

## **APRIL 2026 - FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE:**

Recapping some information that I gave last month, the Critical Response Group came to our buildings on April 9<sup>th</sup> and Roger Vue (Mapping Guy) – his words – walked through the buildings and marked where everything is, from fire extinguishers and AEDs to cameras and what direction they face. A big thank you to Russ Bruder for helping them with the walkthrough, and also to Skyler Rosenow for putting together detailed maps of our cameras and the views from them as well. These are the maps that will be shared with law enforcement and first responders to assist with any emergencies they might respond to in our buildings.

After the contract settlements from our largest groups, our office has been busy with preparing retroactive backpay for our staff, which also includes making sure that insurance contributions and the like are updated as well. This is always a labor intensive project as there are many hours to calculate and each person has different withholdings. Kudos to payroll and benefits on their diligent work to get things done timely and accurately.

Contract settlements also give us an opportunity to create a much more accurate revised budget for the 2025-2026 school year. I have been plugging in the new contract amounts and hourly increases to the spreadsheets and am very close to having those ready for proofing and bring them to you for adopting a revised budget. We are using the preliminary numbers to discuss where our budget is sitting and also what numbers would look like knowing that our MLL Department and Special Ed Department are seeing rising numbers of students in their classrooms.

Another consideration we take into account when looking at staffing is our funding sources and the criteria that go with them. The Minnesota Department of Education is always sending out new and updated requirements for our Title programs, Achievement and Integration, etc. and we have to keep that in mind when staffing those programs. Some areas that were covered in the past, get shifted when statutes and requirements change at the federal and state level. We are always making sure we are fulfilling the requirements so that when we are audited, we are able to pass with no severe findings. There's always something different every year.

After I am done with the 2025-2026 budgets, I will begin working on the 2026-2027 budget so we will be able to present an updated Adopted Budget for the next school year. This is done at the June board meeting so that we are prepared to hit the ground running on July 1 – so look forward for that.

As always, please call or stop in if you have any questions for me or any of the other folks in the District Office. We enjoy your visits.

*Sherrí Evenson*