



Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Schools

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Opportunities for Each and
Every Student!

Superintendent's Report 06/09/2026

Secondary Principal Search: After multiple rounds of interviews, reference checks, and employee engagement sessions, I am pleased to welcome Rachel Bothun as the next Secondary Principal of Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Public Schools.

I would like to thank:

- The search committee members for their extensive time and thoughtful input
- The candidates who participated in a rigorous interview process
- The staff and community members who attended employee engagement sessions and provided feedback

We had a strong candidate pool, and I am confident Mrs. Bothun will be a positive addition to our leadership team.

Thunder Online Academy: Interest in Thunder Online Academy continues to grow. At present, 13 students have expressed interest in enrollment.

Current outreach efforts include:

- Newspaper articles
- Radio advertisements
- Social media campaigns
- Website communications
- Community banners

The Thunder Online Academy website is now live, and registration is underway.

Staffing Recommendation - Based on enrollment interest and the return of the 21st Century program, I am recommending the addition of an Attendance Secretary position shared between the two programs.

Responsibilities would include:

- Attendance monitoring



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- Family onboarding
- Phone calls and communication
- Student data entry and reporting
- General program support

Site visits to other online schools consistently identified these responsibilities as critical to successful implementation.

Future Staffing Consideration - If enrollment reaches 18 students, I recommend adding a Secondary Special Education Teacher.

Reasons include:

- Anticipated enrollment of students with individualized learning needs
- Existing secondary special education caseloads that are already at or near capacity
- Reduced reliance on overload assignments
- Additional support for both existing and newly enrolled students

Program Development - The curriculum has been finalized and will focus on courses leading toward graduation requirements.

For the 2026-27 school year:

- Students will enroll either fully online or fully in-person
- Band and Choir will remain available as in-person options
- Additional hybrid opportunities may be explored in future years

Current work includes:

- Student and staff handbook development
- Orientation planning
- Enrollment procedures
- Academic integrity and attendance systems

Auction: Planning continues for the district surplus auction.

- Inventory finalized by: June 12



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- Viewing begins: July 16 at 4:00 PM
- Auction begins: July 16 at 6:00 PM

I will be requesting authorization to add additional miscellaneous items should they be identified after the final inventory list is completed.

Special thanks to:

- Mike Christensen for donating his services as auctioneer
- Jenny Thelen for her significant role in organizing and planning the event
- FFA members, who will assist with setup and operations in exchange for a portion of proceeds from designated items

Proceeds from larger district assets, such as the tractor and van, will be directed toward custodial equipment purchases.

Building Projects: Several facility projects continue to move forward this summer.

Fire Alarm Project: Work is underway and is expected to address ongoing false alarm issues involving both the fire alarm and lockdown systems.

Auditorium Lighting: The project is nearing completion, with only a few remaining items left to finish.

HVAC Project: Final installation items delayed by shipping are currently being completed. Final commissioning and resolution of outstanding concerns are also underway.

Track and Turf Project: A final walkthrough is being scheduled. Several items have already been identified for correction before final payment is issued.

Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM): LTFM planning will occur throughout the summer. A preliminary plan is expected to come before the board in July, with a more comprehensive long-range facilities plan developed at a later date.

Budget Update



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FY26 Budget: The revised FY26 budget is included on the agenda. At this time, we remain on track to finish the year within budget targets.

FY27 Budget: The proposed FY27 budget is also included on the agenda.

Based on current projections and the budget adjustments approved this spring:

- Revenues and expenditures are projected to remain relatively balanced
- Projections remain preliminary
- Legislative and federal decisions may still impact future revenue

The most significant factor influencing future budgets remains enrollment. If enrollment remains stable and we experience modest growth through Thunder Online Academy:

- The district should remain financially balanced

If enrollment declines:

- Budget deficits become more likely

For context:

- One high school student generates approximately \$12,000 in revenue
- One elementary student generates approximately \$10,000 in revenue

Bids: The district is currently accepting bids for

- Milk
- Bread

Recommendations for award will be presented at the July board meeting.

This fall, the district will also seek bids for:

- Snow removal
- Salting services



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Contracts: All individual contracts have now been settled.

Custodial Contract: The custodial unit has successfully ratified a new agreement.

Key changes include:

- Market adjustment to starting wages
- Smaller percentage increases at higher steps
- Addition of a district 403(b) match similar to the teacher contract
- Slight increase in paid holidays
- Various language updates

The agreement also:

- Eliminates clothing allowances
- Eliminates cleaning allowances
- Eliminates the summer differential

Estimated total compensation increases:

- Year 1: 8.98%
- Year 2: 7.6%

These figures include salary movement, step advancement, and benefit increases.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

Several updated MOUs are included on the agenda.

Most updates involve:

- Extending existing agreements into the new contract cycle
- Reflecting previously approved budget adjustments

The revised Student Leadership and Activities Coordinator MOU reflects the board-approved consolidation of Student Council and National Honor Society responsibilities into that position.