

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 3.06 % increase in our school levy going from \$19,050,771 in 2015-16 to \$19,633,418 in 2016-17, an increase of \$582,647. This will equate to an approximate increase in our mill rate of .12159 per \$1,000 of valuation, going from 5.97 per thousand to 6.09 per thousand. We are currently in the first year of our three-year operating referendum, which means that Northland Pines School District will be going to a referendum in February of 2019. The biggest reason for our levy increase is that the 2013 referendum of \$2.7 million dollars expired and was replaced with the 2016 referendum which was \$3.9 million dollars.

School safety is a concern across the nation as all districts are becoming more aware of the needs and are taking appropriate steps to protect students and staff. The Northland Pines School District is also taking proactive security measures in all of our buildings. An additional position added to this year's budget was the hiring of a full time School Resource Officer. As District Administrator, I felt this needed to be a priority in our school district to assist us in enhancing the safety of our entire school community. You will also note in this year's budget the hiring of a school Social Worker as mental health issues in all communities and schools is a growing concern. The School Resource Officer position and the Social Worker position are both district wide, so you will see these individuals in all of our school buildings.

As we move forward, our main focus is to spend the 2016-17 school year preparing to move the 7th and 8th grader students and staff into the high school building for the 2017-18 school year. The staff and administration is in the process of planning and working out all logistics for this move. This will allow us to offer more instructional programming, advanced classes and additional opportunities for our 7th and 8th grade students. It will also allow us to do a better job utilizing our shared staff as we have a number of staff members who currently teach both middle school students in the middle school building and high school students in the high school building. This new structure will also benefit the taxpayers as we will have some cost saving measures as we implement this plan.

We are very excited to report that we have received a grant to establish a **Fab Lab** in our district from the Workforce Development Corporation of Wisconsin. We also received additional funds, required to be in compliance with our grant criteria, from the Vilas County Economic Development Corporation. We have numerous educationally supportive business partners who are also assisting us in this endeavor. Our goal is to have our newly created Fab Lab 100% operational by January of 2017. This Fab Lab will be used by all students pre-K12 across our district and will also be open for community use.

The Northland Pines School District is an outstanding district; I am proud of how hard our students and staff work to exceed expectations. We have a wealth of information posted on our district website at www.npsd.k12.wi.us and the district also uses a variety of social media to inform our public of the academic events, sports events and other activities of our students (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube).

Northland Pines School District's 2016-17 fiscal year budget (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017) 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 2016-17 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. Thank you for your support of public education.