

HOS Report 3/21/24

Charter Day at the Capitol

March 13th was Charter Day at the Capitol. I met with Senator Miller and Representative Pelowski. This is my first time back there in 6 years, and I pointed out that in that time, nothing has actually changed for the positive regarding charter schools. Still no facility ownership, still nothing close to equalization (and some would argue the funding gap has increased), and both engaged in interesting discussions about the increasing socioeconomic divides that exist in Winona relative to education.

Kevin Krieg, the Director at Riverway, joined me. He is an excellent communicator and storyteller. We urged both legislators to, at the very least, make a push to help us/MACS get the facilities bill heard. This bill fits what the legislators are doing right now, notably under the Governors directive of no new funding this session, as they scramble to reinforce initiatives from the last session. Neither of us were optimistic that our visit made a difference, but sincere efforts are being made.

Read Act

Work on selecting a professional development platform from the three approved by MDE as required by the Read Act by the Academic Practices Committee. All 3 have been reviewed, and the Committee co-chairs are drafting a presentation to the teaching staff for next month's teacher meeting based on the team's review of the options. A suggestion will be made, discussion will be had, and we will hopefully come to a decision at that time. It is worth noting that all 3 options have some great pieces to them, and each would offer good development opportunities. Here is the MDE webpage if you would like more information: <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/READ/>

Covid 19 Plan

As we still have ESSER money, we are still obligated to maintain a plan and review it every 6 months. This should be the last review required. That said, the plan is very different from the previous versions. The CDC has basically said to lump it in with other respiratory illnesses. Approval of the consent agenda equates to approval of the new Covid plan draft in your folders.

Upcoming Board election nominations update

We have one nominee for each open seat at this time. This Call for Nominations doc is now on the school website, here for reference: <https://www.bluffviewmontessori.org/governance/>

Hiawatha Ed Foundation

Spring submission and annual report for FY24 submitted.

Strategic Plan planning

I have 2 facilitators in mind so far-Cheryl Glasser from Achieve Consulting and Gail Gilman from MSBA. Diane Amundson is retiring, so I will work to find one more. I have contact requests out to Midwest Studies Group and Big Rivers Consulting at the recommendation of other charter leaders (one was from a Montessori school as requested).

Local Literacy Plan

The new local literacy plan, as required by the Read Act, is being drafted. MDE shared a template, which I am using to draft this new plan. It is replacing the Read Well by Third Grade plan, and

outlines our efforts in literacy education. The final plan draft will come to the board for approval in April or May. The state reporting is due in June, just like the Read Well data was.

Potential first week of school transportation

WAPS admin has offered the following next steps:

1. Formalize an agreement between WAPS and Bluffview that outlines the specific costs associated with providing transportation for those additional days plus any staffing costs that will be required to create and implement this plan. This agreement would indicate that WAPS will issue an invoice directly to Bluffview for these services while First Student will continue to invoice WAPS directly.
2. Present this agreement to our finance committee for approval. This meeting would occur on April 9.
3. After moving through the finance committee, the agreement would proceed to the full school board for approval at their April 18 meeting.

*There will be a date built into the agreement where Bluffview would then be committed to the expenses. That date would likely be the point where WAPS needs to start putting human hours into planning and executing the routes. The final agreement will come to the BMS board after it's moved through the WAPS process and we will still have the opportunity to opt out. I wouldn't expect that we'd need a firm commitment until we get to the start of summer.

CAPP Perpich Committee work

The draft strategic plan was submitted in February as required, unlocking the money tied to the first of 2 deliverables this year. The committee met this week and refined some of the plan, working from the feedback given by the program director. We will meet one more time next month, with the goal to get a draft to the board the following month.

BMS scorecard from VOA

We received another very positive scorecard from VOA. I would suggest that you review each of the Standards and bring questions or comments as this is a very important piece of being a charter school. The authorizer evaluation of how we operate is key to our securing another contract with them in the future.

Overall, I feel that this scorecard strongly acknowledges the hard work and dedication that we all place as a priority to the responsibilities relative to running the school. It is great to be working with an authorizer that has a good process, good documentation, and works to see their schools succeed.