School Performances
Serving Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope, Robbinsdale and Plymouth

November 2005

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Dear Members of the Robbinsdale Area Schools Community:

Welcome to the November 2005 edition of School Performances, our school district’s quarterly publication in which we share news and celebrate the accomplishments of learners of all ages in the Robbinsdale Area Schools. As we share stories and you learn more about our programs and our learners, we hope that you will want to attend student activities and performances and participate in adult education opportunities.

We appreciate the efforts of our legislators during the 2004-2005 legislative session to provide funding to support basic or existing programs for all ages, preschoolers through adult learners. However, it is important that we continuously update our programs to reflect best knowledge and practice. In order to improve services for our learners, our resourceful staff is continuously seeking private and public partnerships, foundation and corporate grants, as well as state and federal grants. Because of their outstanding efforts, we are able to continue to offer many programs and services for our learners. This issue of School Performances highlights a number of these initiatives.

Student academic achievement, outstanding fine arts performances, and competitive athletics have historically been hallmarks of Robbinsdale Area Schools. In this edition of School Performances, we are focused on academics and the fine arts. The core mission of the school district, improving academic achievement for all learners, is highlighted as we report continued improvement in our district composite scores which are above state and national levels. This high level of student academic achievement is particularly outstanding as Minnesota’s composite scores lead the nation.

One of the highlights for the school district’s fine arts department is the annual Music Festival at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis. This annual event provides a showcase for elementary and high school band, choir and orchestra performers in the premier Minnesota venue for such an event. The full calendar of student fine arts performances for November and December provides an open invitation for you to enjoy the fine arts in our communities.

On November 8, 2005, voters in Robbinsdale Area Schools will go to the polls to elect candidates to serve on the School Board; four of the seven seats on the school board are up for election. Eight candidates, three incumbents and five challengers, are on the ballot in this general election. According to Minnesota statute, the School Board establishes policy and governance for the school district’s operation and serves as the local communities’ voice in guiding the school district within an established set of state and federal regulations. This issue of School Performances outlines the basics of the voting process and provides profiles of the candidates. Newly elected and re-elected candidates take office in January 2006 and are elected to four-year terms.

I hope you find this edition of School Performances helpful and informative. I wish you well throughout this autumn season and into the new year.

Sincerely,

Stan F. Mack II
Superintendent of Schools
Seven Dreams Foundation

*Making a Difference One Classroom at a Time*

Change does not always happen with big sweeping reform; rather, it can be a small idea that is tried and then tried again. That is the basic premise behind the Seven Dreams Foundation. The Foundation funds small classroom initiatives through grants that test ideas in the classroom and then bring successful programs to the district level.

This is the third formal year of community fundraising and the fourth year of awarding grants to well-deserving staff. To date, most of the funding has been raised from the staff charitable giving campaign. According to Kendra Verbeten, volunteer chair of the Foundation, “Staff members in the Robbinsdale Area Schools have been unbelievably supportive of the goals and dreams of the Foundation. We are fortunate to be a part of such a giving staff community.” The Foundation will be completing the staff charitable giving campaign in October and will then turn its attention to the parent community and the community at large.

Private contributions for public education seemed like a rare thing years ago, but now most school districts have an education foundation raising additional funds for district-determined initiatives. “We are not just raising money,” stressed Verbeten. “Before anyone will make a donation, they need to be educated about the Seven Dreams Foundation and what our goals and funding initiatives support. It has been a lot of work done mostly by volunteers. The need is there, it is our job to go out and secure funding through staff, parent, community and corporate donations.”

The Foundation will award new grants in the spring. Any staff member or community member working with a staff person can apply for a grant. For more information about the grant program, how to get involved, or how to make a donation, visit the Seven Dreams Foundation web site at: [www.sevendreamsfoundation.org](http://www.sevendreamsfoundation.org).
### November

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>All month</td>
<td>K-12 Art Exhibit</td>
<td>Ed. Service Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 3</td>
<td>7 pm Armstrong HS Fall Play</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 4</td>
<td>7 pm “Café DecadeDance”</td>
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<td>Saturday 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 7</td>
<td>7:30 pm Robbinsdale Area Schools Band/Choir/Orchestra Music Festival</td>
<td>Orchestra Hall Downtown Mpls.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 10</td>
<td>7 pm Sandburg MS Play</td>
<td>Cafeteria</td>
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<td>Friday 11</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 10</td>
<td>7 pm Cooper HS</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 11</td>
<td>7 pm Fall Play “Macbeth”</td>
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<td>Saturday 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 17</td>
<td>7 pm Elementary Strings/Honors Orchestra Fall Strings Festival</td>
<td>Armstrong HS Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 17</td>
<td>7 pm Plymouth MS Grades 7 &amp; 8 Choir Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18</td>
<td>7 pm All District Band Concert</td>
<td>Plymouth MS Gymnasium</td>
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<td>Monday 21</td>
<td>7:30 pm All District Orchestra/Honors Orchestra Concert</td>
<td>Cooper HS Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 29</td>
<td>7 pm Cooper HS Band Concert</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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### December

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>All month</td>
<td>K-12 Art Exhibit</td>
<td>Ed. Service Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 1</td>
<td>7 pm Robbinsdale MS Grade 6 Band/Choir/Orchestra Concert</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 1</td>
<td>7 pm Armstrong HS &amp; Sandburg MS Grade 8/Freshman/Symphonic Bands Concert</td>
<td>Armstrong HS Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 2</td>
<td>Morning All District Elementary Choir Winter Tour</td>
<td>Spanish Immersion, Lakeview, Forest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 5</td>
<td>7 pm Sandburg MS Grade 7 Band/Jazz Band Concert</td>
<td>Gymnasium</td>
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Find the 2005-06 Fine Arts Calendar, including elementary school performances, at www.rdale.k12.mn.us under District/Calendars.
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 5</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Armstrong HS &amp; Sandburg MS Grades 7 &amp; 8 Winter Orchestra Concert</td>
<td>Armstrong HS Auditorium</td>
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<td>Tuesday 6</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Plymouth MS Grades 7 &amp; 8 Band/Jazz Band Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 6</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Cooper HS &amp; Robbinsdale MS Grade 8 Winter Band Concert</td>
<td>Cooper HS Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 8</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Sandburg MS Choir/Orchestra Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 8</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Robbinsdale MS Grade 7 Band/Orchestra Concert</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<td>Thursday 8</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Armstrong HS Concert Band/All Jazz Bands Concert</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 8</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Cooper HS &amp; Plymouth MS Grades 7 &amp; 8 Orchestra Concert</td>
<td>Cooper HS Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 10</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>All District Elementary Choir World Voices Concert</td>
<td>Central Lutheran Church Downtown Mpls.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 12</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Plymouth MS Grade 6 Band/Choir/Orchestra Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Sandburg MS Grades 7 &amp; 8 Choir Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 15</td>
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<td>Robbinsdale MS Grades 7 &amp; 8 Choir Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 15</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Armstrong HS Wassail Choir Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 18</td>
<td>4 pm</td>
<td>All District Elementary Choir PRISM Concert</td>
<td>Armstrong HS Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20</td>
<td>6 pm</td>
<td>Armstrong HS Winter Choir Concert</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Cooper HS Winter Choir Concert</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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District Music Festival Set at Orchestra Hall

Students will perform choral and orchestral music in the Robbinsdale Area Schools District Music Festival at 7:30 p.m. Monday, November 7, at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis.

Choirs, bands and orchestras from Robbinsdale Cooper and Armstrong High Schools will combine for a variety of choral and orchestral pieces. Henry Charles Smith, a former resident conductor of the Minnesota Orchestra, will be guest conductor for Mendelssohn’s *Lobgesang (Hymn of Praise)*. An all-district elementary choir will also perform.

Tickets are available at the Armstrong box office from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and between 1 and 2:30 p.m. or by calling 763-504-8852. Tickets are also available at the Cooper box office from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. or by calling 763-504-8535.

A shuttle bus, at a cost of $3 per passenger, will leave Cooper at 6:30 p.m. on the day of the performance. Call 763-504-8079 for more information.

Research Information for Robbinsdale Area Schools’ Students Now Only a Click Away

Resources and research information for Robbinsdale Area Schools’ students is now only a click away! Each school’s home page now features a library media center link connected to a variety of resources, including the *World Book Encyclopedia* and online collections of articles from hundreds of newspapers and thousands of magazines.

For example, secondary school sites include a link to *EBSCO Megafile*, a database of more than 8000 full-text magazines, including issues back to 1975. *ProQuest* includes 350 newspapers from around the world, with full-text articles on file back 10 or more years. These resources require a password to be accessed outside of school. Ask your library media specialist or call 763-504-4920 for passwords.

Each school’s library page has many unique features. Elementary pages include a link to the *Accelerated Reader* quiz lists, and school library media specialists have selected Web resources to support a variety of individual school projects. Each secondary school also has unique reference databases. For example, Sandburg Middle School provides access to *Culture Grams*, a resource that provides information on world cultures. Robbinsdale Cooper High School provides special resources for biographies and genetics. In addition, the middle and high schools’ home pages provide access to SIRS, which includes an array of world, United States and historical maps. Finally, *NoodleTools*, available at all schools, is a tutorial tool that helps students format bibliographies.
ECFE Awarded a Federal Even Start Grant

In June, the Robbinsdale Area Schools Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program was the only new applicant in the state to be awarded a Federal Even Start grant in the amount of $155,000. This grant will allow the district’s family literacy program, now called Even Start Family Literacy, to enroll more families, as well as offer a longer school year, home visits and a summer program. Joyce Beaird has been hired as the new Even Start program director. According to Kerry Froehlich, ECFE program director, “If the very successful start up, filled to capacity, is any signal of things to come, this program is well on its way to providing excellent services to a growing number of families in Robbinsdale Area Schools.”

Froehlich and Nancy Palmer, Adult Academic program director and primary partner of PRISM (People Responding in Social Ministry), collaborated to apply for the Even Start grant last May in order to expand the Family Literacy Program at Winnetka Learning Center. The new funding means the waiting lists of previous years for the Family Literacy Program may now be a thing of the past.

Want to Learn More About ECFE? Join us for a Sample Class on Thursday, January 5 from 9:30–10:30 a.m. or 6:30–7:30 p.m. at Cavanagh Early Childhood Center, 5400 Corvallis Ave N, Crystal. Call 763-504-4170 to reserve your place.
ECFE Offers Many Opportunities for District Residents

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) is a high quality parent/child program with certified parent educators, early childhood teachers and age-specific curriculum. All families with young children are encouraged to attend. ECFE’s focus is family education for parents and learning activities for their children, birth through five years old. Choices include:

- thirteen-week semester parent/child classes;
- six-week art, science and playtimes classes;
- six-week classes for birth through five months old;
- three-week baby massage classes;
- five-week classes on various parenting topics; and
- classes for dads, single parents and adoptive families.

ECFE classes scheduled this fall for Pilgrim Lane Elementary have now moved to the former New Hope Elementary School, located at 8301 47th Avenue N in New Hope. This easy-to-access location is a great place to offer ECFE classes. For more information on classes offered at this site or other ECFE locations, call 763-504-4170.

The Family Resources/Welcome Center, formerly located at Thorson Family Resource Center, is now located in Room 13 of the New Hope School. Call 763-504-7680 for more information.

Dad and Me Classes

Did you know ECFE offers classes just for dads and their children? Enjoy painting, playtime and exploring early childhood rooms together once each week. Dads enjoy discussion time with other fathers on parenting issues, child development and more. Two classes are offered. Dads with children 11–23 months meet on Wednesdays and dads with children 2–5 years of age meet on Thursdays. Classes are held at the Winnetka Learning Center in New Hope from 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Single Parent Classes

Are you the single parent of a child birth to kindergarten age? You can find support and share ideas with others who are doing the important job of parenting on their own. Join the group for encouragement, support and fun. While parents meet together, children enjoy various activities in the early childhood classroom.

This class meets at the Winnetka Learning Center in New Hope, Mondays from 6:30–8:00 p.m. A free light meal is provided for families at 6:15 p.m.
Neill Elementary Awarded $1 Million Dollar Grant to Improve Reading Skills

Neill Elementary School was recently named the recipient of a Reading First grant by the Minnesota Department of Education. Twenty-two schools from across Minnesota were awarded grants to improve reading instruction in kindergarten–grade 3 classrooms.

The purpose of the Reading First grant is to assist Neill Elementary in implementing proven methods of scientifically-based reading instruction to prevent reading difficulties for students in grades K–3. The Reading First Grant will allow the K–3, special education and English Language Learner (ELL) teachers to work together collaboratively with the University of Minnesota’s Reading Research Department to incorporate best practices into the classroom, use data analysis tools to guide instruction, and implement study groups to enhance knowledge of reading instruction.

Neill Elementary will receive approximately $1 million dollars over the next three years to further improve reading instruction. “This is absolutely fabulous news for Neill Elementary,” stated Principal Jane Byrne. “Our staff worked hard to write and research the many components of the grant. Due to the teachers’ commitment to increase achievement, our students and staff will be positively impacted by the Reading First grant.”

School’s Out Events Offered throughout the Year

For the third consecutive year, the Amazing Jeffo (pictured left), who bills himself as America’s #1 blind magician, was the main attraction at Community Education’s first School’s Out Event of the year on October 20.

According to Tim Turner, who is in charge of the School’s Out Events, “We do eight or nine School’s Out Events every year when school is not in session and we like to kick things off with a bang.” For more information about future School’s Out Events for students in grades 2–5, contact Turner at 763-504-4907, or visit the district’s Web site at www.rdale.k12.mn.us.

We’re Proud!

The Primary Project at Zachary Lane Elementary has received national certification from the Children’s Institute, which implements the program nationwide. The project helps students in K-3, who are at-risk for school adjustment, be more successful. Now that it’s a certified site, the project is attracting visitors, including a recent group from Arkansas that wishes to begin the program at their school.
We’re Proud!
An annual food drive will take place Oct. 27-Nov. 4 at Zachary Lane Elementary. Grade 4 classrooms are promoting the event and will be responsible for the collection of food drive items.

“Community” is the theme for this year at Lakeview Elementary as students study the meaning and importance of community. Students and staff will work to help the local food shelf, North Memorial Hospital and senior citizens. They will also learn about civic groups including the Robbinsdale Lions Club and the Robbinsdale Jaycees.

Retired Teachers Evaluate Kindergartners
Retired teachers returned to school as volunteers in September to evaluate more than 900 kindergarten students in Robbinsdale Area Schools. The former teachers tested students on letters of the alphabet, sounds, counting and shape recognition.

The information they gathered helps kindergarten teachers pinpoint exactly what each student needs to focus on now to boost skills in reading and math. “The information helped me to get a better understanding of the children’s knowledge as they started the year,” said Karen Gellner, a kindergarten teacher at Pilgrim Lane. “This helped me know where to begin in areas of instruction and what to expect from the children in the first weeks of school.”

“We now have baseline data of what students know when they first arrive in Robbinsdale Area Schools,” said Joanne Kostka, district literacy leader. “Teachers are using this information to meet the academic needs of all their students.” The information will also help the school district evaluate the effectiveness of the kindergarten curriculum.

Kostka heard about other school districts tapping into the expertise of retired teachers and decided to try the same. The call went out for volunteers and 36 retired teachers responded. They came in for a training session and then headed to the schools to assess students. Many of the retired teachers volunteered in the schools where they had taught.

The volunteers will return in May to do post-testing and see the progress that students made.

“Having the assessments done by a team of trained professionals is wonderful,” said Gayle Walkowiak, director of teaching and learning. “It provided valuable information to the teachers at the very beginning of the school year.”
Meadow Lake 5th Grader to be Published Poet

Tyler Cogswell, a Meadow Lake fifth grader, entered his poem entitled “Minnesota” into the America Library of Poetry and the American Literary Council’s student poetry contest. His poem has been registered and will be published in a book entitled Gifted. Cogswell will now move to the next level of competition, with possible prizes including a $500 U.S. Savings Bond and having his poem featured in the American Literary Council’s national computer software program on creative writing.

Minnesota
by Tyler Cogswell

If you zoom into the United States, you’ll find a little place. It was found in 1858, and was the 32nd state. You’ll find it by Lake Superior; it’s home of the wild rice. Its nickname is the “Gopher State,” you’ll find it pretty nice. It has the Mississippi. The state bird is the Common Loon. Its state flower is a Lady Slipper. You can go to zoos and find a balloon. You can find Paul Bunyan. You can see his blue ox, Babe. It has the University of Minnesota. Oooops, I gave it away! Minnesota it is! Home of the Twins. And home of the Vikings. Home of the 10,000 Lakes. You can swim in them all. Though you might need fins, but I don’t think you should try. Hope you learned a lot, because I sure did!

We’re Proud!

These Neill Elementary School students enjoy a renovated baseball diamond thanks to a grant from the Minnesota Twins Community Fund, along with funding from the school’s PTSA and the Robbinsdale Jaycees.
“Join Hands–Lend a Hand” Fair a Success!

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB-MYP), with help from a Seven Dreams Foundation grant, sponsored a seven-city “service fair” for Cooper High School and Sandburg Middle School students and their families on October 29. Attendees were able to meet and gather ideas from many service-related organizations. The ultimate goal of the fair was for families and students to learn about and contribute to the communities in which they live.

Exhibitors (hospitals, nursing homes, food shelves, animal shelters and other organizations who utilize or who benefit from the services of volunteers) were invited from Robbinsdale Area Schools’ surrounding communities to set up booths with information, demonstrations and sign-ups for service.

For more information about the service fair, contact Steve Knutson at steve_knutson@yahoo.com or 763-553-0642, or Lauren Hildebrand, IBMYP coordinator at lauren_hildebrand@rdale.k12.mn.us or 763-504-8161.

We’re Proud!

Sandburg Middle School will be presenting “Wooing Wed Widing Hood,” a comedic play by Charlie Lovett, Nov. 10–12 on the Sandburg stage at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the door: $3 for adults, $2 for students and seniors.

We’re Proud!

Pre-Advanced Placement (AP) classes at Plymouth Middle School provide challenging academics for motivated students, according to Susan Beaubaire, teacher. A pilot project begun six years ago became Pre-AP, now starting its third year. Beaubaire worked recently with eighth-grade students writing essays in Pre-AP English class.

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Options for Program Focus at Robbinsdale Middle School Under Consideration

Recommendation to be made to Board in November

As part of the re-organization process, the Robbinsdale School Board directed the administration to examine options for a new or renewed programmatic focus for Robbinsdale Middle School (RMS), formerly the Technology and Language Campus (TLC). In January 2005, a task force composed of parents and staff members was created to study options and make a recommendation to the School Board.

After several months of work, and feedback from staff and community members, the RMS Task Force has narrowed the initial list of eight possible programmatic options down to three. They are:

- **Habits of Mind Focus:** The Habits of Mind would focus on changing behaviors, in order to foster curious, self-directed, life-long learners. A Habit of Mind is knowing how to behave intelligently when you do not know the answer. Examples of the 16 Habits of Mind taught through this focus are: persisting, communicating with clarity and precision, gathering data through all the senses, and listening with understanding and empathy.

- **Math, Science and Technology Focus:** This focus integrates math, science, social studies and English instruction around a common science theme. For example, if the theme were space exploration, then during social studies students would study the history of space exploration. In English, students would read science fiction while studying the theme. True to the scientific process, this focus encourages students to discover answers, rather than teachers giving students the answers.

- **Technology and Language Focus:** This focus prepares students to communicate and work in a complex global society. With this focus, students learn to speak and understand global languages like Spanish. They also learn about and use technology tools like spreadsheets, web-design software and digital imaging techniques as they work in their classes.

During the month of October, RMS staff and Task Force members will be visiting area schools that have implemented the options listed above. A final focus recommendation will be made to the Board in November.

More information about the RMS Task Force and the programmatic focus options being considered is available at: www.rdale.k12.mn.us/rms/news/taskforce.aspx.
High School Students Benefit from Smaller Learning Communities Grant

Link Crew, a program matching high school 11th and 12th grade students with ninth graders, is new this year at Robbinsdale Cooper and Armstrong High Schools. This program is the first step in the implementation of a Smaller Learning Communities grant totaling $1.7 million awarded to Robbinsdale Area Schools from the U.S. Department of Education this summer. Several other programs will be implemented over the course of the five-year grant to benefit students at the two high schools.

Four overall goals form the basis for the Smaller Learning Communities grant including increased student achievement, increased numbers of students participating in academically rigorous coursework, improved student behavior and school climate, and stronger post-secondary transitions for students.

To meet the goals of the grant, the high schools will create a 9th Grade Academy as well as small learning clusters where groups of students meet with an advisor throughout their high school years. Over the five-year span of the grant the schools will add programs including:

**Link Crew**

This program provides a rousing welcome to incoming ninth graders by more than 100 trained upper class peers, Link Crew leaders, on the first day of school. Ninth grade students were split into groups of 10–15 with two leaders per group. These groups will continue to meet throughout the year to forge a strong sense of belonging.

Link Crews made up of 11th and 12th grade student leaders at both Robbinsdale Armstrong and Cooper High Schools welcomed 9th grade students to high school in September. Leaders in tie-died t-shirts (above) high-fived new students on the first day of school as they entered the Armstrong gym for a pep-fest and orientation.
High School News

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- **Advisory**
  The grant will strengthen the existing advisory period where one teacher, assigned to a group of students, shepherds them through the complex world of today’s high school and helps them think about options for their post-secondary education.

- **Interdisciplinary Teams**
  The grant makes possible the introduction of teacher teams, similar to those found in the middle school, where a group of teachers share the same group of students. “Teaming allows for more cohesive instruction among teachers and helps prevent students from getting lost in the shuffle of a big school,” said Jonas Beugan, teacher on special assignment.

- **Rigorous Course Initiative**
  Both high schools offer challenging academic programs including International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement. Too few students, however, take these courses. More challenging coursework is highly correlated with higher scores on college entrance exams and a higher likelihood of success in college. The rigorous course initiative will encourage more students to take harder courses and will provide support for them to succeed.

- **Career Clusters**
  Students have many course electives available to them now but their choices could be more intentional if the courses were organized around a career cluster. “Better organization and attention to career planning would help students become more aware of their post-secondary education options,” said Brenda Damiani, teacher on special assignment. Elective choices may be added in the future such as medical careers or pre-engineering.

- **Basic Skills Support**
  The grant will provide extra support for students who enter 9th grade with serious gaps in their knowledge of basic skills, often the result of frequent moves or spotty attendance.

  District progress toward the goals of the grant will be measured and carefully scrutinized by Dr. Jane Fields, program evaluator from the University of Minnesota. The evaluation will determine, over time, the number of students taking rigorous courses, overall academic achievement of the students, graduation rates and the percent of graduates who continue their education after high school.

  For more information about the Federal Smaller Learning Communities grant, contact Gayle Walkowiak, director of teaching and learning at 763-504-8032, David Dahl, principal of Robbinsdale Armstrong High School at 763-504-8800 or Jeff McGonigal, principal of Robbinsdale Cooper High School at 763-504-8500.
Armstrong Students Earn National AP Scholar Recognition

Ninety-one other district high school students also receive recognition

Adam Berkland and Jeanette Vyhanek, both 2005 graduates of Robbinsdale Armstrong High School, have earned the designation of National AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program (AP) exams. In addition, 91 current students or 2005 graduates of both Robbinsdale Cooper and Armstrong high schools were recognized in other scholar categories.

The College Board’s Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP exams. Berkland averaged a score of 4.67 and Vyhanek averaged 4.25 on a 5-point scale on all AP exams taken to qualify for the National AP Scholar Award. To see the complete list of scholars, go to www.rdale.k12.mn.us and click on News Releases.

District Students Named National Merit Semifinalists

Two students from Robbinsdale Cooper High School and three from Robbinsdale Armstrong were among an elite group of scholars named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. These scholastically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 Merit Scholarship® awards, worth $33 million, that will be awarded nationwide next spring.

Semifinalists from Robbinsdale Cooper are: Jeffrey Hudson and Rebecca Szarkowski.

Semifinalists from Robbinsdale Armstrong are: Sara Fossum, Michael Parks and Rebecca Patrias.

In addition, seven district students were named Commended Students. From Cooper, they are: Jefferson Grubbs and Robert Patterson. From Armstrong, they are: Ross Broms, Trevor Haag, Christopher Marshall, Jaime Rogers and Zachary Thielke.

Students who took the 2004 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) are entered in the 2006 National Merit Program. The highest scoring entrants, representing collectively less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, are selected as semi-finalists. Commended Students scored in the top five percent nationally.
ACT Test Scores Remain High for Students in Robbinsdale Area Schools

Students in Robbinsdale Area Schools graduating class of 2005 continued the tradition of earning high ACT college entrance exam scores. District students have earned an average score of 22.6 three of the last five years.

Once again, the district’s average composite score was above Minnesota’s average. Minnesota had the highest average score (22.3) for states where more than half of the graduating high school students took the test. Robbinsdale students scored significantly above the national average of 20.9.

The average composite score at Robbinsdale Armstrong High School is 23.0 and at Robbinsdale Cooper High School the composite average held steady at 21.9.

Robbinsdale Area Schools’ students scored significantly higher than the national average both overall and in each of four categories (English, math, reading and science). Students who took core college preparatory courses (defined by ACT as four years of English, three years of math, three years of social sciences and three years of science) outperformed those who did not. When comparing students who completed core college preparatory courses, Robbinsdale students scored above the state average in reading, science and English.

“We are very proud of our students’ accomplishments,” said Robbinsdale Area Schools’ Superintendent Stan F. Mack II. “Students who take rigorous coursework in high school consistently score higher on the ACT, a good indication that they are ready for college. In addition, new initiatives like the Federal Smaller Learning Communities grant, will help even more students succeed in rigorous coursework in the future.”

The ACT is the major college entrance exam taken by Minnesota students and can be used to study how well prepared our college-bound population is compared to the state and the nation. The test is a curriculum-based achievement test that covers English, mathematics, reading and science reasoning. It includes 215 multiple-choice questions. The ACT is scored on a scale from 1 to 36, with 36 being the highest possible score.
District Starts New Special Education Transition Program

The Robbinsdale Area Schools Transition Center is a new school district program for young adults with special needs between the ages of 18-21, who need assistance and support while pursuing transition goals and objectives. It is a community-based program emphasizing employment and independent living skills and is provided by the Robbinsdale Area Schools. The program was developed to better address student needs and in response to parental requests.

The Transition Center’s services will help students achieve their goals and objectives by providing specialized education, training, and support in five key areas of transition.

Using an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team process, students will receive counseling, advising, and training with choices based on their individual needs in five transition areas including:

**Jobs and Job Training**
- Supported employment
- Competitive employment
- Job/career exploration
- Vocational assessment

**Recreation and Leisure**
- Developing fitness habits
- Participating in and attending events
- Attending cultural events
- Learning a new hobby
- Planning social events

**Community Participation**
- Shopping
- Using public transportation
- Accessing health care
- Volunteer work
- Social skills

**Home Living**
- Household management
- Budgeting and personal finances
- Home safety
- Purchasing and care of personal and household items
- Apartment living
- Personal care
- Food preparation

**Post-Secondary Training**
- Developing a post-secondary plan as determined through the IEP process
Who is eligible?
Students are eligible for the Transition Center program if they are currently receiving special education services, and their IEP team has determined that continued support and transition services are needed to meet their goals and objectives in becoming independent adults.

To participate in the program, the student must:
- be within the ages of 18-21
- have received prior special education services
- continue to have unmet IEP transition goals and objectives
- receive a diploma upon completion of IEP goals or reach the age of 21

Where is the Transition Center located?
The program is located in the former New Hope Elementary School site. Education and training occur in a variety of community-based settings, employment sites, and post-secondary facilities under the direction of licensed educational staff. Program teachers are Mark Preissing, Anne Grui and Brenda Van Vugt.

For additional information, contact the Robbinsdale Transition Center at 763-504-8619.
Volunteers Make a Difference in Robbinsdale Area Schools!

Volunteers make a difference in the lives of our students and build community in our classrooms. If you have the time, we have the opportunities for you to get involved. Here are a few areas where volunteers are needed.

**Vision/Hearing Volunteer** - Help school nurses conduct vision and hearing screenings in elementary and secondary schools. Screenings are done during the school day.

**Share the Adventure of Reading with a Child** - Help elementary students in several different reading programs. Work with children one-on-one or in small groups.

**Are You a History Buff?** - If the answer is yes, consider this volunteer opportunity. Robbinsdale Area Schools’ District Archives is in need of volunteers to answer requests and help with cataloging historical items.

**ESL Special Friend** - Be a special friend to preschool children learning English as a second language. Play games, read books and have lots of fun with children in this preschool program.

**Classroom Speaker** - Share your expertise or personal experience with students in grades K-12.

To learn more about these and other volunteer opportunities, call Barb McKenzie, Community Volunteers in Schools at 763-504-6991.

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**CONGRATULATIONS to Madeline Rosinsky who won the Literacy Minnesota 2005 Award for Advocacy in Workforce Education.** Rosinsky has been involved in Adult Basic Education since 1980 in the Robbinsdale Adult Academic Program, focusing on workforce education for the past 10 years. Recipients of Literacy Minnesota Adult Basic Education awards were chosen in five categories for their unique, innovative and creative contributions to the field and for their impact on the literacy effort in their communities and/or statewide.
Adult Academic Program Success Story

The Adult Academic Program, offered through Robbinsdale Area Schools’ Community Education, thrives on its success stories. One of the most satisfying results for staff is when a student becomes a colleague. Meeyoung Chang is one of four education assistants at the Winnetka Learning Center who initially became familiar with the Adult Academic Program as a student.

Chang came from South Korea in 1988. She enrolled in the Adult Academic Program, joining students from over 50 countries, to work with teachers, education assistants and volunteers. She noticed more than just improvement in her language skills. “From this program I not only learned English, but also how to respect diverse cultures and the spirit of volunteering,” shared Chang.

While attending English classes, Chang also enrolled in child development associate classes offered through a grant to the Adult Academic Program. “This was a great opportunity for me because I’ve always wanted to work with young children as my career.” To fulfill the 480-hour work requirement for certification, Chang volunteered in the Family Literacy Program. In 2004, she was hired as an education assistant in the toddler classroom.

Chang has retained her enthusiasm for working with children. “I started pursuing my career more seriously and decided to attend Hennepin Technical College to get more education in child development. Once again, the Adult Academic Program not only provided English and basic job skills, but also assisted me in getting a scholarship from the Twin West Chamber of Commerce.” Chang is currently taking six credits toward an Associate Degree in Child Development.

For more information about the Adult Academic Program call 763-504-8300.
Robbinsdale Area Schools
763-504-8000 • www.rdale.k12.mn.us

Superintendent of Schools
Stan F. Mack II 763-504-8011

School Board Members
Mary Moreira mary_moreira@rdale.k12.mn.us 763-504-7993
Deb Oetjens deb_oetjens@rdale.k12.mn.us 763-504-7995
Linda Johnson linda_johnson@rdale.k12.mn.us 763-504-7994
Helen Bassett helen_bassett@rdale.k12.mn.us 763-504-7997
Patsy Green patsy_green@rdale.k12.mn.us 763-504-7992
Barb Van Heel barb_vanheel@rdale.k12.mn.us 763-504-7996
Brad Brown brad_brown@rdale.k12.mn.us 763-504-7998

School Board Contact Information
Group Voice Mail 763-504-7990
Group E-Mail school_board@rdale.k12.mn.us
Web Site www.rdale.k12.mn.us/dist/district/school_board

Watch Your School Board Meetings on TV
School board meetings are broadcast live on Ed’s TV, cable channel
22, and replayed the same week on Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.,
Thursday at 8 a.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m.

Your Opportunity for Public Input
Public listening sessions are held at 6 p.m. before the first meeting of
each month. You do not need an appointment to participate.

School Board Meeting Schedule: Everyone is Invited
to Attend!
School board meetings are open to the public from 7 to 9 p.m. at the
Education Service Center in New Hope. Please see the district web
site for a meeting schedule.

District News
Get up-to-date district news by subscribing to eNews today. Sign up
at www.rdale.k12.mn.us.

Check Radio, TV and Web for School Closing Information
Decisions to close school, or start late due to severe weather are
usually made by 5:30 a.m. Check the district Web site at www.rdale.
k12.mn.us for up-to-date school closing information, or tune to
WCCO radio 830 AM, WCCO-TV channel 4, KSTP-TV channel
5, KMSP-TV channel 9, KARE-TV channel 11 or Cable TV
channel 12.
General Election for School Board Members is November 8

Voters will select school board members from eight candidates in a general election November 8, 2005. Four at-large positions are open on the Board of Education for Robbinsdale Area Schools.

The candidates are Patricia (Patsy) Green, New Hope; Ken Hooker, New Hope; Linda Johnson, Golden Valley; Dan Larson, New Hope; Paul Magnuson, Robbinsdale; Sherry Tyrrell, Crystal; Barb Van Heel, Robbinsdale and Thomas J. Walsh, Plymouth.

Green, Johnson and Van Heel are incumbents. Profiles and photographs of each of the candidates can be seen on pages 4–11 of this issue of School Performances.

There are seven positions on the school board, which include a chair, vice-chair, treasurer, clerk and three directors. Each board member serves four years—three positions will be up for election in 2007.

The school district web site, at www.rdale.k12.mn.us, lists necessary election information for voters, including a sample ballot, a map of precincts and polling places and a text list of polling places.

A primary election was held in September to narrow the field of candidates for the general election to eight. The results are also posted to the district web site.

Absentee Voting

You are eligible to vote by absentee ballot if:

• You will be absent from the precinct on Election Day.
• You have an illness or disability.
• You are following a religious discipline or observance of a religious holiday.
• You are an election judge serving in another precinct.

Absentee ballots are available 30 days before an election. If you are not registered to vote, a card will be included with your ballot and must be returned with the ballot. General election absentee voting will take place from Friday, October 7, 2005, through Monday, November 7, 2005.

Absentee voters may vote in person or complete the entire process by mail. Vote in person Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and Monday, November 7, 2005 between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at:

Robbinsdale Area Schools Education Service Center
4148 Winnetka Avenue North
New Hope, MN

For more information about the election, or to obtain an absentee ballot by mail, call 763-504-8038.
Patricia (Patsy) Green
5936 West Meadow Lake Road
New Hope, MN 55428
763-535-7750 (home)
patsygreen281@yahoo.com

Number of years in the district: 17

Family
Husband, Larry Green, 2 children attending Cooper and Armstrong High School

Education
Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of North Dakota

Employment
General Mills, Inc., www.skyboxsportscene.com

Community Service
Neighborhood Watch Co-Captain-12 years, served on New Hope Planning Commission, hockey and soccer booster clubs volunteer, serve in various church ministries and taught Sunday school, past Girl Scout volunteer and Destination Imagination coach

District Involvement
Vice Chair of Robbinsdale Area School board, member of the Community Education Advisory Committee, Systems Accountability Committee, Robbinsdale Legislative Action Coalition, Government Advisory Council, Minnesota School Board Association; past involvement includes: board member of Intermediate District 287, Interschool Council, PTA President, ECFE Parent Advisory Council Chair

Why I want to serve on the school board
Academic excellence in our schools I believe strongly is a key strength of our communities. I seek re-election to further engage us all in the education of our youth and to enhance academic opportunities for students of all ages. The goals I am committed to meet include increased accountability, continuing improvements toward safe, healthy learning environments for our students and staff, and enriching curriculum choices.

I will continue to work hard on the challenges facing our district from declining enrollment, un-funded federal and state government mandates, and fiscal constraints. Please become involved and vote November 8.
Ken Hooker
8308 34th Avenue North
New Hope, MN 55427
763-544-2382 (home)  612-910-0884 (work)
pres1833@qwest.net

Years lived in District: 26

Children
Kevin, age 19, Sonnesyn Elementary, Plymouth
Middle School, Armstrong High School
Jack, age 5, Sonnesyn Elementary
Ryan, age 3, Cavanagh Special Education Program

Education
Montini Catholic High School, Lombard, IL
College of DuPage, Junior College, Glen Ellen, IL
Southwest State University, Marshall, MN
Leadership Classes at William W. Winpisinger
Education and Technology Center, Hollywood
Maryland

Degree
Physical Education & Health Education B.S.
Teaching Certificate K-12, Mankato State University
High School Football Coaching Certificate
Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America

Employment
Northwest Airlines, Inc.
Ground Service Operations – 22 years
President, International Association of Machinists
and Aerospace Workers, Airline Local Lodge 1833
– 3 years and present position.
Vice President, IAMAW Airline Local 1833 –
2 years
Shop Steward, IAMAW Airline Local 1833 –
19 years

Community Service
Former Cub Master, Boy Scouts of America;
Sonnesyn Elementary
Former Scoutmaster, Boy Scouts of America;
Brunswick United Methodist Church, Crystal MN
Guide Dogs Of America

Why I want to serve on the school board
The decision we make on behalf of our children's education effects more than just
the classroom—they impact the future of our communities and are a strong influence
in the development of an educated workforce. There is nothing more important to
me than making sure we can provide the opportunities our student's need that will ensure
their success.

My employment and executive involvement on other boards have afforded me
the chance to work through tough financial and management decisions—experience imperative to ensuring the success of our actions. Our already excellent system has
the potential of becoming even greater.
Why I want to serve on the school board

Good planning, efficient use of funds, and effective communication are essential for a strong district. As a school board member, I have listened to all viewpoints, studied the facts, and carefully considered the options to arrive at solutions in the best interest of the entire district. We need to:

- Focus on educational programming that maximizes student achievement.
- Ensure safe, supportive, and cooperative learning environments.
- Partner with our families and community to support every student’s learning.

I am committed to using my knowledge, experience, and integrity to continue to make a positive impact in our district and help all students succeed.

**Linda Johnson**

2417 Douglas Drive North
Golden Valley, MN 55422
763-546-1585 (home) 763-546-2416 (work)
lindaforlearning@comcast.net

**Years lived in District:** 26

**Children**

Andrea, age 24, Robbinsdale Armstrong Graduate
Becky, age 24, Robbinsdale Armstrong Graduate
Chris, age 15, Robbinsdale Armstrong freshman

**Education Background**

BS in Medical Technology-University of Minnesota
Certificate of Training-University of St. Thomas
Advanced Board Academy Graduate-Minnesota School Boards Association

**Employment**

Training and Development Consultant-Linda Johnson Seminars
Previously Sales/Marketing Manager, Product Manager, Clinical Research Scientist

**Community Service**

Envision Golden Valley-facilitator • Mentor to parents of deaf/hard of hearing children • Religious education teacher, church newsletter editor and hospitality minister • Girl Scout cookie mom, Boy Scout Webelo Camp volunteer • Athletic organizations-tournament chair, team parent, volunteer

**District Involvement**

Robbinsdale Area Schools-District 281
School Board Director since 2002-Chair 2 years,
Treasurer 1½ years • Special Education Advisory Committee-Board Liaison 4 years • Interschool Council-Board Liaison 4 years, Parent Member 4 years, Treasurer 2 years • Systems Accountability Committee-Parent Member 3 years • Neill PT-SA-President, Vice President, Lead Room Parent, Committee Chair • Sandburg PTSO-Treasurer, Fun Fair Chair • Armstrong Parent Association-Treasurer • Read Naturally volunteer • We Care About Kids volunteer

Intermediate School District 287
School Board Director since 2002 representing District 281-Vice Chair, Clerk • Special Education Board Advisory Committee-Chair • Finance Board Advisory Committee-Member

**Why I want to serve on the school board**

Good planning, efficient use of funds, and effective communication are essential for a strong district. As a school board member, I have listened to all viewpoints, studied the facts, and carefully considered the options to arrive at solutions in the best interest of the entire district. We need to:

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Golden Valley, MN 55422
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lindaforlearning@comcast.net

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Previously Sales/Marketing Manager, Product Manager, Clinical Research Scientist

**Community Service**

Envision Golden Valley-facilitator • Mentor to parents of deaf/hard of hearing children • Religious education teacher, church newsletter editor and hospitality minister • Girl Scout cookie mom, Boy Scout Webelo Camp volunteer • Athletic organizations-tournament chair, team parent, volunteer

**District Involvement**

Robbinsdale Area Schools-District 281
School Board Director since 2002-Chair 2 years,
Treasurer 1½ years • Special Education Advisory Committee-Board Liaison 4 years • Interschool Council-Board Liaison 4 years, Parent Member 4 years, Treasurer 2 years • Systems Accountability Committee-Parent Member 3 years • Neill PT-SA-President, Vice President, Lead Room Parent, Committee Chair • Sandburg PTSO-Treasurer, Fun Fair Chair • Armstrong Parent Association-Treasurer • Read Naturally volunteer • We Care About Kids volunteer

Intermediate School District 287
School Board Director since 2002 representing District 281-Vice Chair, Clerk • Special Education Board Advisory Committee-Chair • Finance Board Advisory Committee-Member

**Why I want to serve on the school board**

Good planning, efficient use of funds, and effective communication are essential for a strong district. As a school board member, I have listened to all viewpoints, studied the facts, and carefully considered the options to arrive at solutions in the best interest of the entire district. We need to:

- Focus on educational programming that maximizes student achievement.
- Ensure safe, supportive, and cooperative learning environments.
- Partner with our families and community to support every student’s learning.

I am committed to using my knowledge, experience, and integrity to continue to make a positive impact in our district and help all students succeed.
Dan Larson
8800 61st Avenue N
New Hope, MN 55428
763-535-5914
dan.larson@anoka.k12.mn.us

Years lived in District: 22

Children
Billy, age 20, Robbinsdale Cooper class of 2003, now at Concordia College, Moorhead
Betsy, age 18, Robbinsdale Cooper class of 2005, now at Concordia College, Moorhead
Rebecca, age 15, sophomore at Robbinsdale Cooper

Education
Masters Degree in Learning – University of Saint Thomas, St. Paul 1988
Bachelors Degree – Augsburg College, Minneapolis 1977
K-12 - Anoka-Hennepin School District #11

Employment
Science teacher at Anoka High School (24 yr), previously Blaine High School, Alden-Conger
Public School, Hosterman Junior High

Community Service
My service at church consists of many committees and activities over the years including board of elders, financial secretary, senior high youth leader, choir member (vocal and bell), Sunday school teacher, and children’s choir director.
I coached youth soccer (2 yr) and baseball (6 yr) in Armstrong Cooper Athletic Association.
I am presently active as a Boy Scout leader (10 yr) including scoutmaster, venture crew advisor, and a member of the council protestant committee.
I have been involved in numerous committees at Anoka High School and the Anoka-Hennepin School District including the On Site Council and the Science Study Committee.
I am presently on the Minnesota State Science Teachers Association board and have been active in numerous state science teachers’ functions.

District Involvement
My service includes the superintendent’s key communicators, building analysis and bond issue task force, volunteer (visiting scientist) at RSI and PTO at RSI. I am a frequent visitor to listening hour with the school board.

Why I want to serve on the school board
I would like to see a school district where all parts of the district work together to provide a high quality, well rounded education for our students. The three key things I feel are necessary to accomplish this follow. First, the district leadership needs to have good long term planning. Second, the leadership needs to communicate issues to the public, students and employees. Third, the leadership needs to listen to the responses and to make modifications when appropriate. I would work with these goals in mind for all our learners from our preschool children to our adults.
Why I want to serve on the school board

Three areas of public education need constant attention:
- School must be safe. No other goals can be realized if children aren’t safe.
- School must be fair. The achievement gap is real and needs to be continuously monitored. All students should have every opportunity to excel.
- School must be challenging. Gifted and talented education should be approached as the norm. High expectations, with the proper support, lead to high achievement.

I hope to listen, and when appropriate, to advocate, for these three essential themes on behalf of the District 281 community.
Sherry Tyrrell
3344 Wisconsin Avenue N
Crystal, MN 55427
763-546-8449
ThreeBTS@aol.com

Number of years in District: 16

Children
Bryson, 20, Hennepin Tech
Brittney, 18, Hennepin Tech
Brandon, 18, University of Minnesota-Duluth

Education
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Majored in Political Science, minors in English and History

Employment
Own and run in-home daycare for 16 years

Community Service

District Involvement

Why I want to serve on the school board
There is nothing more important than educating the children in our community. We have an outstanding district that reaches across both city and economic boundaries. I would represent all our children regardless of those boundaries. I have taken on many leadership roles that work toward improvement of the whole. As a community we passed the “Everyone Benefits” Referendum on the promise of honesty, openness, inclusion and fiscal responsibility between our school district and our community. As a board member I would honor that commitment always aware that the community must be engaged and informed and that promises must be kept.
Barb Van Heel
4540 Scott Avenue N
Robbinsdale, MN 55422
763-536-0415
barb_vanheel@rdale.k12.mn.us
rbvh85@juno.com

Years in District: 44

Children
Jasmine: Noble, Lakeview, Hosterman, Cooper, class of 1997
Joshua: Northport, Lakeview, TLC, Cooper, class of 1999
Nathan: Lakeview, Forest, TLC, Cooper, class of 2003
Alissa: Lakeview, Forest, TLC, Cooper, class of 2005

Education
Robbinsdale High School, class of 1975
North Hennepin Community College
University of Minnesota

Employment
Child Care Provider

Community Service
Robbinsdale Little League Coach
Robbinsdale Park and Recreation Softball Coach
NHCP Swim Club, Newsletter Chair, Secretary, Senior VP, President

District Involvement
School Board Member
PTA President
PTA Treasurer
Site Council Member
Fundraiser Chairperson
Circus Fundraiser, Ticket Sales Chair
Spring Raffle Co-Chair
Odyssey of the Mind Coach
Read Program Coordinator
Cooper Music Boosters Newsletter Chair
Volunteer Tutor
Room Parent
Classroom Reading Volunteer

Why I want to serve on the school board
It was an honor being elected in 2001. Since then, I have learned more about the complexity of our district and challenges facing public schools. Thanks to our dedicated staff and supportive community, we have tackled many of these challenges. We made difficult budget decisions to live within our means and we are beginning to make systemic changes to meet new government mandates. Moving forward, I believe experienced and consistent leadership is vital for the success of all our students and greater community. In asking for your vote again, I would also like to thank you for your past support.
Tom Walsh
10015 31st Avenue N
Plymouth, MN 55441
763-593-1013
walsh016@umn.edu

Years in District: 37

Children
Brendan, 27, Armstrong High School class of 1996
Alex, 24, Armstrong High School class of 1999
Ryan, 21, Armstrong High School class of 2002
Jason, 13, TLC/Robbinsdale Middle School

Education
B.S. Physics, University of Minnesota, 1974, plus graduate work in Physics
Russian Linguist, Defense Language Institute, 1971
Graduate, Robbinsdale High School, 1966

Employment
Information Systems Consultant, Karlsson Consulting Group

Community Service
• Youth soccer coach
• Assistant coach for youth baseball and Minnesota Youth Ski League
• YMCA Y-Guides Band Leader and Navigator
• Neighborhood National Night Out Coordinator, last four years
• Volunteer for numerous charities

District Involvement
• Youth soccer coach
• Assistant coach for youth baseball and Minnesota Youth Ski League
• YMCA Y-Guides Band Leader and Navigator
• Neighborhood National Night Out Coordinator, last four years
• Volunteer for numerous charities

Why I want to serve on the school board
I am committed to helping our schools provide the best possible education to our children. My experience on the reorganization committees and as TLC Site Council Chair, my work with kids, my knowledge of legislative issues, and my analytical expertise enable me to help the District anticipate and meet the challenges it will face. My priorities include:
• Helping every student succeed in school
• Providing safe, healthy, welcoming learning environments
• Enhancing core academic learning, including math and the sciences, and maintaining our excellent arts programs
• Forging stronger relationships with our families, communities and businesses
• Being an advocate for our schools
• Developing a comprehensive, fiscally sound, long-range District plan
In 2018, current kindergarten students like Max Byzewski, left, will graduate from high school. From now until then, they’ll learn about nouns, fractions, constellations, revolutions and so much more. Max is now focusing on “numbers, letters and stuff” and singing lots of songs in his classroom. He is also building friendships with Francisca, Cheyenne, Danny and others at Sonnesyn Elementary. Teacher Stacy Lundblad says her kindergartners are curious, energetic and excited about everything.