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## Mounds View School board makes annual staff cuts; some of 64 to return in fall

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SHOREVIEW — The Mounds View School Board took the following actions at its April 13 meeting:

- The board approved the termination for the 2010/2011 school year of contracts of 44 probationary staff members and unrequested leaves of absence of for 20 others. The cuts, part of an annual winnowing of staff, were made for reasons that include enrollment shifts, shifts in student course selection, the return of other teachers from military service or leave of absence, the elimination of positions and either reduction in or uncertainty over funding. Director of Resources and Operations John Ward said this year's cuts aren't unusually high.

"It's a relatively modest list," he said. "That being said, if you're on it it's not a list you want to be part of. Some folks may end up back with us as things change throughout the summer. For individuals on unrequested leave, all but one are learning resources teachers dependent on programming (funding) who may be hired back in the fall or late late summer."

- Director of Finance Carole Nielsen updated the board on the annual budget following the third quarter. The fund balance remains at close to \$15.8 million, a number Nielsen expects to see rise slightly by year's end. The district has received 60.8 percent of its projected revenues for the school year compared to 74.2 percent last year at this time, largely because of the change in the state aid formula that delays a higher percentage of payments until the end of the year. Ultimately revenues should come in about \$820,000 over budget, she said, in part because of gifts to the district.

"The cash flow is still looking positive," Nielsen said. "I don't think we have any concerns there."

The district has spent \$94.5 million or 68.5 percent so far of its \$138.2 million annual budget. She said she expects utility expenses to come in under budget this year because of both the warm spring and lower natural gas costs.

"Expenditure-wise we're looking very comparable to last year," she said. "I'm not expecting any surprises we should be alarmed about."

Board Chairman Jon Tynjala reminded the board that a state budget unallotment could still effect the district's fund balance.

"I don't think it's a realistic option, but I think we do have to realize that maintaining a fund balance could become very critical if that were to happen," he said.

- Superintendent Dan Hoverman confirmed the hiring of two new principals: Darin Johnson for Turtle Lake Elementary and Sheila Eller for Bel Air Elementary. He called the 75 applicants for the two positions "one of the strongest fields we've had for a long, long time for principal candidates."

Eller was principal of Chippewa Middle School from 2007 to 2009 before moving to Virginia for a year for another principal job.

Hoverman joked that Johnson's popularity with staff may be limited (his 13-year career with the district includes three as Turtle Lake's student services assistant). "I reminded him that after he makes a few decisions that may change a bit," Hoverman said. "Being an internal candidate is almost tougher than being an external candidate. But I think great days are ahead for Darin in that position."

- Student Information and Reporting Specialist Cindy Fyle told the board the district logged 187 open

enrollment requests for incoming students in the 2010-2011 year and approved 164 of them. She estimated that about 85 will end up actually attending Mounds View Schools. The district also received 45 requests for in-district transfers, approving 34 of them.

Last year, the district filed 173 open enrollment requests; 2008-2009 saw 117 requests.

- Michelle Miron

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