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Facilities Rental Review

As a district, we continue to experience steady growth in facility rentals. Due to this growth, Daniel, Kelsey, and I have begun discussing the need to review and update our facility rental pricing and policies. With increased use of our gyms, classrooms, and community spaces comes a corresponding rise in custodial hours, cleaning supplies, utilities, and general wear and tear on our buildings. Evaluating and potentially adjusting our rental structure would help ensure that additional revenue more accurately offsets these rising operational costs and supports the long-term care and sustainability of our facilities. As part of this future endeavor, we also anticipate clarifying scheduling procedures, supervision requirements, custodial support expectations, insurance verification, and overall facility use guidelines to promote consistency, transparency, and responsible stewardship of district resources. We also see this as an optimal time, as both our Community Education and Athletic programs are implementing new management software. Our goal is to continue providing access to our facilities while maintaining safe, clean, and well-maintained spaces for students and community members alike.

2026 Summer Community Education Brochure Release

The 2026 Summer Community Education Brochure has been submitted to the printer and will be distributed during the second week of April following the Easter holiday. This timeline reflects a full month earlier release that we started last year. The adjustment was made in response to community feedback, allowing families additional time to plan summer schedules, coordinate childcare, and register for programs. Earlier distribution also supports stronger program enrollment projections and staffing preparation.

Preschool Open House Success

Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Community Education hosted its annual LPGE Preschool Open House on Tuesday, March 10. The event provided families with the opportunity to meet teaching staff, tour classrooms, learn about curriculum and daily routines, and complete enrollment for the upcoming school year. Early childhood education plays a critical role in long-term academic success, with research consistently showing that high-quality preschool programming strengthens kindergarten readiness, early literacy, and social-emotional development. We are pleased to report that more than 40 children are already enrolled for next year's preschool program — a strong indicator of community trust and sustained interest in our early learning opportunities.

Summer Recreation Staffing and Training

We are currently in the process of hiring seasonal staff and coaches for our 2026 summer recreation programs. To further strengthen program quality and supervision standards, all summer youth employees will participate in a required at-work seminar during the first week of June. This professional development session will cover best practices in youth engagement, employment expectations, workplace conduct, child safety, and leadership skill-building. Investing in structured training for youth staff not only increases program consistency and safety but also supports workforce readiness and leadership development for our student employees.

Community members interested in contributing to our summer youth programs are encouraged to contact the LPGE Community Education Office for more information.

Integration and Achievement Grant Plan Submitted

This month's consent agenda included the initial submission of the three-year Integration and Achievement Grant. Here are some reasons a three-year plan is required to be submitted.

The intent of a three-year planning cycle, as outlined in statute and Minnesota Department of Education guidance, is to ensure that Achievement and Integration efforts:

1. Are Strategic and Sustained

Closing achievement gaps and promoting integration are long-term goals that cannot be achieved with short-term or isolated actions. A three-year plan allows the district to set thoughtful goals, monitor progress over time, and adapt strategies as needed.

2. Are Based on Local Data and Community Input

Districts must use local achievement and demographic data when establishing goals and strategies, and must gather input from community stakeholders — including councils or advisory groups — to ensure that the plan reflects community priorities and perspectives.

3. Include Clear, Measurable Goals and Indicators

Each plan includes measurable goals for reducing disparities in academic performance and increasing integration, along with Key Indicators of Progress that allow the district and the state to track progress annually.

4. Provide Accountability and Continuous Improvement

MDE reviews each district's plan for approval and monitors progress throughout the three-year cycle. If goals are not met, districts may be guided through a continuous improvement process that adjusts strategies and resources to better meet student needs.

The four key elements of the Minnesota State Statute that make this grant available are as follows:

- Pursue racial and economic integration in schools,
- Increase student academic achievement,
- Create equitable educational opportunities, and

- Reduce academic disparities based on racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds.

The statute defines eligible districts as those required to file a plan either independently or through a multidistrict collaborative, and it requires that districts use A&I revenue to support integrated learning environments and equitable access to effective and diverse teachers.

Career Fair Invitation

A reminder that the LPGE Career and College Fair is taking place on Friday, March 27th, 2026 from 8:15 to 10:15. On behalf of the Career Fair Committee, we would like to invite you to attend. The Career Fair reflects our district's commitment to college and career readiness and aligns with our strategic goals of preparing students for success beyond graduation. Students will engage directly with business leaders, skilled trades professionals, service organizations, and higher education representatives to gain real-world insight into workforce expectations and emerging career fields.

