

Joint Board Session

Monday, November 3, 2025 7:00 PM

South Terrace Elementary School, 530 Stine Drive, Carlton, MN 55718

1. **No open forum at this meeting.**
2. **Nathan Norton from ICS will provide updates along with benefits and efficiencies of a consolidated school district - attached.**
3. **The leadership team will provide updates and progress reports – Laura and Mary**
4. **Superintendents will provide a review of the committee assignment document, participation, and other updates – attached.**
5. **Board members will share consolidation committee assignments, progress, and updates.**
6. **General discussion between the joint board members and superintendents on next steps.**
7. **Personnel**
 - 7.1. Recommendation to accept the resignation of the Athletic Director, Brent Pokornowski, effective Jan. 1, 2026 -attached
 - 7.2. Board member dialogue to solicit thoughts, proposed timelines, and transition plan for the Superintendent position of the consolidated district.
8. **Motion to adjourn.**



A **LEGENCE** Company

Long Range Planning - Update

November 3, 2025



Agenda

1. Suggestions towards success
 - a) Mission
 - b) Outcomes
 - c) Short and Long-term plans
2. Organizational structure suggestions
3. Communication planning

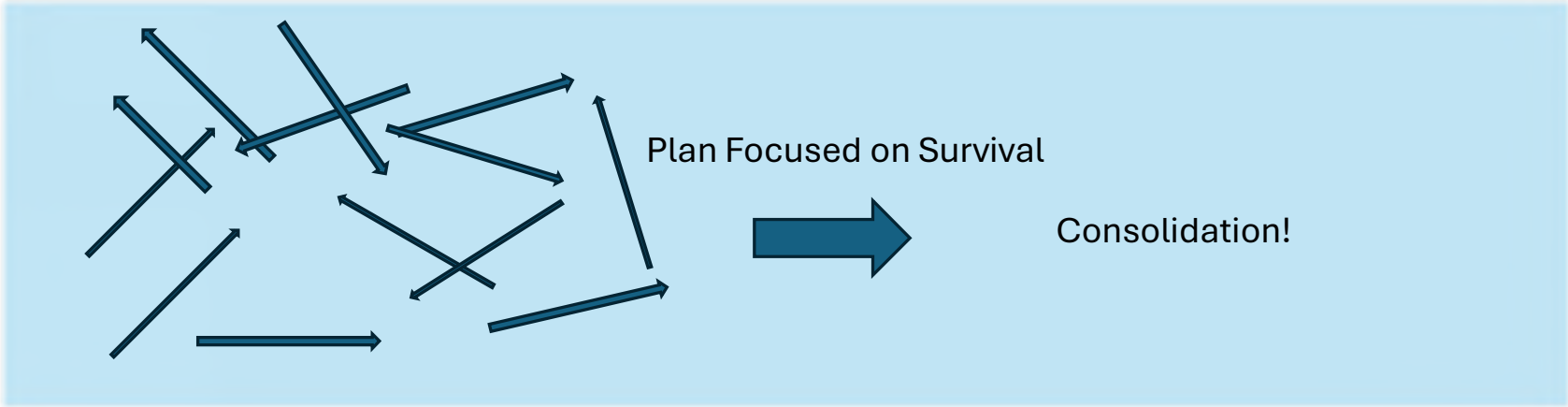


Congratulations!!!

This is a HUGE accomplishment for the communities and children of Carlton and Wrenshall!!



A New Direction



TRANSITIONING TO:

Alignment around a Plan Focused on Education and long-term financial stability

Better educational future for our communities!!

The diagram shows a transition to a state of alignment. On the left, a vertical stack of 10 teal arrows all point to the right, representing a unified direction. To the right of these arrows, the text 'Alignment around a Plan Focused on Education and long-term financial stability' is written. Below this text, the phrase 'Better educational future for our communities!!' is written in a larger, bold blue font.



Carlton-Wrenshall Districts – Nov. 2025

Our Mission

- **Aspiration:** Improved educational opportunities for all area students
- **Problem:** Each district separately lacks resources to sustain the education, programs and services our students deserve
- **Promise:** We will meet the expectations of students, families, staff and residents for a smooth and timely transition to a single district



Carlton-Wrenshall Districts – Nov. 2025

Outcomes for the new District:

- 1) Stable and sustainable finances
- 2) More options for academics, activities and support services
- 3) Facilities that are safe, healthy and empower educators to enhance student opportunities



Carlton-Wrenshall Districts – Nov. 2025

➤ **Financial Plan**

- **Short term** – budget plan for FY26 school year – by April 2026
- **Long term** – long term stability after Sept 2026 enrollment

➤ **Enhanced Education Plan**

- **Short-Term Integration Plan – education plan for Sept** - by April 2026
- **Long-Term Curriculum and Services Plan** – Sept 2026-March 2027

➤ **Facilities Plan –**

- **Short term** – immediate health, safety, space needs – board approved
- **Long term** – educational space and infrastructure needs - referendum when ready

} Superintendent Focus

*Community engagement meetings should be held
Feb, May and Sept 2026 and repeated in 2027*

} Board Chair Focus



Carlton-Wrenshall Districts – Nov. 2025

Communications Goals:

- 1) Aggressively seek and incorporate feedback from staff, parents and residents
- 2) Transparency, led by a dynamic web site and rapid responses to questions
- 3) Frequent updates to residents that demonstrate progress toward outcomes





Stay Connected with ICS

 / ics-builds.com

 / [ICS Consulting, Inc.](#)

 / [@icsconsultinginc](#)

 / [@ics_consulting_](#)



Consolidation

Committee	Mission/Goal	Carlton Board Rep	Wrenshall Board Rep	Carlton Staff	Wrenshall Staff	Community Members	AIPAC Members
Budget/Finance	New District Budget/Finance - Fund Balance Policy - # of Students The New District Needs	Dan Solarz	Eric Ankrum	Angela Lind Supt.	Beth Peterson Supt.		
Stakeholder Engagement/Strategic Planning	Engage Stakeholders	Ryan Leonzal/Sue Karp	Ben Johnson; Ashley Laveau	Ryan Schmidt	Ted Conover, Rosy Bradley		
Transition Team	How we are using buildings next year, how students are transitioning in, staff transitions, activities	Sue Karp	Mary Carlson	Amanda Radtke Christy Wolvert Prestyn Bernier	Kaylee Krogstad, Aaron Lattu, Jill Engstrom, Josie Hlava, Trish Swanson Josiiah, Ashley, Rich	Taylor Harrison	
Referendum/POC/Facilities	Identify building needs; referendum timing	Ben, Ryan	Jon, Erin	Scott Bodin Hayley Nelson Christy Wolvert	Kris Anderson		
Technology	CE	Dan Solarz	Jon, Ben	Ryan Schmidt Dan Fitzsimmons Denise Patnaude	Ross Tollgaard, Suzy Berger, Denise North		
Negotiations - Teachers		Laura Nilsen/Sam/Ryan	Eric Ankrum	Denise Patnaude	Denise North Tris Swanson, Josie Hlava, Denise North		
Negotiations - Paras		Sue Karp	Eric Ankrum	Denise Patnaude			
Negotiations - ESP Admin		Sue Karp	Ben Johnson	Denise Patnaude			
Negotiations - AFSCME/Teamsters		Dan Solarz	Ben Johnson	Denise Patnaude			
Policies	Align district policies	Laura Nilsen	Mary Carlson		Rosy Bradley		
CEC Sports		Laura/Sam	Jon, Mary	Ryan Schmidt	Anna George		
Booster/PIE Groups		Sue/Ryan	Ashley		Will Ricker,		
Education Planning	Curriculum; Alternative Learning Opportunities, 4 vs. 5 Day School Week, enhanced CTE programming	Sue/Laura	Eric, Ashley	Amanda Radtke Hayley Nelson Christy Wolvert Andrea Williams Sarah Fruzyna	Aaron Lattu, Bridget Stensaas, Chloe Swanson		
Bus Garage Operations	Options, services, potential routes, ridership, efficiencies	Ben Nilsen	Eric Ankrum	Tim Larson	Kirk Hill		
Marketing/Branding		Laura/Ryan	Mary Carlson; Erin Riley				
Community Education	Comm. Ed. programming, ECSE, ECFE, SR, PK, childcare, etc...	Sue Karp	Ashley Laveau	Daisy Rose			

10/28/2025

Carlton/Wrenshall Administration,

I wanted to share that I'll be stepping down as Athletic Director due to a recent promotion at my full-time job.

Serving in this role and working with all of you through so many transitions has been an honor.

I've informed Frank of my decision, and we discussed a potential transition date of January 1, 2026. My contract runs through June 2026, and I've offered to assist in any way I can to ensure a smooth and successful handoff.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our student-athletes. Our programs are in great hands, and I'm confident the future is bright.

Brent Pokornowski