and fewer than 150 nationwide received the Meritorious Budget Award for the 2015-16 budget year.

"The district's budget document

contains excellent spreadsheets, charts and graphs to help the reader fully grasp the data presented," the reviewers commented. "The document provides excellent information to allow the non-financial reader to understand the budgeting process used by the district and includes detailed information about the various funds, the sources of the revenue and the categories of expenditures. This award demonstrates the district's hard work and commitment to fiscal transparency."

The final budget for 2015-16 is available on the Finance Department page of the district website at www.District196.org/Finance, along with budgets and finance documents for the previous nine years.

Reach parents with ad on district website

Local businesses interested in reaching potential customers in the state's fourth largest school district are encouraged to partner with District 196 by purchasing an advertising sponsorship on the district website.

Three sponsorship options are available, ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500, and are prorated from the start of the school year. All three options include a

logo ad that rotates on the front page of District196.org for the entire school year and a larger ad on a dedicated sponsor page with links to the sponsors' websites.

For more information, go to District196.org/District/Departments/Advertising. To place your ad, contact Communications Director **Tony Taschner** at 651-423-7775 or tony.taschner@District196.org.

2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

On behalf of the 155,000 residents and 28,000 students of Independent School District 196, members of the School Board, administration and Legislative Advisory Council support these priorities for E-12 education and ask Minnesota legislators and the governor to take the actions highlighted below during the 2016 session.

1. Stabilize state funding for education

Increases to the basic funding formula have lagged inflation for more than a decade, resulting in program cuts, property tax increases and a growing disparity in the educational opportunities available to students from one district to the next. To stabilize state funding for education, we support the following:

A. Index basic funding to inflation

Indexing the general education formula to the annual rate of inflation would ensure a stable and predictable base of funding for all Minnesota school districts and eliminate the need for lawmakers to negotiate basic funding every year.

B. Increase special education funding

The state and federal governments mandate special education services but provide funding for just 57 percent of what it will cost District 196 to deliver those services this year. The other 43 percent or \$27.5 million in unfunded special education costs must come from the district's general fund. All Minnesota school districts would benefit from an increase in special education funding.

C. Update factors for calculating debt service and referendum equalization aid

Equalization aid was established to help equalize the impact of school taxes for residents in districts with differing levels of property wealth. Districts with less commercial/industrial property, like District 196, receive equalization aid. However, the factors used to calculate the aid have not been regularly updated for growth in property values and no longer provide the intended level of equalization or tax fairness.



2. Increase fully-funded early learning opportunities

Continued strategic investment in high-quality early learning opportunities offers the greatest potential for closing the achievement gap. District 196 provides a variety of programs for early learners but lacks funding and space to expand school-based preschool for children with the greatest needs. We support expansion of early learning opportunities that provide full funding for all related program, transportation and space costs.

3. Reduce mandates and increase local control

Locally elected school board members and staff are in the best position to understand the needs of their district and how to best address those needs. We support legislative changes that would reduce mandates and increase local control, including eliminating the requirement to conduct special elections to fill school board vacancies and giving boards authority to renew existing levies by majority vote.

Contact your legislators who represent District 196

Sen. Jim Carlson (51)

651-297-8073
sen.jim.carlson@senate.mn

To be part of their decisions, contact these legislators to share your thoughts on education and other issues facing our state.

Rep. Anna Wills (57B)

651-296-4306
rep.anna.wills@house.mn

Rep. Sandra Masin (51A)

651-296-3533
rep.sandra.masin@house.mn

Rep. Joe Atkins (52B)

651-296-4192
rep.joe.atkins@house.mn

Rep. Roz Peterson (56B)

651-296-5387
rep.roz.peterson@house.mn

Sen. Dave Thompson (58)

651-296-5252
sen.dave.thompson@senate.mn

Rep. Laurie Halverson (51B)

651-296-4128
rep.laurie.halverson@house.mn

Sen. Dan Hall (56)

651-296-5975
sen.dan.hall@senate.mn

Sen. Greg Clausen (57)

651-296-4120
sen.greg.clausen@senate.mn

Rep. Jon Koznick (58A)

651-296-6926
rep.jon.koznick@house.mn

Sen. Jim Metzen (52)

651-296-4370
sen.jim.metzen@senate.mn

Rep. Drew Christensen (56A)

651-296-4212
rep.drew.christensen@house.mn

Rep. Tara Mack (57A)

651-296-5506
rep.tara.mack@house.mn

Rep. Pat Garofalo (58B)

651-296-1069
rep.pat.garofalo@house.mn

Bond projects

continued from front page

and representatives from Wold Architects and construction manager Wenck, Inc., began meeting immediately following the election. They started by developing the participatory planning process that will be used to get input from stakeholders when projects are being developed at each of the 31 schools. The team also established a tentative schedule that will guide design, bidding and construction work on each project over the next three years (see p.7).

Safety and Space

Top priorities in the schedule are to begin upgrading security equipment at all schools and adding space at the elementary level to relieve overcrowding that has resulted from the addition of full-day kindergarten, the expansion of school-based preschool and enrollment growth in the southern part of the district.

Installation of new security cameras, upgraded door locks and emergency response buttons will begin at some sites this spring and will continue through fall 2018, depending on the schedule of other construction at each site. The first phase of entrance modifications are scheduled to be completed in fall 2017 at eight schools; all other schools will be completed in phase two, between fall 2017 and fall 2018.

Solomon said the highest priority on the schedule right now is site selection for what will become the district's 19th elementary school when it opens in fall 2017 (see related article on p.2). Once land is purchased, the team will continue with the next phase of design work to prepare for the start of construction this summer. The process of adjusting elementary attendance boundaries needed to open the new school is scheduled to take place this fall.

The first phase of elementary space additions will take place at Echo Park and Oak Ridge, both of which are converting to magnet schools this fall. The additions are scheduled to be complete in fall 2017. The second phase of magnet school additions will begin construction in fall 2017 and be ready for use in fall 2018 at Cedar Park Elementary STEM School, Diamond Path Elementary School of International Studies and Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science.

Additions and renovations for STEM improvements at Valley Middle School of STEM and Apple Valley High School will begin with design work next fall and



A LobbyGuard electronic sign-in system like the one shown above at Apple Valley High School will be installed at all high schools. The system will be housed in a locked vestibule that will be added at the entrance to each high school. During the school day, visitors will need to provide identification to sign into the system before they are allowed access to the school.

construction from spring 2017 to fall 2018. Renovation of Rosemount High School's entrance and performing arts areas to meet district standards will begin in fall 2017 and be completed in fall 2018.

Technology

Upgrades to the district's technology infrastructure will start this summer with increasing wireless network capacity at all district sites and will continue with other projects throughout the three-year construction schedule.

The schedule for increasing student and teacher access to technology will start this spring with teachers in grades 7, 8

and 9, who will receive a district-owned iPad mini in advance of their students receiving them this fall. All other teachers will receive a device during the 2016-17 school year. All students in grades 4-12 will be issued a device over the next three years, starting with grades 7, 8 and 9 this fall, grades 10, 11 and 12 in fall 2017, and grades 4, 5 and 6 in fall 2018.

Students in preschool through grade 3 will have increased access to classroom-based learning technology devices, phased in over the next four years. All schools will also be equipped with Chromebook carts and will receive some additional technology staffing to support the increased access.

Low rate will save millions on bond repayment

In January, the School Board approved the sale of \$112 million in general obligation school building bonds to low bidder Bank of America Merrill Lynch of New York at a true interest rate of 2.09 percent.

Proceeds from the sale, including a \$20 million reoffering premium from the winning bidder, will be used by the district to pay for \$130 million in building improvements that are included in the referendum question approved by voters in November. The bond funds will

be invested and used to pay for work as referendum projects are completed over the next three years.

The 2.09 percent rate is significantly lower than the 3.25 percent rate that the district's financial consultant Ehlers and Associates estimated last summer, in preparation for asking the referendum question. The difference between the estimated and actual rates represents \$17.6 million less in property taxes that will be needed to pay off the bonds, according to **Jodie Zesbaugh** of Ehlers.

Construction and Implementation Schedule: 2016-19

Improvement Project	Schools Involved	Design Begins	Construction/ Implementation Begins	Project Complete
SAFETY				
Cameras, door locks, emergency buttons	All Schools	Winter 2015	Spring 2016	Fall 2016-18
Entrance modifications - phase I	DW, EP, OR, PW, RP, SP, WL, BHMS	Spring 2016	Fall 2016	Fall 2017
Entrance modifications - phase II	CP, DP, GH, GL, HL, NV, PV, RE, SV, TL, WV, DHMS, FRMS, RMS, SHMS, VMS, ALC/TP, AVHS, EHS, EVHS, RHS, SES, DR	Winter 2016-Spring 2017	Spring-Fall 2017	Fall 2017-18
Site improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parking lots • drop-off/pick-up areas • access roads 	CP, DW, DP, GH, HL, NV, PV, PW, RP, RE, SP, SV, BHMS, RMS, SHMS, VMS, AVHS, RHS	To be completed with entrance modifications		
SPACE				
New elementary school	~	Winter 2015	Summer 2016	Fall 2017
Magnet school additions - phase I	EP, OR	Spring 2016	Fall 2016	Fall 2017
Magnet school additions - phase II	CP, DP, GH	Spring 2017	Fall 2017	Fall 2018
Addition for growth	PV	Spring 2017	Fall 2017	Fall 2018
STEM addition and equipment	VMS, AVHS	Fall/Winter 2016	Spring 2017	Fall 2018
STEM equipment - middle schools	BHMS, DHMS, FRMS, RMS, SHMS	Fall/Winter 2016	Spring 2017	Fall 2018
District standards - entrance, arts space	RHS	Spring 2017	Fall 2017	Fall 2018
District standards - air-conditioned gym	DP, EP, PV	To be completed with addition/entrance modification		
District standards - classroom space	DP, PV	To be completed with addition/entrance modification		
Furniture replacement	Secondary Schools	Two phases, summer 2017 and 2018, order TBD		
TECHNOLOGY				
Infrastructure upgrades	All Schools	Winter 2015	Summer 2016	Spring 2019
Teacher iPad mini	All Teachers	~	Spring 2016	Spring 2018
Teacher laptop	All Teachers	~	Fall 2016	Fall 2019
1:1 student access to iPad mini	Grades 7, 8, 9	~	Fall 2016	Winter 2016
1:1 student access to iPad mini	Grades 10, 11, 12	~	Fall 2017	Winter 2017
1:1 student access to iPad mini	Grades 4, 5, 6	~	Fall 2018	Winter 2018
Increased access to classroom-based devices	Pre-K-Grade 3	~	Fall 2016	Spring 2019
Supplemental Chromebook carts	All Schools	~	Fall 2016	Spring 2019

Elementary Schools					
CP - Cedar Park	DW - Deerwood	DP - Diamond Path	EP - Echo Park	GH - Glacier Hills	GL - Greenleaf
HL - Highland	NV - Northview	OR - Oak Ridge	PV - Parkview	PW - Pinewood	RP - Red Pine
RE - Rosemount	SP - Shannon Park	SV - Southview	TL - Thomas Lake	WV - Westview	WL - Woodland
Middle Schools					
BHMS - Black Hawk	DHMS - Dakota Hills	FRMS - Falcon Ridge	RMS - Rosemount	SHMS - Scott High.	VMS - Valley
High Schools					
ALC/TP - Area Learning Center/Transition Plus	AVHS - Apple Valley	EHS - Eagan	EVHS - Eastview	RHS - Rosemount	SES - School of Environ. Studies
Other					
	CVLC - Cedar Valley Learning Center	DVLC - Dakota Valley Learning Center	DR - Dakota Ridge		

Committee votes to retain book

A district Reconsideration Review Committee met in December and voted to retain the book *Just One Day* by Gayle Forman in the four district schools that currently have it as part of their library collections.

The parents of a Rosemount Middle School student submitted a written request to remove the book from district schools because they do not believe its content is age appropriate for middle school or high school children. "It covers adult themes that most students have not been exposed to and should not be provided by the school," their request read.

District policy provides that a district resident, parent or guardian of a district student, adult student or district employee may request reconsideration of any instructional resource. If the person challenging the material requests that the resource be excluded, restricted or included for students other than his or her own children, it is reviewed by a Reconsideration Review Committee, which is assembled when needed.

This committee consisted of two teachers, five parents, a high school student, a middle school principal, a middle school media specialist and a high school media specialist. Following a review of the process, the committee heard up to 15 minutes of testimony each from the parents who submitted the request and a district media specialist. Committee members asked questions and deliberated before voting 11-0 to retain the book at the high school level and 7-4 to retain the book at the middle school level.

Just One Day is available for students to check out at the four district schools that currently have it in their library, but it is not used for instructional purposes as part of classroom work.

Job opportunities

District 196 has immediate openings for quality individuals who enjoy working with children. Open positions include bus drivers, food service associates and substitute teachers, school nurses and clerical/paraprofessionals. For more information about these openings and to apply online, go to www.District196.org and click on the "Employment" tab on the top navigation bar.

Nearly 800 students earn AP scholar honors

Earlier this school year, the College Board recognized 778 District 196 high school students for their performance on Advanced Placement (AP) course exams taken last year.

District 196 high schools offer 24 different AP courses which have been audited and approved by the College Board, a nonprofit organization of colleges, universities, secondary schools and higher education institutions focused on college readiness programs. Students who complete an AP course can take an optional exam and earn college credit, depending on their score on the exam and admission requirements at the college or university they attend. An AP exam score of 3 or higher (on a scale of 1 to 5) earns credit at many of the nation's colleges and universities.

There are four different levels of AP scholar recognition that are defined by the scores received and the number of exams taken during a student's high school career:

- **AP Scholar** was granted to 365 district students who received scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams taken;
- **AP Scholar with Honor** was granted to 168 district students who received an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of the exams;
- **AP Scholar with Distinction** was given to 245 district students who received an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of the exams, and
- **National AP Scholar** was granted to 36 district students who received an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of the exams.

To see the names of all 778 students, go to www.District196.org, News and Happenings, News Releases and select the release dated Nov. 12, 2015.

News about breakfast, menus and summer meals

Benefits of breakfast

To promote the importance of eating a good breakfast, all District 196 schools will celebrate National School Breakfast Week March 7-10. Food service staff will emphasize the importance of eating a good breakfast, at home or at school, so they can start their day energized and ready to learn. New Breakfast items will be introduced to students.

Interactive menus

Interactive menus are available on the Food and Nutrition Services web page. By hovering over a menu item, users see a

picture of the item along with a description and nutrition label with information about calories, carbohydrates and sodium.

Free summer meals

Meals will be served to students at no charge this summer at Cedar Park Elementary STEM School, Echo Park Elementary School and Oak Ridge Elementary School. The meals will be available to children ages 1-18 and they do not need to attend one of these schools to receive the free meals. The start date is July 11. Watch for more information later this school year.

Services available to homeschool students

The services described below are available to District 196 families who are homeschooling their children.

Textbook reimbursement for 2015-16 – The submission deadline for District 196 homeschool families who registered for textbook reimbursement is April 30; call 651-423-7722.

Shared-time courses in 2016-17 – All students who wish to participate in shared time must register annually. Homeschool students in grades 9-12 may enroll in a maximum of two high school

courses per grading period. Band is also available for students in grades 5-8. Students attend the school in their attendance area. The deadline to register for shared-time courses offered in 2016-17 is June 1; call 651-423-7722.

Cocurricular Activities in 2016-17 – All students who wish to participate in cocurricular activities must register annually. State law allows homeschool students to participate in cocurricular activities at the public school in their attendance area; call 651-423-7722.

Teachers recognized as technology leaders

Jill Jensen of Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science and Cara Skoglund of Pinewood Community School were selected recipients of this year's TIES Exceptional Teacher Awards in District 196.

Sponsored by the education technology cooperative TIES, the annual awards honor teachers in member districts who effectively integrate technology into the learning process. Jensen and Skoglund were recognized with other award recipients at the TIES Annual Conference in December.

Jill Jensen has been instrumental in creating a strong science and technology foundation at Glacier Hills. She was part of the team that helped open the school as an arts and science magnet in 2007. Coworkers praise her ability to guide students and staff in using 3D printers, laser cutters and other technology tools to foster innovation and exploration.



"Jill creates integral partnerships with teachers by collaborating on how to best integrate science and technology into core curriculum," the nomination reads. "She ... ties literacy, math, science and art into lessons that are co-created." Glacier Hills has acquired a number of technology tools

as a result of successful grant applications she has written. Jensen shows parents the importance of science and technology in their children's education and regularly works with volunteers eager to help students use the tools.

Cara Skoglund had taught art at Pinewood for more than 15 years when she decided to go back to school to earn licensure in technology and then became the school's technology specialist in 2013.



"Cara has built technology leadership for Pinewood students, staff and the district," her nomination reads. She works with individual teachers to integrate technology into core subject areas to greater engage students in their learning and allow teachers to go deeper in their instruction. She has introduced computer coding into her classroom and is helping students and teachers use technology to collaborate on projects.

Skoglund also started the Pinewood Tech Team, a program that gives students the opportunity to build leadership skills by providing tech support to teachers that submit online help requests via Google Forms. Seventy students applied for the 20 open positions on the team this year.

Students earned \$2.7 million in U of M credits

During the 2014-15 school year, District 196 high school students who participated in the College in the Schools (CIS) program earned a combined 5,921 college credits valued at more than \$2.7 million, according to a value statement released by the University of Minnesota's CIS program.

CIS is a program where students earn college credits taking advanced courses at their high school that are taught by their high school teachers. There were 771 students from the five District 196 high schools that registered for 1,361 courses

last year, an increase of 90 from the previous year. Rosemount High School had 447 registrations, Eagan High School had 417, Eastview High School had 254, Apple Valley High School had 216 and the School of Environmental Studies had 27.

At the 2014-15 U of M tuition rate of \$463.84 per credit, the 5,921 credits earned by District 196 students are valued at \$2,746,397. The school district paid the university \$197,345 (\$145 per course) for the students to take these college-credit courses at their high schools last year.

Assessments for early entrance to kindergarten

In spring or early summer, District 196 will assess children for early entrance to kindergarten for the 2016-17 school year. Children born between Sept. 2 and Oct. 31, 2011 are considered best candidates for this optional assessment.

The early entrance assessment is designed to select students who demon-

strate superior development in all areas. Payment of the non-refundable \$200 fee must be made prior to the assessment.

For more information or to register for the assessment, call **Ruth Pryor**, secretary to the director of Elementary Education, at 651-423-7739.

State-required tests provide important measures of progress

The state tests students take each year provide a measure of their achievement and growth, as well as data the district uses to make decisions regarding curriculum and instruction. The tests are required by state law and students are encouraged to take them seriously and do their best.

Parents are encouraged to mark state testing dates on their calendars and help prepare their children to do well by making sure they get enough sleep the night before tests and a good breakfast the morning of each school day, especially testing days.

Students in grades 3-8, 10 and 11 will take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) or an alternate assessment called the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS). These state tests help districts measure student progress toward Minnesota's academic standards and also meet the requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Students take one test in each subject. Most students take the MCAs, but students who receive special education services and meet eligibility requirements may take the MTAS instead.

2016 Testing Dates

GRADES 3-8 and 10

- MCA Reading (online) - March 7- May 6 testing window

GRADES 3-8 and 11

- MCA Math (online) - March 7-May 6 testing window

GRADES 5, 8 and high school

- MCA Science (online) - March 7-May 13 testing window

Did You Know?

District 196 graduates in the Class of 2015 had an average ACT score of 24.4, which was 1.7 points higher than the Minnesota average that was the highest in the nation among states where more than 50 percent of students took the test. This year, all District 196 juniors will have an opportunity to take the ACT on April 19 as part of a new state requirement.

Congratulations!

A sampling of recent student and staff achievements throughout District 196

Eagan High junior **Benjamin Pankow** earned a perfect score on the Computer Science AP exam he took last May. Of the approximately 4.5 million AP exams taken by 2.5 million students in 2015, there were only 322 perfect scores. Pankow and the others were recognized by the College Board in January.

Eight District 196 juniors were nominated for the 2015-16 Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership (ExCEL) Award presented by the Minnesota State High School League. They are **Abigail Loe** and **Ethan Elumba** of Apple Valley High School; **Angela Hugunin** and **Jonathan David** of Eagan High School, **Brittni Tonnessen** and **Sean Mather** of Eastview High School, and **Anna Wise** and **Jacob Babcock Smith** of Rosemount High School. Section ExCEL winners will be recognized in March.

Eight District 196 seniors were nominated for the 2015-16 Academics, Arts and Athletics (Triple A) Award presented by the Minnesota State High School League. They are **Katie Moynihan** and **Kieran McKeag** of Apple Valley High School, **McKayla Miller** and **Chad Miller** of Eagan High School, **Sydney Hedberg** and **Rishabh Gupta** of Eastview High School, and **Jessica Ojala** and **Michael Urban** of Rosemount High School. Section and state Triple A Award recipients will be recognized in March.

Six teams representing four middle schools won special awards at the **Minnesota Future City regional finals** in January, including Novissimi, Citadel and Nouveau from Scott Highlands Middle, Urbon per Fajro from Rosemount Middle, Crystal Waters from Valley Middle School of STEM and Cilus from Black Hawk Middle.

Twelve District 196 students advanced to the final rounds of competition at the state debate tournament in January. They are the public forum debate teams of **Raj Purohit/Rylee Smith** of Eagan High and **Grace Hauser/Anika Vij** and **Alex Baker/Daniel Lekah** of Eastview High; the policy debate team of **Maddie Roberts/Brandon Wilary** of Eagan, and Lincoln-Douglas debaters **Claire Hoffa** and **Sophie Ober** of Apple Valley High, **Ben Pankow** of Eagan and **William Lai** of Rosemount High.

Nineteen students from Falcon Ridge and Black Hawk middle schools



Eagan is state volleyball champion

The Eagan High School volleyball team defeated Prior Lake to win the Class AAA state championship in November. Team members are **McKenna Melville, Kennedi Orr, Taylor Olstad, Hannah Hegwer, Brie Orr, Alyssa Doucette, Anne Wong, Ally Murphy, Peyton Rude, Ellie Husemann, Emma Slaikeu and Isabel Carlisano**, and student manager **Ben Putman**. The head coach is **Kathy Gillen**, who was named Class AAA Coach of the Year by the Minnesota Volleyball Coaches Association. Assistant coaches are **Steve Elliott, Kelly Schlagel, Celia Bertsch, Joe Kissner and Suzi Heilman**.

were selected to perform as part of state honor choirs during the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota fall conference in November. The State 7-8 Girls' Honor Choir included **Svea Hagen, Ella Erdahl, Ariana Brennhofner, Claire Alwin, Cienna Becker, Katelyn Fischer, Christina Mosen, Abigail Reis and Aleah Vincent** of Falcon Ridge and **Hanna Olson, Kailey Renn, Jordan Adams, Julia Player and Sahitha Takkella** of Black Hawk. The State 7-8 Boys' Honor Choir included **Demetrious Gibbs, Jr., Alex Sulisty and Thor Reimann** of Falcon Ridge and **Ty'riq Jiles and Adam Bartl** of Black Hawk.

Seven of the 17 students selected for the Minnesota Band Directors Association's 7-8 Honor Jazz Band are from District 196. They are **River Alaquidy, Ian Kenney, Connor Smith and Aleah Vincent** of Falcon Ridge Middle, and **Colton Bauer, Sarah Navratil and Robert Smith** of Valley Middle.

The **Dakota United Hawks** physically impaired soccer team took third place in the state tournament in November.

The Rosemount High girls' swimming and diving team finished sixth at the state tournament and **Megan Wenman** was state runner-up in the 200-yard individual medley. Wenman also took fourth place in the 100-yard butterfly and was a member of the 200- and 400-yard freestyle relay teams that finished in fourth and fifth place, respectively.

Gifted and Talented/Young Scholars Lead Teacher **Pam McDonald** was selected to receive the Friend of the Gifted award from the Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented.

Teaching and Learning Coordinator **Cathy Kindem** received the Mark McAfee Friend of Workplace Development Award from the Dakota-Scott Workforce Investment Board for her work with the district's business partnership.

Eagan High School Presents

Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's

MARY POPPINS



A musical based on the stories of P.L. Travers and the Walt Disney Film

Directed by Nancy Owzarek

April 29, 30 and May 5, 6 and 7 at 7 p.m.
May 1 at 2 p.m.

Senior Citizen Free Preview April 27 at 3:30 p.m.
\$9 adults - \$7 seniors - \$5 students

Call 651-683-6964 • www.eagan.k12.mn.us

Apple Valley High School Presents

The Enchanted Pig



Directed by Mary Sue Adey

April 28, 29 and 30 at 7:30 p.m.
May 1 at 2 p.m.

Senior Citizen Free Preview April 27 at 3 p.m.
\$7 adults - \$5 seniors - \$5 students

Call 952-431-8208 • www.District196.org/avhs

Eastview High School Presents

BRAVO 2016:



Directed by Greg Douma and Amy Jo Cherner

April 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30 at 7 p.m.
April 24 at 2 p.m.

Senior Citizen Free Preview April 19 at 3:30 p.m.
\$9 adults - \$7 seniors - \$5 students

www.evperformingarts.com/ticket-info

Rosemount High School Presents

MARY POPPINS



Directed by Nathan Miller

Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

May 6 and 7 at 7 p.m.
May 7 and 8 at 2 p.m.

Senior Citizen Free Preview May 5 at 3:30 p.m.
\$9 adults - \$7 seniors - \$5 students

Call 651-423-7540
www.District196.org/rhs/theaterarts/tickets

Coming Events

Apple Valley High

- Band Concert, March 7, 7:30 p.m.
- Masterworks Choir Concert, March 15, 7:30 p.m.
- Jazz Singers Concert, May 5, 7:30 p.m.
- Jazz Ensemble Concert, May 9, 7:30 p.m.
- Danceworks, May 19-21, 7:30 p.m.

Eagan High

- Choir Concerts, February 29, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
- Band Concerts, March 14, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
- Jazz Band Concert, March 15, 7 p.m.
- Just Desserts Choral Concert, March 17, 7:30 p.m.
- Magical Moments (speech), March 31, 7 p.m.

Eastview High

- Spotlight Speech Showcase, March 3, 7 p.m.
- Band Concerts, March 7, 6 & 8 p.m.
- Choir Concerts, March 14, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
- Jazz Showcase, March 15, 7 p.m.
- Spring Dance Shows, May 21-22, 7:30 p.m.

Rosemount High

- Jazz Band Concert, March 3, 7 p.m.
- Percussion Ensemble Concert, March 4, 7 p.m.
- Wind Ensemble Concert, March 6, 4 p.m.
- March Madness Band Concerts, March 7, 6 & 8 p.m.
- Winter Choral Concerts, March 15, 6 & 7:30 p.m.

**Independent School District 196
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools**

3455 153rd Street West
Rosemount, MN 55068

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**Time Value Material
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Community Education

engage • inspire • enrich our youngest learners



**Parents:
learn with
your child!**

Learn English and parenting skills while your child attends pre-school in

Family School. Parents and their preschool children will learn together and meet other parents and their young children at District 196 learning centers in Apple Valley. Family School meets Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to noon. Please call 952-431-8316 to register. Visit www.District196.org/abe for more information or email abe@District196.org.

Daddy/Daughter Dance (dads and daughters ages 3-11) is April 23



Enjoy a magical night out with that special guy in your life! District 196 Community Education is hosting the ninth annual Daddy/Daughter Dance. Dad not available? Invite your grandpa, uncle or favorite guy as your escort. Princess attire is recommended for girls, but not required. A photo keepsake will be provided for each couple. Maveric Music's owner and DJ, Bruce Karnick will play your favorite tunes from every era. Magic Mirror Face Painting and Face Painting by Tracie will paint girls'

faces and girls will have the opportunity to have their fingernails polished for a small additional fee. Pretty princess accessories will also be available for purchase and refreshments will be served. The cost is \$30 per couple and \$15 per additional child. Register early at www.District196.org/ce or call 651-423-7920, as space is limited. Funds raised are applied towards Community Education youth enrichment class scholarships.



**Early
Childhood
Family
Education**

ECFE offers high-quality early learning programs that can help prepare your child for kindergarten and beyond. Enjoy parent-child time together in the classroom, meet with other parents and a licensed parent educator to learn about relevant parenting topics, receive support and ask questions. The deadline for the spring ECFE lottery is March 8. Visit www.District196.org/ecfe for more information.

Run for Hope 5K

Help support early childhood programs by getting fit and enjoying time with your family this spring. Valley Natural Foods will host and sponsor Run for Hope 5K on May 14. All proceeds go to the Foundation for Early Childhood Family Services to help develop and sustain quality programming. Online registration is available at www.runforhope5k.com. Register for the race by March 31 to receive a race t-shirt, a swag bag of healthy snacks and more.



Register now for Aqua Tots (ages 6-36 months with a parent) or **Aqua Kids (ages 3-5, with or without a parent)** eight-session swim lessons that **begin Feb. 21 and 22. Visit www.District196.org/swim.**

