



**White Bear Lake Area Schools
School Board Meeting Highlights
August 8, 2016
Regular Board Meeting**

At the August 8, 2016 Regular Board Meeting of the White Bear Lake Area School Board, the following agenda items were presented and discussed:

1. **Update on Partnership with Hangzhou Foreign Languages School.** In 2010, the White Bear Lake Area Schools formally joined a partnership sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Education in conjunction with Zhejiang Education Ministry in China that began in the 1980s.

The exchange is primarily a teacher exchange, with teachers from Hangzhou Foreign Languages School, a grade seven through twelve secondary program with a strong English teaching component. While in the White Bear Lake Area Schools the teachers provide support to our Chinese language program, and provide culture and language classes for student in K-12. Teachers stay with host families in accord with the guidelines provided by the Minnesota Department of Education.

In turn, teachers from White Bear Lake Area Schools have the opportunity to travel to China for a semester or year-long opportunity to teach in the Hangzhou Foreign Languages School. In addition, other teachers from White Bear Lake Area Schools have taught in the summer English Academy Program, a three week program at the Hangzhou Foreign Languages School for Chinese students.

In June of 2012, High School Principal Tim Wald and Superintendent Lovett traveled to Hangzhou Foreign Languages School as part of our partnership. After this visit, we initiated class to class connections, and some of our high school students visited the Hangzhou Foreign Languages School. This June, Dr. Lovett spent five days in Hangzhou meeting with the administration and staff who have been to Minnesota as part of the partnership.

At the School Board meeting Dr. Lovett briefly presented the status of the partnership, and potential next steps in this important partnership for the White Bear Lake Area Schools. High school teacher Alex Carlson responded to School Board questions about his participation in the partnership.

See the presentation [here](#).

2. **Update on Elementary Gifted and Talented Program.** Gifted Coordinator Jo Tate, along with a team of teachers including Kelly Barkve, Jeanne Mack, Julie Stonehouse and Lincoln Elementary principal Dan Schmidt, provided an update on progress regarding the Elementary Gifted and Talented Program Recommendations approved by the School Board on January 2013. The main areas of the report are: programming structure and development; identification and assessment of student learning; professional development and leadership; and parent involvement, communication and marketing. See the presentation [here](#).

3. **Update on Partnership with White Bear Center for the Arts.** For the past eight years, the White Bear Lake Area Schools and the White Bear Center for the Arts have engaged in an innovative partnership which provides professionally taught art lessons to all elementary students K-12. For the first three years, all students received three water color lessons through this partnership. Beginning in 2011-12 we added two drawing lessons. In 2013-14 we added one professionally taught lesson which would draw from the traditions of fabric-based art. These draw on rich cultural traditions with in our community, including Hmong culture. We embed this additional professionally taught art class into each grade K-5 to meet either a social studies or language arts state curriculum standard.

In addition to this successful elementary program which has been honored with the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute Innovation Award, the Center for the Arts has increased our partnership with middle and high school art teachers.

Information about the partnership was presented by district representatives Principal Dan Schmidt and teacher Pam Johnstone and representatives from the White Bear Center for the Arts, including Executive Director Suzi Hudson, Program Director Danielle Cezanne, and artists Kyle Frederickson and Lisa Servatius.

See a video that was presented [here](#).

The following actions were taken:

1. **Action on Partnership with MacPhail Center for Music for 2016-17.** The School Board approved the partnership with MacPhail Center for Music for 2016-17; the net cost to the district is \$23,793, and is already included in the 2016-17 budget approved by the School Board in June.
2. **Action on Partnership with White Bear Center for the Arts for 2016-17.** The School Board approved the partnership with the White Bear Center for the Arts for the 2016-17 school year, providing six professionally taught art lessons to each student in grades K-5 for a cost of \$75,000, which is already included in the 2016-17 budget approved by the school board in June.
3. **Action on School Board Liaison Assignments for 2016-17 and 2017-18.** The School Board approved liaison assignments for 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years as recommended by the School Board chair. See the assignments [here](#).
4. **Action on School Board Committee Assignments for 2016-17 and 2017-18.** The School Board approved committee assignments for 2016-17 and 2017-18. See the assignments [here](#).

The Board packet for the August 8, 2016 Board Meeting can be found [here](#).