

Superintendent Saga - January 19, 2018

Congratulations to both Warbotics and LEGO the Woods teams who will be moving on to State Lego League competitions. The State LEGO league championship will be Saturday, Feb 24th at Washington Technology Magnet School in St. Paul.

Board members Christine Laznicka and Laurie Thompson, and I attended the Minnesota School Board Association Leadership Conference last week. The 2018 MSBA Leadership Conference, "*Student Achievement: Passion, Perseverance and Possibility*," was held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. MSBA provides this free conference every January as part of members' annual dues. The conference featured nationally recognized speakers Mark J. Lindquist and Manny Scott, workshops and round table sessions on a variety of topics, a Show and Tell event, and a trade show.

I learned many things at the conference but my most profound takeaway was from Manny Scott's closing keynote. The work that is done by everyone in the District is important and has unknown effects on students. He at one point used the old adage about how you can lead a horse to water but you cannot make it drink. There is no denying this truth but he added a new twist. Even though you cannot make the horse drink you can provide the salt that will makes it thirsty.

The School Board received the FY2017 Financial Audit at the regular meeting on Tuesday, January 16th. The District received a "clean" audit. The District's unrestricted fund balance increased from \$1,836,508 to \$3,067,615. This fund balance allows us to make changes and improvements in the way we provide learning opportunities for our students.

On Wednesday, January 17 Facilities Director Kelly Klein and I travelled to Thief River Falls to present to the Senate Capital Investment Committee regarding our request for bonding money to do an addition to the Angle Inlet School. Our ask is small but of great significance to the Warroad Public School District and especially to the students attending the Angle Inlet School. The presentation was well received by the members of the committee.

I returned from TRF in time to present on the state of the District at the Annual Banquet of the Warroad Chamber of Commerce. I appreciate all opportunities to keep the community informed about what is happening in the schools.

A public performance by our One Act Play team will be held on Sunday January 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the High School Theater- all are welcome! A free will donation will be taken. "A Moment's Pause" by Tim Mogford is about a high school girl who is at a party and ends up in a strange room where she is put on trial for the decisions she has made. It is a dramatic play with a great message for students. The play runs around 30 minutes.

A Special Meeting of the School Board will be held at noon on Thursday, January 25th. The main reason for the meeting is to approve the application for the Innovation Research

Zone Pilot program. Additional items may be added before the agenda is posted on Monday.

Quote of the week:

“What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.” Henry David Thoreau

