

**Lake Superior School District
Four-Day School Week Meeting
Monday, February 23, 2015
Wm. M. Kelley Cafeteria
6:30 p.m.**

Attendance:

A sign-in sheet was provided. Attendees were asked to sign in.

Board Members Present:

P. Borg, T. Burns, M. LeBlanc

Superintendent Crandall reported that Lake Superior School District is in their fifth year of the four-day school week. The School Board has approved reapplying for the four-day school week. The application is due to the Minnesota Department of Education by April 15, 2015.

A legislative bill is currently on the floor for approval, which would allow school districts to use a flexible learning calendar without the approval of the Minnesota Department of Education. Currently, there are approximately 20 school districts using the flexible learning calendar.

Superintendent Crandall presented the slide show that defines the four-day school week status with Lake Superior School District. The slide show defines the savings and changes the district has seen as of our fifth year with the four-day school week. In the original proposal of the four-day school week, it was believed savings would be recognized in water usage, electricity, utility costs, food service, transportation, sub teacher costs. Superintendent Crandall reviewed how the reality of these proposed savings.

The slide show presented financial analysis of the four-day week's expenses and savings. Superintendent Crandall reported that the district has met the projected savings in many areas, but not all. The annual savings per year for the four-day school week is \$167,741.50.

The slide show presented financial history of the fund balance and current budget. The district's deficit spending is approximately \$147,000.

Student performance with state (MCA's) and local (NWEA) testing was discussed. Test results due not indicate that the four-day week is hurting our students. District attendance and graduation rates were reviewed, which show improvement.

The MMR Score (Multiple Measurement Award) shows that we are successful in closing the achievement gap with our students in relation to the free and reduced lunch program.

Benefits relating to extracurricular events were reviewed. The slide show defined the new opportunities we have realized for our students. Survey results were reviewed, which showed overwhelming support for the four-day school week.

Concerns were addressed regarding the four-day school week. These concerns include Friday child care, lunches for long weekends, increased homework. Solutions for these concerns were presented, which included Kids & Company for the Friday child care, the Back Pack Program for the lunches for long weekends and the ability to complete homework in school.

Research shows that the academic outcomes for our students are not sacrificed. This information, as well as this entire slide show, is available on our website: www.isd381.k12.mn.us

The ALC (Area Learning Center) program was reviewed. This program has provided K-8 programming, credit recovery for high school students and is accessible to any students up to the age of 21.

Partnerships have been created with entities such as Mesabi Range Community College and AEOA. These partnerships were made possible due to the availability of our facilities on Fridays.

Superintendent Crandall opened the floor for questions.

One attendee suggested that for future presentations, data comparisons should be presented using gallons or another measurement rather than \$4.

One attendee asked what investments or plans the district has for the tax increase money that the district will receive. This attendee also reviewed financial data he received through the MDE website relating to LSSD 381. Is there a plan in place if the district were not to receive taconite monies or monies from IRRRB.

Many attendees raised concerns that this meeting was not the place to start analyzing this data and planning a financial layout without funds of this nature. This discussion should take place a truth-in-taxation or regular board meeting.

The school board members in attendance were asked how they voted regarding whether to reapply. The board members shared their opinion on the four-day week.

A couple teachers in attendance shared the successes of their classroom under the four-day school week. Technology/computer issues are being addressed and the cost reductions free up additional money for their upgrades.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.