

April 7, 2006

Frank Herman will be recommended to the School Board as the next principal of Spring Lake Park High School



On Friday, April 7, Superintendent Don Helmstetter announced to district staff that he would be recommending to the School Board that Frank Herman be the next Spring Lake Park High School principal.

His candidacy for the position will be considered by the Board at its April 11 meeting. Herman is currently the director of the school district's Learning Alternatives Community School.

Herman was selected from over 30 applicants and 13 interviewed candidates. He was one of the seven candidates invited to a second round of interviews the week of April 3, and he then emerged as one of two finalists recommended by the Interview Committee for final consideration by the superintendent.

Herman has led the district's Learning Alternatives Community School for the past five years. In 2004, the program was named Minnesota's Alternative Program of the Year.

Learning Alternatives Community School is an area learning center with year-round daytime and evening classes, independent study options, and dual enrollment with the high school. In addition, Herman oversees the Lighthouse Program highly gifted students, New Connection Treatment Center, and the Safe Harbor Recovery Program.

Herman was also Dean of Students at Spring Lake Park High School from 1994-2001. In addition, he has served as Dean of Students/Administrative Assistant at St. Louis Park Junior High School and taught in the Cambridge School District.

He is nearing completion of his doctoral degree in Educational Leadership, has a Masters Degree from Hamline University, Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from Minnesota State University, and a Bachelor's Degree from Bemidji State University.

School Board Briefs

A Summary of the March 28, 2006 School Board Meeting

Update on Bond Projects, Facilities Improvement Plan

Greg Dehler, WOLD Architects and Engineers, and Gary Benson, Kraus-Anderson Construction, provided an update on Bond Projects and the district's Facilities Improvement plan.

- A diagram of the soon-to-be-reconstructed Spring Lake Park High School Panther track and field was handed out. Severe drainage problems will be corrected and the unsafe and nearly unusable track surface will be replaced. The new athletic field will have synthetic turf that will allow for up to 20 times the current use of the facility.
- Bids for the remodeling and new classroom additions at Park Terrace and Westwood Elementary School will be received on April 20.
- Bids for the reconstruction of the Panther track and field will be received on April 7.
- The new construction materials at Park Terrace and Westwood will be matched as closely as possible to the existing materials.
- More windows will be added at Park Terrace.
- The existing Media Center at Westwood Elementary will be converted into classrooms.
- Construction at Park Terrace and Westwood Elementary will begin at the end of the 2005-06 school year.
- A preliminary project plan with completion dates has been established. The goal is to keep all projects on schedule and on budget.
- Detailed cost estimates of all design projects will be established.
- All construction work will be bid out; local contractors have equal opportunity to submit bids.
- Specifications will dictate all areas that bidders must meet; questionable margins will be explored.

Dr. Don Helmstetter, superintendent, provided the following update:

- Mr. Dehler and Mr. Benson have been meeting weekly with Dr. Helmstetter to review projects.
- A tour date has been scheduled for the New Elementary School Design Team to tour existing schools in the area.
- The initial design process for Phase I at the high school and Woodcrest Elementary School has begun.
- The Superintendent will meet with all staff for a facilities update before the end of the school year.
- Staff will have an opportunity for input this fall.
- Any major changes involving cost will be submitted to the Board for its approval.

- The Design Team for the new K-3 elementary school will have community involvement. Either Mr. Dehler or Mr. Benson will attend the meetings.
- Twelve individuals have signed up for the Community Oversight Group. Others who are interested may still sign up.

Dr. Helmstetter reiterated that the reconstruction of the Panther stadium track and field is being financed by a levy that was approved by the Board last fall and confirmed by the Board in December. The additional classrooms at Westwood Elementary and Park Terrace are part of the bond project.

High School Principal Search Update

Dr. Helmstetter provided an update on the Spring Lake Park High School principal search. A total of 30 applications were received. Thirteen candidates, all current administrators were interviewed in the first round. Six candidates have been invited to a second round of interviews to take place the week of April 3.

As many as three candidates will be recommended to Supt. Helmstetter who will then recommend a candidate for School Board consideration at the April 11 Board meeting.

Ten Staff Members to Retire

The Board approved ten retirements. The staff members, and their effective dates of retirement, are listed below:

- **Kathryn Breitenbach**, Woodcrest health care specialist, June 9
- **Christine Hogan**, high school Language Arts teacher, October 17
- **Lorene Johnson**, Woodcrest Para & Kids' Club program, June 30
- **Glenn Martin**, high school principal, June 30
- **Judy Olson**, Kenneth Hall Elementary Title 1 teacher, June 9
- **Dianne Ryan**, Woodcrest Special Ed. para, June 9
- **Janice Swanson**, Park Terrace 1st grade teacher, June 9
- **Dale Wallin**, high school Phy. Ed. teacher, June 12, 2006
- **Patricia Wesolek**, Park Terrace Elementary media/Title 1, June 9
- **Margaret Zachau**, Woodcrest Elementary basic skills teacher, June 9

These individuals will be honored at a district-wide retirement reception to be held Tuesday, May 16, from 3:30 – 5:30 pm at The Courtyard Garden Tent at the New Mermaid Event Center, 2200 Highway 10, Mounds View. Family, friends, and colleagues will be invited.

Panther Foundation: Win a Car!

Terry Dussault, Chairperson of the Panther Foundation, announced the sale of raffle tickets for a 2004 Cavalier through April 29, 2006. Tickets for the raffle (no more than 2,000 tickets will be sold) may be purchased for \$10 each at the Spring Lake Park High School Athletic Office, from Foundation Board members, or by calling the Foundation Hotline at 763-795-5155.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the Foundation's GrandGala on April 29. Proceeds from the raffle will provide enhanced educational opportunities for the students of Spring Lake Park Schools.

Student Enrollment Report for March 2006

<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>March 1</i>	<i>February 1</i>
Elementary students	1,969	1,952
Middle school students	1,020	1,013
High school students	1,272	1,283
Learning Alternatives	346	

Teacher of the Year Program

Kalli Binkowski, Spring Lake Park Teachers' United Member Rights Advocate, and Maria Ahrndt, Chair of the selection committee, talked about the first-ever Teacher of the Year program sponsored by Spring Lake Park Teachers United.

The mission is to recognize teaching excellence in Spring Lake Park Schools. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952, the first Minnesota Teacher of the Year was selected in 1965; and this is the first year of the program in District 16.

Sixteen have been nominated for this year's District 16 Teacher of the Year:

- Matt Meier, Social studies, Spring Lake Park High School
- Teresa Workman, 3rd grade, Park Terrace Elementary
- Trent Snyder, Reading, Westwood Middle School
- Michelle Stefanacci, Industrial Technology, Westwood Middle School
- Jeff Witt, Chemistry, Spring Lake Park High School
- John Stewart, Adaptive Phy. Ed.
- Ben Seipel, Spanish, Westwood Middle School
- Mary Mohr-Scinocca, Geography, Westwood Middle School
- Kalli Binkowski, Science, Spring Lake Park High School
- Katherine Sylvester, Family and Consumer Science, Learning Alternative Community School
- Robin Watson, Independent Study and Language Arts, Learning Alternative Community School
- Bill Neiss, Opportunities in Emergency Care, Spring Lake Park High School
- Lori Henry, Family and Consumer Science, Spring Lake Park High School
- Joan Dauphinee, Health, Spring Lake Park High School
- Lance Schilling, Phy. Ed. and Health, Westwood Middle School
- Florence Jackson, Transition Program, Life Skills Program

A selection committee will determine this year's honoree. The winner and nominees will be recognized at the Spring Lake Park Teachers United Spring Social. The winner will receive recognition, an award, an invitation to speak at the 2006-07 opening day in-service, and a nomination to the state competition for the subsequent year.

Reading First Grant

Dr. Jeff Ronneberg, Assistant Superintendent, said the district was notified last spring of its eligibility to apply for a Reading First Grant. Woodcrest Elementary School met the criteria for the grant and went through an extensive application process and the grant was approved in August. It was, he said, one of the highest rated grant applications, receiving 195 out of 200 points. Only 24 schools in the country received the grant.

Reading First ties in extremely well with District 16's focus of job-embedded professional development. Within weekly professional development sessions, teachers of reading at Woodcrest Elementary discuss a variety of scientifically based

reading research topics that have been proven to be successful in five comprehensive areas of reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Following the application of concepts and strategies of rigorous research, assessment data is review and instruction is planned to best meet the diverse learners at all levels, K-3. This rigorous process at Woodcrest has been a challenge, but teachers have been resilient in their efforts to best meet the needs of their students. Student progress is continually being monitored and their success is always at the forefront.

Mike Callahan, principal of Woodcrest Elementary, along with Dr. Jeff Ronneberg and Dr. Don Helmstetter, recognized the work and efforts of Barb Zandlo-Hutchinson, Judi Kahoun, Amy Bjurlin, Sue Vaillant, Jo Norton, and Margaret Zachau who worked on the grant as well as the entire Woodcrest staff for their leadership in professional development.

Bonds, Bond Rating

Joel Sutter, Ehlers & Associates, Inc., congratulated the District on a successful bond referendum. He handed out and reviewed a Calendar of Events from Bond Election to Bond Closing and an overall financing plan. Sutter said that the plan maximizes the amount of bond proceeds with the proposed new debt decreasing over time. The district's bond rating has been raised by Moodys Investors Service. The first issue of bonds, for \$45 million in May 2006 will have an average interest rate of 4.51%; the second issue for \$30,900,000 in October 2006 would have an average interest rate of 4.72% and the third issue of \$20 million in April 2008 will have an average interest rate of 4.84%.

Acknowledgement of Gifts

The Board acknowledged the following gifts and extended the District's thanks and appreciation:

- \$240 from Nancy and Alan Mercer for middle school Science Department
- \$2,000 from Len Zolna, TLR West Publishing, for high school athletics, OEC, math team, and spring musical
- \$5,000 grant from Medtronic for Kenneth Hall Elem. School
- \$44 from Master Collision Group for the K-8 Chess Tournament and Clinic
- \$28 donation of batteries from Dick Young for the middle school Math Department
- \$494 in donations for the middle school's Mini Course Day from Dirk and Laury Hall, Kenneth and Marcia Hoffman, John and Susan Stroebel, Musbau and Tawa Ojo Akinwale Bola, John Keenan, Michael and Theresa Gormley, Jeffery and Stephanie Tigue, John and Diane Willette, Becky Burmeister, James and Ann Corrigan, Bill and Susan Kniefel, Robert and Barb Hadler, Jay and Debra Fleming, Michelle Pagel, David and Doris Martinson, Vernon and Teresa Sheppard, Kevin and Cathy Palmer, Vadim Bogoslovski and Valdisava Franke, Don and Karen Bassett, Steven and Patricia Henke, James and Elaine Gregorich, Alan and Nancy Mercer, George Walter, Justin Budzynski, Laurie Weisbrod, Ed and Sharon Krumme, Robert and Raymi Rome, Jeff and Carol Williams, Patrick and MaryJo Fahey, Bradley and Kelly Delfs, William and Julie Kuhn, Michael Streck

Total value of gifts: \$7,804

2006-07 School Calendar

The Board approved the proposed 2006-07 school calendar (included at the end of this newsletter.)

It is possible that there could be one additional change to the approved calendar. The Board may yet decide to have several "early release days" during the 2006-07 school year.

If or when the district has early release days on the calendar, school would end two hours earlier than normal, usually for the purpose of staff inservice/workshops.

We'll let you know if there is a change.



Spring Lake Park School District 16. Serving Blaine, Spring Lake Park, & Fridley
"High Expectations, High Achievement, For All. No Excuses."

School Board

Jim Amundson, chairperson; Marilyn Forsberg, vice-chairperson; Colleen Vranish, treasurer; Kelly Delfs, clerk; Gary Brisbin, director; Jodi Ruch, director; John Stroebel, director; Dr. Don Helmstetter, superintendent. Student Representatives: Jake Loesch, Erik Bryz-Gornia

The Insider, April 6, 2006

The Insider, Spring Lake Park School District 16, 8000 Highway 65 NE, Spring Lake Park, MN 55432. District Offices: 763-786-5570. "The Insider" is published online, once or twice per month during the school year, to inform and to encourage two-way communication and to highlight the joys, successes, and challenges of educating learners. It is also e-mailed to those signed up for District E-News Updates. "School Board Briefs" offer unofficial School Board meeting highlights. For official minutes or other district information, go to www.springlakeparkschools.org

2006-07 CALENDAR

School District 16. Serving Blaine, Spring Lake Park, Fridley

2006

Sept. 5 First day of school

Oct. 10, 12 Evening Grades 6-8 Conferences

Oct. 13 **NO SCHOOL**
Daytime Grades 6-8 Conferences,
K-3, 4-5 & Grades 9-12 Staff Workshops

Oct. 16, 17 Evening K-5 & Grades 9-12 Conferences

Oct. 18 **NO SCHOOL**
Daytime K-5, 9-12 Conferences
Grades 6-8 Staff Inservice

Oct. 19, 20 **NO SCHOOL**

Nov. 9 End of 1st Quarter, Middle School

Nov. 10 **NO SCHOOL**
Staff Inservice/Workshops

Nov. 23, 24 **NO SCHOOL**

Dec. 1 End of Trimester I, K-5 and Grades 9-12

Dec. 4 **NO SCHOOL**
Staff Inservice/Workshops

Dec. 25-29 **NO SCHOOL**
Winter Break

2007

Jan. 1, 2 **NO SCHOOL**
Winter Break

Jan. 15 **NO SCHOOL**
K-12 Staff Inservice/Workshops

Jan. 22 Evening High School Conferences

Jan. 23 Basic Skills Testing Grade 10 Written
Composition
End of 2nd Quarter, Middle School

Jan. 26 **NO SCHOOL.**
Daytime Grades 9-12 Conferences
K-8 Staff Workshops

Feb. 6 BST Retest – Math, Grades 10-12

Feb. 7 Make-Up Date: BST Retest – Math,
Grades 10-12

Feb. 8 BST Retest – Reading, Grades 10-12

Feb. 9 Make-Up Date: BST Retest – Reading,
Grades 10-12

Feb. 12, 15 K-5 Evening Conferences

Feb. 16 **NO SCHOOL**
Daytime K-5 Conferences
Grades 6-12 Staff Inservice

Feb. 19 **NO SCHOOL**

Mar. 1, 6 Evening Grades 6-8 Conferences

Mar. 8 End of Trimester II, K-5, 9-12

Mar. 9 **NO SCHOOL**
Daytime Grades 6-8 Conferences
K-5 & Grades 9-12 Staff Workshops

Mar. 12-16 **NO SCHOOL**
Spring Break

Mar. 30 End of 3rd Quarter, Middle School

April 6 **NO SCHOOL**

April 10 GRAD Test: - Written Comp., Grade 9
BST Retest - Written. Comp., Grade 12

April 11 BST Retest – Math, Grade 12

April 12 BST Retest – Reading, Grade 12

**April 16 –
May 4** Testing Period for MCA II, TEAE &
TEAEM, Grades 3-8, 10, 11

April 17 Make-Up Date, GRAD Test – Written
Comp., Grade 9
Make-Up Date, BST Written Comp.,
Grade 12

April 18 Make-Up Date, BST Retest – Math,
Grade 12

April 19 Make-Up Date, BST Retest – Reading,
Grade 12

April 23 Evening Grades 9-12 Conferences

April 25 MCA State Testing: Grade 6 Writing

**April 30 –
May 25** Testing Period for MCA II Science Field
Test, Grades 5, 8, 9-12

**To Be Deter-
mined** MCA II State Testing: Grade 7 Reading,
Grade 7 Math, Grade 3 & 5 Reading, Grade
10 Reading, Grade 11 Math, Grade 3 & 5
Math

May 28 **NO SCHOOL**

June 6 End of Trimester III: K-5, Grade 9-12.
End of 4th Quarter, Middle School

June 7 K-12 Staff Inservice/Workshops

**In the event of a Snow Day during the school year,
June 7 would be the Make-up Day . . . or the new last day
of school**