

Eye of the Tiger

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Delano Public Schools to Facilitate Feasibility Study

Delano Public Schools have been in the process of developing a long-range facilities plan for our school district for the next 10 years. Part of the long-range plan was to establish a Facilities Committee made up of parents, staff members, business owners and community members-at-large. This committee met six times from the end of October to the beginning of December to establish facility needs and criteria to meet present and future needs culminating with a solution for our district. The Facilities Committee finished their task this past December 15 with a recommendation to the school board. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Facilities Committee for their time and hard work that concluded with their recommendation. This was a difficult undertaking that required review of a large amount of information and coming to consensus for a solution to meet our facility needs. The school board is in the process of studying that recommendation with further analysis and dialogue. The next step in the process will be to facilitate a feasibility study with our community regarding the specifics of the recommendation gaging overall potential voter support.



The district has decided to take additional time researching this important issue prior to any final decision by the school board. Based on the recommendation of the Facilities Committee, the district is faced with a number of necessities regarding our facilities and the school campus-at-large. The school board will continue to study our facility needs over the next few months and make a final decision by June or July 2015.

All interested community members are encouraged to visit the Delano Public Schools website for further detailed information regarding the work and recommendation of the Facilities Committee.

- **Matthew W. Schoen**
Superintendent

Upcoming Events at Delano Public Schools

February 2015

2	2015-16 HS Registration Conferences Grades 8-11	4:30-8 pm
3	DHS Grad Party Fundraiser <i>Dave's Town Club</i>	5-9 pm
5	MS Winter Activity Day	
9	HS PIE Meeting	6 pm
	DPIE Meeting	7 pm
10	MS PIE Meeting	6 pm
	ES PIE Meeting	7 pm
16	President's Day - NO SCHOOL	
23	HS Conferences	5-7:30 pm
	School Board Meeting	5:45 pm
24	TKC Summer Registration Night	4-7 pm
28	Tiger Fun Fair <i>Tiger Activity Center</i>	4-8 pm

March 2015

2	TKC Fall Open House/Registration Night Pre-K Only	4-5 pm	4-7 pm
3	DHS Grad Party Fundraiser <i>Dave's Town Club</i>		5-9 pm
9	Teacher Workshop Day - NO SCHOOL		
	HS PIE Meeting		6 pm
	DPIE Meeting		7 pm
10	Kindergarten Round Up <i>Last Names A-K</i>		5:30-8 pm
	MS PIE Meeting		6 pm
	ES PIE Meeting		7 pm
12	Kindergarten Round Up <i>Last Names L-Z</i>		5:30-8 pm
16	School Board Meeting		5:45 pm
17	MS Conferences		4-8 pm
19	MS Conferences		4-8 pm
23-27	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL		

Schools for Equity in Education (SEE): What can SEE do for Delano Public Schools?

Schools for Equity in Education (SEE) has released its platform for the 2015 Legislative Session. The 2015 SEE platform advocated four primary planks promoting adequate and equitable education funding for students throughout Minnesota.

“We believe that all Minnesota students deserve a quality education”, said SEE President Cathy Thom, a member of the Waconia School Board. “Our goal is to make sure that educational opportunities for our children do not vary simply because of their zip code.”

In the 2015 platform, SEE strongly asserts that:

- All school districts must have the ability to adequately maintain their school facilities.
- State funding must be adjusted to provide effective and equitable assistance to individual low income, special education, and non-English speaking students while stagnated revenue for career and technical education programs needs to be increased.
- The fundamental per pupil basic formula must keep up with inflation to provide stability in education funding.
- Additional property tax relief is needed for taxpayers in low wealth property districts where the tax burden is high to support local school levies.

“The organization has put together a comprehensive platform and we are looking at some areas of funding we haven’t looked at that closely in the past,” said SEE Executive Director Brad Lundell. “There is a huge disparity among school districts in their ability to maintain their facilities and that must be addressed.”

The current Alternative Facilities Program allows some school districts to implement a long-range facility maintenance plan to care for their school buildings and grounds. SEE wants the Alternative Facilities Program expanded to include all school districts. The average amount of maintenance funding in current participating school districts equals \$510 per student while the many districts without the Alternative Facilities Program average only \$212 per student. This display in available maintenance funding has often delayed or prevented needed projects until emergencies arise and costs multiply.

Lundell also pointed to formula adjustments needed to promote the organization’s commitment to giving every student in Minnesota access to high-quality educational opportunities.

“There is a huge disparity among school districts in their ability to maintain their facilities and that must be addressed.”

- Brad Lundell, SEE Executive Director

“We will always put per pupil basic formula funding and property tax fairness at the center of our agenda,” Lundell stated, “but the state formulas that provide assistance to low-income students don’t treat students in SEE districts equitably. Our districts and the business community also want expanded opportunities for students interested in career and technical education and that requires more resources.”

Delano Public Schools is a member of SEE and shares the organization’s mission. Superintendent Matt Schoen expressed, “Delano Public Schools are firmly committed to equity in all areas of educational funding. This equity in funding is crucial to maintain educational excellence and be constantly vigilant of our property tax owners.” On February 18, 2015, parents and community members are invited to attend the SEE Day at the Capitol. The goal of this day is to build legislative support for the critical issues facing SEE districts such as Delano.

SEE is a 58 member association of school districts located throughout Minnesota that represents approximately one-third of the students in Minnesota. Established in 1979, SEE has worked to promote adequate and equitable funding with a focus on the need for fairness for property taxpayers. For additional information, please visit www.schoolsforequity.org.



Student School Board Representatives Help Build a Bridge of Understanding

In case you didn't know, the Delano School Board has nine members, two of which are Delano High School students. Two years ago, Delano Public Schools decided to add student representatives to the school board. The goal of this change was to implement the "students' voice" into the school board process, while bringing board members and administration closer to the student body through insight, interaction and collaborative exchange of information.

To become a representative a student must meet the following eligibility requirements:

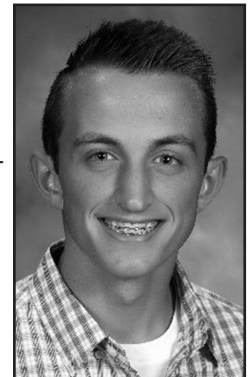
- The representative must be entering their junior year at Delano High School, have good moral character and be a resident of the Delano Public School District for at least one year prior to the date of selection.
- The representative must meet and maintain all eligibility requirements for extra-curricular activities as detailed in the "DHS Student Handbook."
- The representative must exhibit characteristics of good citizenship and have no history of serious disciplinary actions.
- The representative must maintain at least 95% attendance and a minimum GPA of 2.5.

Student representatives are required to submit an application and essay detailing reasons for wanting to be a school board representative and are interviewed by a committee consisting of the superintendent, principal, assistant principal and school board members.

The current representatives are DHS senior, Abbey Hutchins, and junior, Thomas Grover. Abbey expressed, "I accepted the position of school board representative because I knew I could gain a great wealth of knowledge, and I wanted to represent the students of the Delano School District." She feels that this experience also encourages improved people skills, public speaking skills and an overview of parliamentary procedure. Thomas shared, "My main goal as a school board representative is to help the student body communicate their concerns with the board." He believes there is a gap of understanding between the student body, the board and the administration, so this role can help build a bridge and common goals between these entities.

Currently, school board representatives share news from each school building at monthly meetings. They also ask questions to be answered by the student body each month. These questions explore such topics as, "Do you feel prepared for the next step in your education, for example, moving from the middle school to the high school?" Sharing responses to these questions create wonderful dialogue between all parties.

The position of school board representative is an asset for both the student and the board. The student gains real-life experience and credentials for college applications and future careers, while the board gains insight into the student body of Delano Public Schools, which helps formulate educational and operational choices for the district.



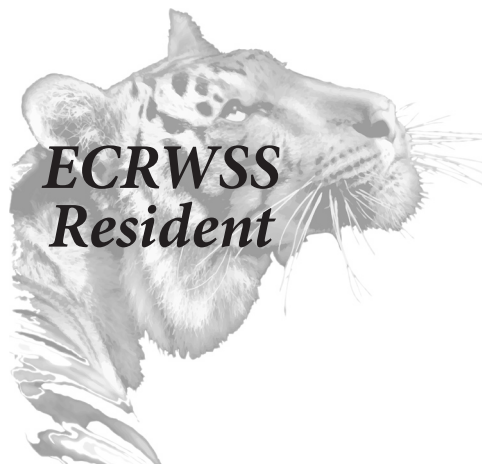
Delano Public Schools Gives Back Through United Way

Each year around the holidays, Delano Public Schools holds a district-wide fundraising campaign for the United Way. The final numbers came in for the 2014 United Way Fund Drive and through the donations of over 100 district employees, the school district raised \$9,200 to support the Delano-Loretto United Way. This is \$480 more than the dollar amount raised in 2013.

Delano Public Schools would like to extend a special thank you to teachers Karen Hohenstein, John Bingea and Kalsey Zachman, along with Community Education Director, Diane Johnson, for leading their building campaigns this year. In addition, the Delano-Loretto United Way wants to thank all the employees who contributed. It is campaigns like this that show how Delano Public Schools support an ongoing commitment to help build better lives and strengthen the community in which they live and work.

Delano School District
700 Elm Avenue East
Delano, MN 55328

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Delano Public Schools Vision
Systemic academic growth to promote educational excellence & continuous improvement for every learner in a digital society.

2015 Board of Education

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Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal

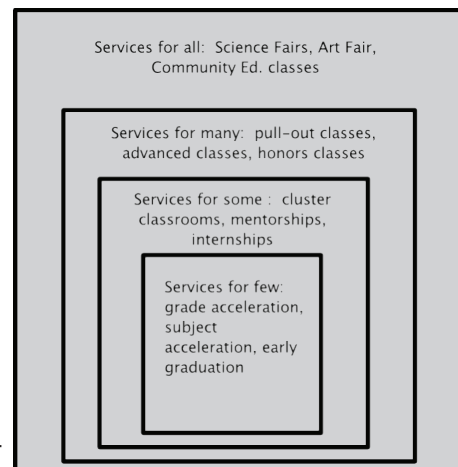
Strategic Plan 2013-2018 Moving Forward...Learning for the Future

Talent Development Program - What Does it Offer Our Students?

The primary focus of the Talent Development Program at Delano Public Schools is to provide acceleration and/or enrichment opportunities for students in grades K-12, particularly in the core areas of Reading, Math and Writing. Delano's Talent Development program was developed with the Level of Service model in mind. Rather than a single strategy, a variety of programming services are offered to gifted and able learners. Which provides for flexible grouping of students in order to adapt to the changing growth and development of learners and also strives to integrate programming as a part of the general education school day. The Level of Service model, pictured on the right, provides services based on the need of the individual student, keeping in mind that some program offerings are good for many students while others are only meant for students with the highest needs.

In order to adapt to federal and state mandates, to meld with individual building philosophies, as well as consider the needs of students in various stages of development, the program has taken on a different look at each school. In a child's early years, formal identification of giftedness is very imprecise. Therefore, the elementary program does not rely on formal identification for participation in grades K-2, but rather strives to provide academic enrichment for many students to further develop their talents in a variety of curriculum areas. Students are formally identified at the end of grade two for placement the following year. Identified students are then placed in cluster classrooms in grades three and four where they may be provided with independent studies, enrichment units, differentiated materials and acceleration opportunities. In middle school, advanced courses in Math and Language Arts are offered for students looking for challenging curriculum opportunities. Students must qualify for placement in advanced classes through a series of benchmarks as well as classroom performance. Students in grades 5-8 can also participate in a variety of academic enrichments and competitions. The high school program provides a variety of opportunities for accelerated work. While all of our students are encouraged to enroll in challenging course work, Advanced Placement (AP) or College in the Schools (CIS) courses are available for students seeking advanced work and/or college credit. Independent studies and mentorships can also be arranged for motivated students looking for an intense experience.

Level of Service Model



-Gwen Briesemeister, Talent Development Coordinator