

## **Paraprofessional Recognition Week**

The week of January 22-26, 2018 is Paraprofessional Recognition Week. Paraprofessionals include, but are not limited to, those individuals who work as educational assistants, bus assistants, special education paraprofessionals, tutors, lunchroom and playground assistants, hall monitors and library and media center assistants. Our school is outstanding because of everyone's efforts, and I want to thank our paraprofessionals for their many contributions. Our paraprofessionals make a difference in the lives of students and the quality of education we can offer at Cedar Mountain. Thanks to them for their contributions to our school and students.

### **School Board Notes**

At the January School Board Meeting:

- School Board officers were elected. Joe Sullivan will serve as Board Chair, Doug Mathiowetz as Vice-Chair, and Angie Jemmings as Clerk/Treasurer.
- School Board committee assignments were made.
- Melissa Goodrich was at the meeting to discuss our foods program and the steps the District needs to follow to begin the application process through MDE for a Summer Food Service Program. She explained that Franklin is Census eligible to host a site for the program, but Morgan currently is not. The Board felt it was important to meet the needs of students in both Franklin and Morgan, and asked the administration to develop a plan to transport students from Morgan to Franklin to allow them to take part in the meals program. Mrs. Goodrich was directed to begin the application process based on her recommendations to the School Board.
- The School Board discussed running an operating referendum in November 2018 to ask for additional revenue. Because the State of Minnesota pays state aid on a portion of an operating referendum, it is important the District looks at maximizing its state aid. A positive is that the legislature has exempted agricultural farmland from being taxed as part of the operating referendum. Agricultural homestead taxes are based on the house, garage and one acre of land. Also, the Ag2School tax credit has exempted 40% of the tax on farmland as part of voter approved bonds. The Board asked that Mr. Tews contact Ehlers, Inc. to study the tax impact and additional revenue based on increasing the operating referendum level.
- Mrs. Machart gave a short presentation on Elementary Power Time, which is a monthly meeting where both grade level teachers, the reading teacher, the reading paras and the principal meet for ½ hour to review student data, progress on reading standards, ways to differentiate the skills, and concerns staff may have with individual progress. This has proved to be very valuable and has helped teachers more closely monitor progress and share grade level resources and information with all staff. During this time Mrs. Sturm meets with each classroom and teaches a character education lesson.
- Approved the Teacher Seniority List.