

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT #624**



**WORK-STUDY
AGENDA**

August 22, 2011

To: Members of the School Board

From: Dr. Michael J. Lovett
Superintendent of Schools

Date: August 11, 2011

A work-study session of the White Bear Lake Area School Board will be held on Monday, August 22, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. in Room 201 at the District Center, 4855 Bloom Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN.

WORK-STUDY AGENDA

A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. Call To Order
2. Roll Call

B. DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Review of Proposed School Board/Superintendent Goals for 2011-12 5:30 p.m.
2. Overview of Student Achievement Results for 2010-11 6:00 p.m.
3. Communication Plan for Referendum Levy Renewal 6:30 p.m.
- **4. Negotiations Study Session 7:15 p.m.

C. ADJOURNMENT 8:00 p.m.

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| <p>**This portion of the meeting may be closed to consider strategy for labor negotiations, including negotiation strategies or developments or discussion and review of labor negotiation proposals, conducted pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 179.A.01 to 179.A.25.</p> |
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AGENDA ITEM: **School Board/Superintendent Goals for 2011-12**
MEETING DATE: **August 22, 2011**
SUGGESTED DISPOSITION: **Discussion Item**
CONTACT PERSON(S): **Dr. Michael J. Lovett, Superintendent**

Background:

During the 2010-11 school year the School Board and Superintendent were guided by School Board/Superintendent goals identified in the summer of 2010 and regularly updated throughout the course of the school year. A final copy was presented at the July School Board meeting, documenting progress during the year.

In preparation for the 2011-12 school year, the School Board approved strategic planning recommendations at our June meeting. This evening we will discuss the goals currently being considered, and with action on the goals anticipated at the September 12 School Board meeting.

These goals are important in that they establish a clear framework for instructional, programmatic and financial accountability, and ongoing improvements.

Recommendations:

- 1) To review the goals and provide suggestions or feedback to the administration; the goals will be placed on the September 12 School Board meeting agenda or subsequent meetings as an operational item for action; and
- 2) The administration will provide public updates on the status of School Board/Superintendent goals for 2011-12 regularly throughout the school year.

**White Bear Lake Area School District #624
School Board/Superintendent Goals
2011-2012**

Goal I: Implement the Strategic Plan as approved by the School Board on June 13, 2011.

Strategy I: We will develop a comprehensive understanding of our students' needs and interests to ensure students are challenged and excelling academically.

- I.1 All students will achieve grade level in reading, writing, and math by grade 4 and maintain grade level proficiency throughout their tenure in White Bear Lake Schools.
- I.2 All students will have an ongoing plan for post-secondary readiness that will be monitored from grades 6 through 12 and all students will have the academic skills to be successful in a post-secondary institution.

Strategy II: We will create and implement a plan for global experiences and relationships to further understand world connections.

- II.1 All students will expand their global perspective through the study of world language and culture at the elementary schools. (STIPULATION - within each school, one or more options will be available to study world language and culture)
- II.2 Secondary students will develop global understanding and competitiveness through expanded world language opportunities at the secondary level.

Strategy III: We will ensure our facilities support our district's mission and objectives.

- III.4 The District will ensure that square footage to accommodate student population and program activities are equitable for all buildings.
- III.7 Each District facility will have appropriate acoustical levels for the site.
- III.9 District facilities will be designed to allow for informational technology to be accessible by all ISD 624 employees, learners and families.

Strategy IV: We will create a district-wide culture that inspires innovation, a passion for learning, and confidence to pursue dreams.

- IV.1. The WBLAS will identify strengths and weaknesses in the areas of innovation, confidence to pursue dreams, and passion for learning.
- IV.3. Faculty will have the skills to implement collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills within their lesson plans.
- IV.5. Self-awareness and emotional intelligence curriculum will be incorporated within the curriculum review cycle.
- IV.10. A process will be established to facilitate the collection and implementation of innovative ideas.
- IV.12. The District will enhance communication, interaction, and collaboration through the use of a web site.
- IV.13. The District will establish a learning management system to support the development and management of online coursework to allow web-based learning for staff and students.
- IV.14. A policy will be developed and presented for board approval that leverages students' access to mobile technology and use of that technology in the classroom.

Strategy V: We will build a network of partnerships to provide personal and educational growth and service opportunities for students.

- V.1. The District will implement a process that will provide a consistent method to initiate and maintain community partnerships.
- V.2. A comprehensive needs assessment will be developed and administered at every WBL school in order to provide direction to future partnerships.
- V.3. The District will create a process which aligns a partner with a compelling need or promising vision.
- V.5. The District will communicate information related to partnerships using a variety of resources.

Strategy VI: We will foster connections with and among students and staff members to ensure all feel valued, supported and understood; and we will establish an environment that cultivates understanding and respect for differences among people.

- VI.1. The District will adopt a comprehensive bullying prevention, intervention, and support program for students and staff that promotes a safe, civil, and inclusive climate and is implemented in each building, program, and service.
- VI.2. The District will increase the number of faculty and staff from culturally diverse communities to more closely reflect the diversity of the student population.
- VI.5. The District will provide programming that will continue to create an environment of understanding similarities and differences among students, staff, administration, community members, and parents.
- VI.6. The District will review and assess the current plan related to cultural competency.

Goal 2: Ongoing Financial Stewardship and Budget Management

Goal: Considering the budgetary challenges resulting from decisions of the 2011 Legislative session, and a long period of little increase in state funding, continue to identify greater efficiencies in operations to help maintain financial stability and to continue improvements in program quality and student success.

Rationale: Over the past decade, the District has established an excellent record of financial management, as evidenced by ten consecutive years of recognition for excellence in financial reporting by both ASBO and GFOA, and also achieving an AA Bond Rating in 2008.

However, considering the financial challenges presented by the slowly recovering economy, the state's continuing budget challenges and the district's need to renew its operating levy this fall, it is important for the District to continue with strategies to meet these challenges to help maintain financial stability.

Evaluation: The District's ongoing financial stewardship on investments and budget management will be reviewed annually as part of the financial audit. The audit report is presented to the Finance Committee in the fall and to the School Board and public at the regular school board meeting in December.

Goal 3. Complete Next Stage of Communications and Marketing Plan for the District

Goals:

- a. Implement Phase II of the Communications and Marketing plan presented to the School Board in July, 2010.
- b. Develop a comprehensive communications plan for the referendum levy campaign in the fall of 2011.

Rationale: The implementation of successful outreach initiatives is especially important in the current environment, as area school districts compete for students. A net gain in open enrollment numbers would provide the District with financial benefits.

It is important for the District to understand perspectives of White Bear Lake area community members in order to remain a trusted steward of resources. Responsible stewardship is an important component in continued community support.

A long-range vision and plan about District communications ensures resources are appropriately utilized. Additionally, it is beneficial to have such a plan to allow for prioritization of communications and marketing projects and activities.

Evaluation: The communications and marketing plan will serve as a base against which current and future communications and marketing projects and ideas will be analyzed. The plan will be evaluated periodically to ensure it continues to be in alignment with the District's objectives. This objective builds on the successful communications initiatives during 2010-11.

One key evaluation piece will be whether or not a levy referendum passes in the fall of 2011.

Goal 4. Operational Improvements

- a. Building on the improvements made during 2010-11, prepare a program review of the District's food service program, including:
 - Redesign the elementary menu to include at least two entrée choices with one vegetarian choice each day with an acceptable gluten free option.
 - Implement the new USDA Nutritional Standards for all White Bear Lake menus.
 - Improve employee efficiency and productivity by providing resources for training, education, and networking with other school district nutrition programs.
 - Implement student lunch committees in buildings for the purpose of providing a format to gain input from stakeholders.
- b. Design and implement a comprehensive program for recognizing students, staff, and community.
- c. Continue Phase II of the Technology Audit completed during January of 2010, building on the work done during the 2010-11 school year.

AGENDA ITEM: **Overview of Student Achievement Results for 2010-11**

MEETING DATE: **August 22, 2011**

SUGGESTED DISPOSITION: **Discussion Item**

CONTACT PERSON(S): **Dr. Michael Lovett, Superintendent**
David Law, Assistant Superintendent
Mary McGrane, Student and Instructional Assessment and
Accountability Coordinator

BACKGROUND:

At our August School Board meeting, Coordinator of Assessment Mary McGrane presented information on student measures of growth as demonstrated by MCA scores in reading and mathematics for students in grades 1 through 10. She also presented information on the 2011 state writing test given to ninth graders.

On both of these tests, White Bear Lake Area Schools students showed exceptional results. In reading our growth scores averaged 1 year, 5 months and in mathematics student growth averaged 1 year, 7 months. In the writing test, White Bear Lake Area students passed at a 96% rate, tied for first in the East Metro area.

During the second week of August, science results were made public, and have been reproduced in the local and state media. The District received our science results 48 hours before the data was released to the public. Monday's presentation will highlight our data scores and profile, what the data means, both for areas of affirmation and for future improvement, and some information on how we compare with other Metropolitan school districts.

Overall, White Bear Lake Area Schools' combined proficiency score for all science scores rank us seventh from the top of the 25 school districts in the East Side of the Metro, including the eight districts in our immediate comparison area, and the broader geography of districts to the north, east and south of St. Paul.

Our progress was especially impressive at the elementary level, with scores up eight percentage points over last year, giving us a two-year upward growth of seventeen percentage points. Otter Lake Elementary, at 74%, is a full 7% higher than the blended elementary scores from any other area district. Six of our eight elementary schools showed significant gains.

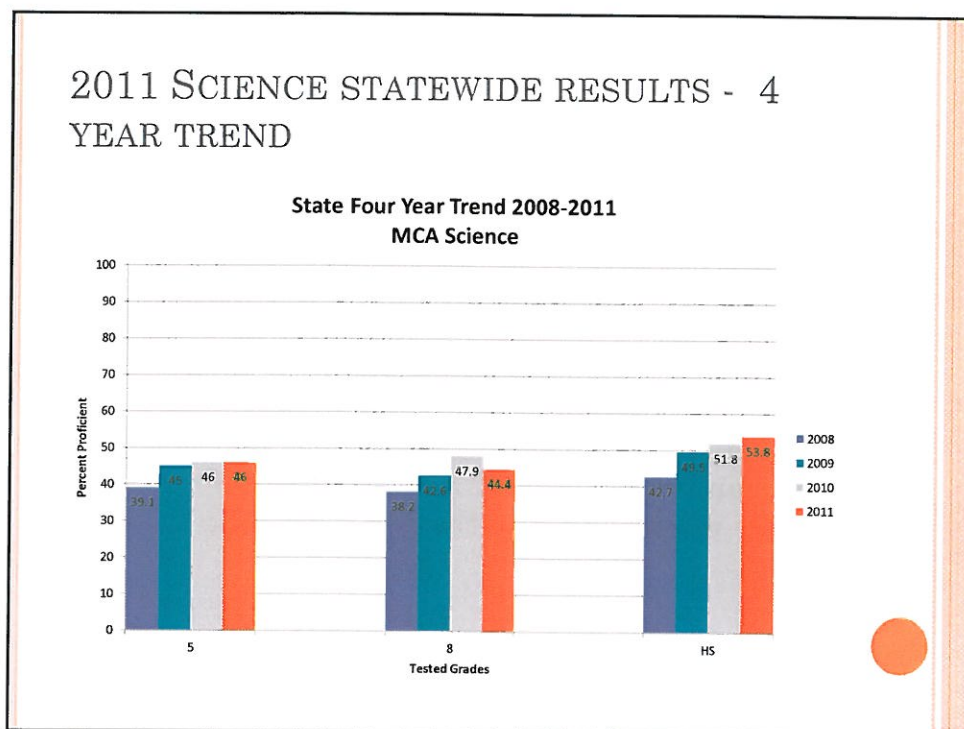
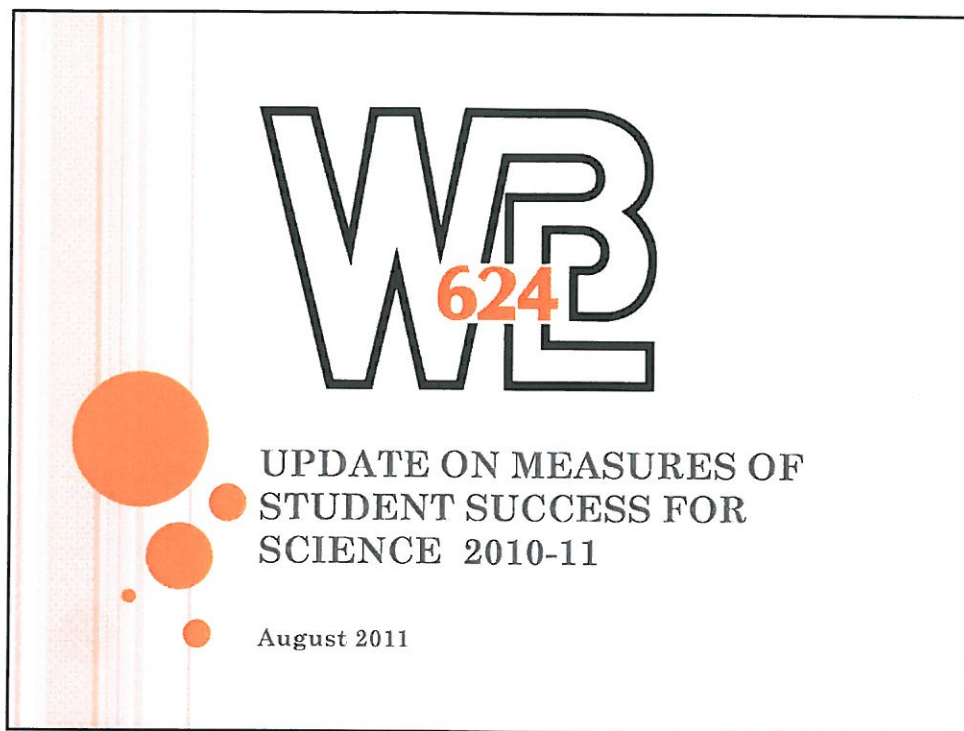
At the middle school level, our results were down, consistent with state-wide trends. We are analyzing this data to determine what portion of this might be contributed to the transition which

the state is going through in deciding which standards should be taught and what is tested at grade eight.

At the high school level, our North Campus scores are level with last years, which showed a 10 point gain between 2009 and 2010. The overall profile is brought down somewhat by other students who were tested at South Campus and ALC. Unlike MCA reading and math scores, where scores reported are only those for students who have been in our system for a full year, the MCA science scores reported reflect students who were with us at the time of testing. In other words, the testing of students at the ALC and South Campus may reflect students who are transfer students, but who did not have their science instruction in White Bear Lake Area Schools.

Overall, we want to acknowledge the exceptional growth at the elementary level, and believe that the foundation being developed through our new partnerships on engineering in the elementary schools, along with new strategies for helping students to understand science in-depth, are giving us a good foundation for students moving through the fifth grade level where the testing occurs. At the middle school, we need to better understand the link between the standards that are tested and the timeliness with which we are teaching the topic.

On Monday evening, Mary McGrane will base her presentation on the attached PowerPoint and will provide more detailed information on both the good news and the areas for future improvements.



STATEWIDE RESULTS SUMMARY

- About 54% of high school students were proficient, reflecting a consistent increase in the percentage of proficient scores each year since 2008.
- About 45% of eighth-grade students were proficient, representing a slight decline from 2010.
- 46% of fifth-graders were proficient, consistent with 2010.

POSSIBLE REASONS FOR MIXED RESULTS

The mixed results reflect in part by The **transition from teaching the 2003 academic standards** to teaching the new standards implemented in 2009. 2011 is the last year of administration of the Science MCA-II assessments based on the 2003 academic standards. **The 2012 Science MCA-III assessments will be based on the 2009 academic standards**

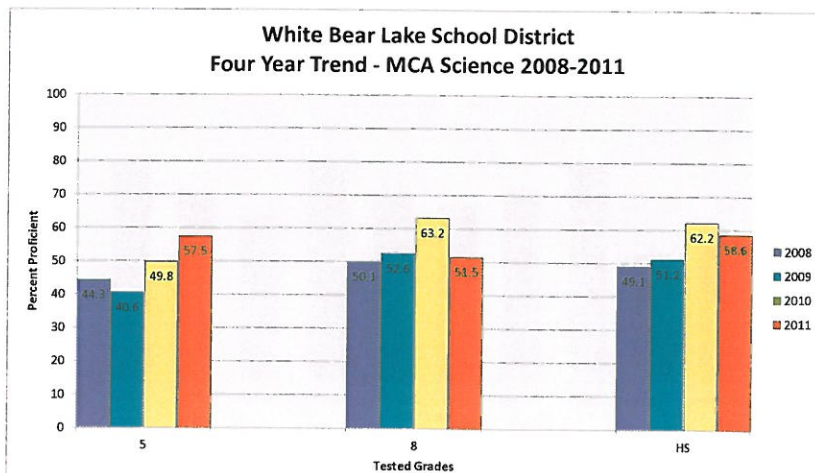
2011 SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- WBL Elementary Schools show an overall increase of 8 percentage points over 2010 scores and increase of 17 percentage points from 2009
- WBL High School Students show an overall increase of 10 percentage points from 2008
- WBL Schools at all tested grades outpace the state average
- Otter Elementary 5th graders demonstrated the highest proficiency level, with 74% of students proficient in science
- Otter and Matoska Elementary School students improved proficiency by at least 20 percentage points from 2010
- Lincoln, Birch and Oneka Elementary School students improved proficiency by 10 percentage points from 2010
- 6 of 8 elementary schools improved results from 2010

2011 WBL RESULTS - FOUR YEAR TREND

WBL Elementary Schools show an overall increase of 8 percentage points over 2010 scores and increase of 17 percentage points from 2009

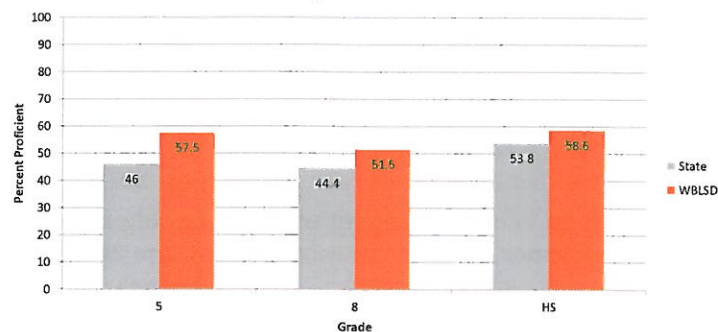
WBL High School Students show an overall increase of 10 percentage points from 2008



2011 MCA SCIENCE RESULTS

WBL Schools **outpace** the state by **12 percentage points** in elementary, **8 points** in middle school and **5 points** in high school

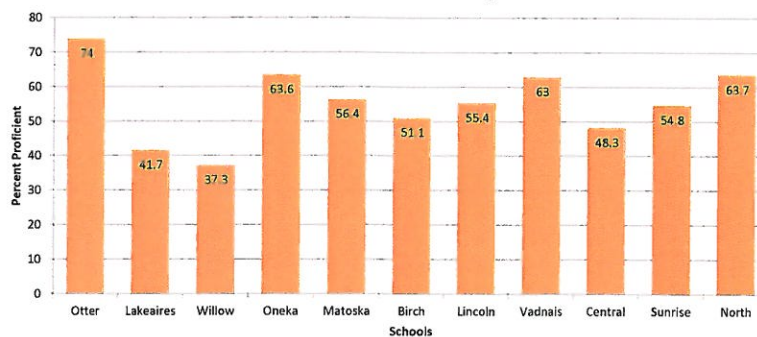
**White Bear Lake School District
2011 MCA Science Results
Compared to State**



2011 MCA SCIENCE RESULTS BY SCHOOL

Our top 3 elementary schools average 67% proficiency, **comparable or higher than the top 2 performing districts in the East Metro Region**, with **Otter Lake** outpacing the top 2 districts by **7 percentage points**

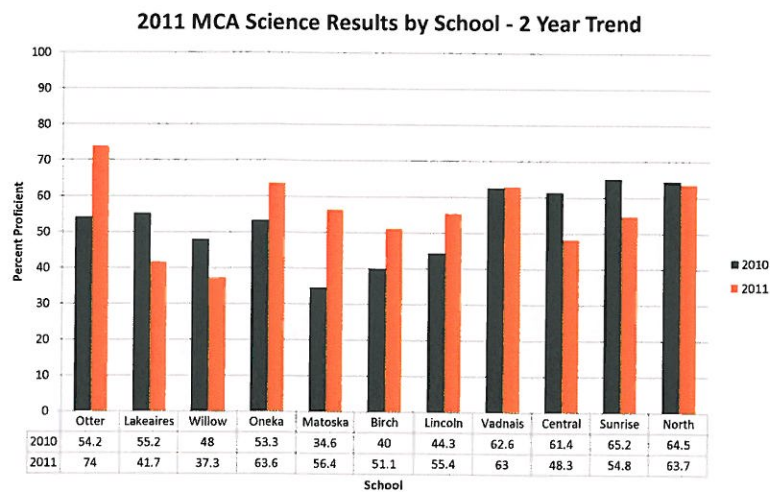
2011 MCA Science Results by School



2011 SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Otter Elementary 5th graders demonstrated the highest proficiency level , with 74% of students proficient in science
- Otter and Matoska Elementary School students improved proficiency by at least 20 percentage points from 2010
- Lincoln, Birch and Oneka Elementary School students improved proficiency by 10 percentage points from 2010
- 6 of 8 elementary schools improved results from 2010
- Middle School scores are on par with results from 2 years ago
- WBL High School Students show an overall increase of 10 percentage points from 2008 , while North Campus scores are similar to 2010

MCA SCIENCE RESULTS BY SCHOOL – 2 YEAR TREND – 2010 AND 2011

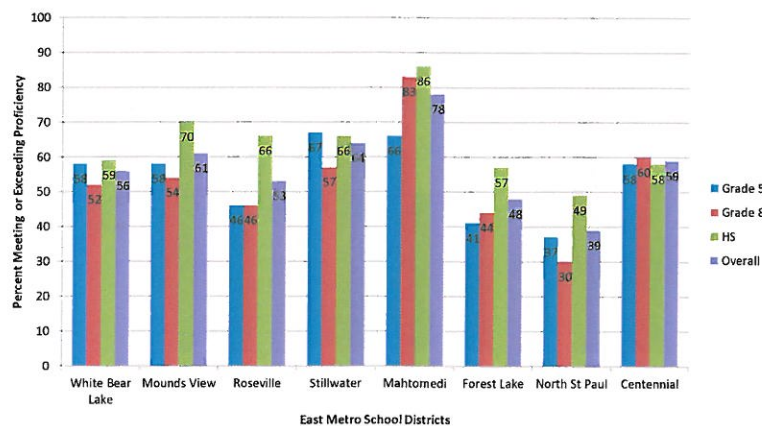


WBL HIGHLIGHTS- AS COMPARED TO NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS

- Otter Lake Elementary 5th graders scored 7 percentage points higher than the top two performing districts in the East Metro Region
- WBL Elementary Schools tied with Mounds View and Centennial for the 3rd highest average proficiency percentages in the area, outpaced only by Stillwater and Mahtomedi
- WBL students overall ranked 5 of 8 in the East Metro Region; however, in an expanded regional analysis of 25 metro districts, WBL ranked 7 of 25

WBL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMPARED TO NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS - 2011

2011 MCA II Science Results by District - Grades 5, 8, HS and Overall



DATA TO INFORM INSTRUCTION – STRAND ANALYSIS KEY POINTS

- We use strand data to understand curriculum alignment and instruction focus needs
- Students are tested in 2-4 strands: History and Nature of Science, Physical Science, Earth and Space Science and Life Science
- Overall strength is Life Science at the elementary level
- WBL is above state averages for all strands with the exception of one area, middle school Earth and Space Science (6.2 to 6.4 average points earned)
- Staff and teams will be analyzing data to inform instructional focus and content taught

DATA TO INFORM INSTRUCTION - AVERAGE POINTS EARNED PER STRAND - ELEMENTARY

Maximum points possible

Life Science – 8

Physical Science – 10

Earth and Space Science – 8

History and Nature of Science – 13

| | Total Number Tested | Mean Scale Score | History and Nature of Science | Physical Science | Earth and Space Science | Life Science |
|----------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| School | | | | | | |
| District | 583 | 551.9 | 8.2 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 7.9 |
| State | 59762 | 547.7 | 7.3 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 7.5 |

DATA TO INFORM INSTRUCTION -
AVERAGE POINTS EARNED PER STRAND -
MIDDLE

Maximum points possible

Life Science – 11

Physical Science -13

Earth and Space Science – 11

History and Nature of Science – 13

| | Total Number Tested | Mean Scale Score | History and Nature of Science | Physical Science | Earth and Space Science | Life Science |
|----------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| School | | | | | | |
| District | 603 | 849.5 | 8.0 | 8.3 | 6.2 | 8.4 |
| State | 59726 | 847.8 | 7.4 | 7.5 | 6.4 | 8.2 |

DATA TO INFORM INSTRUCTION -
AVERAGE POINTS EARNED PER STRAND
HIGH SCHOOL

Maximum points possible

Life Science – 42

History and Nature of Science – 20

| | Total Number Tested | Mean Scale Score | History and Nature of Science | Physical Science | Earth and Space Science | Life Science |
|----------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| School | | | | | | |
| District | 684 | 1050.5 | 13.9 | | | 25.0 |
| State | 59731 | 1049.0 | 13.0 | | | 24.4 |

AGENDA ITEM: **Communication Plan for Referendum Levy Renewal**

MEETING DATE: **August 22, 2011**

SUGGESTED DISPOSITION: **Discussion Item**

CONTACT PERSON(S): **Dr. Michael J. Lovett, Superintendent**
Marisa Vette, Director of Communications and
Community Relations

Background:

During the coming weeks the administration will be active with presentations to staff groups, school sites, and community groups to prepare for the renewal operating levy.

For our review during the meeting, we have attached the following:

- A. Tax Levy Informational Presentations for Municipal Boards
- B. Tax Levy Informational Presentations for PTO/PTAs
- C. Tax Levy Informational Presentations for Staff
- D. Tax Levy Informational Presentations for Legislators
- E. Tax Levy Informational Presentations for Area Meetings
- F. Tax Levy Informational Presentations for Other Groups

Recommendations:

To review the communication plan and provide suggestions or feedback to the administration.

Attachment A

Tax Levy Informational Presentations Municipal Boards

| Municipality | Date | Time | Location | Administrator | School Board |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| City of Hugo | Sept. 6, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. | Hugo City Hall | | |
| City of Vadnais Heights | Sept. 7, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. | Vadnais Heights Community Center | | |
| City of White Bear | Sept. 13, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. | W.B. City Hall | | |
| WB Town Board | Sept. 19, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. | Town Hall | | |

Tax Levy Informational Presentations PTO/PTA and Parent Groups

| School | Date | Time | Location | Administrator | School Board |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Birch Lake | September 13, 2011 | 6:45 p.m. | Media Center | | |
| Sunrise | September 15, 2011 | 9:30 a.m. | Media Center | | |
| Normandy | September 15, 2011 | 6:30 p.m. | Room 158 | | |
| Willow Lane | September 19, 2011 | 6:30 p.m. | Media Center | | |
| Lincoln | September 20, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. | Media Center | | |
| Vadnais Heights | September 27, 2011 | 6:30 p.m. | Media Center | | |
| Otter Lake | October 4, 2011 | 6:30 p.m. | Media Center | | |
| Central | October 6, 2011 | 6:30 p.m. | Media Center | | |
| North Campus | October 6, 2011 | 9:30 a.m. | North Campus | | |
| South Campus | October 6, 2011 | 9:30 a.m. | North Campus | | |
| Hugo/Oneka | October 11, 2011 | 4:30 p.m. | Media Center | | |
| Matoska | October 11, 2011 | 6:30 p.m. | Media Center | | |
| ALC | October 13, 2011 | 6:30 p.m. | ALC | | |
| Lakeaires | October 25, 2011 | 6:00 p.m. | Media Center | | |
| Normandy | TBD | | Normandy Park | | |

Tax Levy Informational Presentations Staff

| School | Date | Time | Location | Administrators | School Board |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Otter Lake | September 14, 2011 | 8:00 a.m. | Media Center | | |
| Normandy | September 19, 2011 | 11:50 a.m. | Normandy | | |
| Willow Lane | September 20, 2011 | 8:00 a.m. | Media Center | | |
| Vadnais Heights | September 22, 2011 | 8:00 a.m. | Media Center | | |
| ALC | September 23, 2011 | 7:00 a.m. | Room 101 | | |
| Lakeaires | September 23, 2011 | 8:15 a.m. | Media Center | | |
| North and South Campus | September 27, 2011 | 2:45 p.m. | South Campus | | |
| Lincoln | September 28, 2011 | 8:30 a.m. | Media Center | | |
| Birch Lake | September 29, 2011 | 8:15 a.m. | Media Center | | |
| Central and Sunrise | October 4, 2011 | 3:15 p.m. | Central Auditorium | | |
| Hugo/Oneka | October 5, 2011 | 8:00 a.m. | Media Center | | |
| Matoska | October 6, 2011 | 8:00 a.m. | Media Center | | |

Tax Levy Informational Presentations Legislators

| Legislator | Date | Time | Location | Administrators | School Board |
|--|-----------------|------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Rep. Dettmer and Rep. McFarlane | August 8, 2011 | 1:00 p.m. | District Center | Dr. Lovett Pete Willcoxon | Lori Swanson |
| Rep. Scalze | August 15, 2011 | 3:00 p.m. | District Center | Dr. Lovett Pete Willcoxon | Cathy Storey |
| Rep. Runbeck | August 17, 2011 | 3:00 p.m. | District Center | Dr. Lovett Pete Willcoxon | Lori Swanson |
| Rep. Dean | TBD | | | | |
| Rep. Lillie | TBD | | | | |
| Senator Chamberlain and Senator Vandever | August 22, 2011 | 2:30 p.m. | District Center | Dr. Lovett Pete Willcoxon | Lori Swanson |
| Senator Wiger | August 25, 2011 | 12:00 p.m. | Perkins (Snelling and County Rd B) | Dr. Lovett | Lori Swanson |
| Senator Marty | TBD | | | | |

**Tax Levy Informational Presentations
Area Meetings**

| Area | Date | Time | Location | Administrators | School Board |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Hugo | | | | | |
| White Bear Lake | October 6, 2011 | 7:00 p.m. | WBL City Council Chamber | Dr. Lovett Pete Willcoxon | |
| Vadnais Heights | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Tax Levy Informational Presentations
Other Groups

Tentative List

| Group | Date | Time | Location | Administrators | School Board |
|---------------------|------|------|----------|----------------|--------------|
| Chamber of Commerce | | | | | |
| Lions Club | | | | | |
| WBA Rotary | | | | | |
| WBL Foundation | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |