

Introduction to the Annual Meeting

By: Dr. Mike Richie, District Administrator

This annual meeting booklet has been prepared to explain the financial outlook of the Northland Pines School District to the district residents. When you review our proposed budget, you will note that our preliminary numbers show a 1.15% decrease in our school levy going from \$19,086,436 in 2014 to \$18,866,871 in 2015, a decrease of \$219,565. This will equate to an approximate decrease in our mill rate of one (1) cent per \$1,000 of valuation, going from 5.92 per thousand to 5.91 per thousand. We are currently in the third year of our three-year operating referendum, which means that Northland Pines School District will be going to a referendum in 2016. That referendum will cover the following three school years: 2016-17; 2017-18; and 2018-19.

This is an exciting new school year for our students and staff as we opened our doors on Tuesday, September 1, 2015, to the Northland Pines High School, Phoenix Center, Middle School, Eagle River Elementary school, Land O'Lakes Elementary school, SOAR Charter School and St. Germain Elementary school. In addition, this year we also opened a new Charter School, the "Montessori Learning Center Charter School", which is located in the St. Germain Elementary School Building. This Charter School is open to PreK through 3rd graders for the 2015-16 school year and PreK through 4th graders for the 2016-17 school year.

Our SOAR Middle School, which includes grades 5-8, is flourishing in its third year of operation; we are happy to announce the expansion of SOAR. Our SOAR High School includes grades 9 & 10 for the 2015-16 school year; grades 9, 10, and 11 for the 2016-17 school year; and grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 for the 2017-18 school year. SOAR High School is located within the Northland Pines High School building.

As the District Administrator, I am very pleased with the strong academics and program offerings which we have throughout the Northland Pines School District. This is made possible through the efforts of our highly dedicated staff. We currently have 12 teachers who hold their Teacher National Board Certification; it is a very difficult process which teachers must go through to obtain this particular certification. There are only approximately 1,200 teachers who hold this certification throughout the entire state of Wisconsin.

We continue to progress in our use of technology in NPSD classrooms as we strive toward our goal of being 1:1; this means that we are working towards each student having a school issued technology device to utilize for academics throughout the District. Our teachers are doing a great job integrating technology throughout our curriculum and they continue to go through numerous professional staff development trainings in order to remain abreast of technology initiatives and prepare our students for their futures. Our two main goals for the 2015-16 school year are to build a positive culture across our school district and to continue to develop standards based grading for the middle school and the high school; our elementary schools have had standards based grading for over 10 years.

Northland Pines School District's 2015-16 fiscal year budget (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016) is in compliance with the state imposed revenue limits. The Board of Education is asking you to exercise your legal power to approve the tax levy for the 2015-16 school year. We appreciate your continued support and interest in the Northland Pines School District. Please contact the district office (715-479-6487) or email me at mrichie@npsd.k12.wi.us if you would like more information about our schools, or if you have questions regarding this budget booklet. You may also visit our web site at www.npsd.k12.wi.us to learn more about the Northland Pines School District, to view my monthly videocast and to download our free app which is now available for Apple and Android devices (search for "Northland Pines School Dist"). Thank you for your support of public education.