

Christmas List

In the spirit of the season, here are some suggestions that might make Christmas a little brighter for everyone.

1. *Volunteer your time at a local charity, nursing home, hospice or senior center.*
2. *Invite someone who is alone to Christmas dinner.*
3. *Donate clothing, food or toys to a family in need.*
4. *Cook a meal for an elderly person or homebound neighbor.*
5. *Craft homemade holiday decorations with your kids.*
6. *Replenish your spirit. Visit your local house of worship this holiday season.*
7. *Create a family tradition and fond memories by starting a holiday scrapbook*
8. *Call, write or plan a get-together with a friend you haven't seen in many years.*
9. *Spread holiday cheer. Smile and be kind to others.*
10. *Show appreciation to all the people who have made your life a little brighter.*

Wishing you a Safe & Joyous Holiday!

State Senator Betsy Johnson

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Board told position won't be filled

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Following the presentations, Superintendent Marv Ott highlighted the reduction in force (RIF) included in the consent agenda, part of efforts to reduce expenditures during this academic year. He told the board that an additional maintenance assistant had been added for the last couple of years, primarily to assist with summer workloads and assist other workers. This worker was typically laid off temporarily during the winter. According to Ott, maintenance staff believes that they can handle the current workload. The decision was made to leave the position vacant. Shelly Mitchell, Student Services Director, told the board that an additional RIF was accomplished in her department and was also on the consent agenda. Additionally, a part-time instructional aide vacancy will not be filled this year. The consent agenda was unanimously approved.

The board unanimously approved three resolutions proposed by the Northwest Regional Education Service District (NWRES D). The first was a housekeeping measure regarding the current method of voting for board officers by email. The second resolution allows NWRES D to retain control of a fund (approx. \$50 million) acquired as a percentage of insurance premiums offered to districts when NWRES D was acting as an agent. NWRES D no longer offers insurance but

wanted to retain control of the funds to use for all of the school districts in the ESD. The final resolution was an affirmation of NWRES D's priority to achieve adequate state funding for K-12 schools for the 2011-2013 biennium. Ott explained that \$6.8 million would be needed simply to maintain the current level of service provided across the state and that the state Department of Education has proposed a budget of only \$6.5 million.

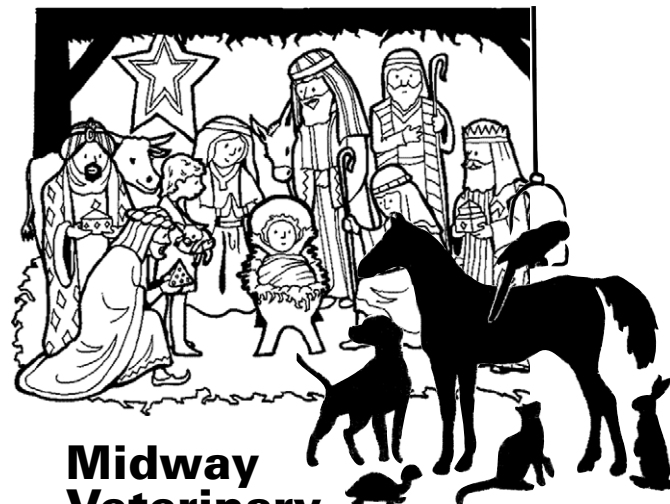
Several policies regarding seatbelt use, student safety and transportation were presented for the first reading. Board member Kathy Edison noticed that the age restriction for drivers of private vehicles (at least 21) was not included in the proposed policies. The board agreed that this statement should be carried forward from the existing policy. The addition will be made before the second reading for approval of these policies in January.

Work Session

The first item in the work session involved a discussion with board consultant, Rick Rainone, regarding feedback from the failed bond attempt last month. Opinions about the effect of the economy differed among the board, with Doug Nordholm objecting to the general view, shared by Rainone, that the downturn in the economy was a major reason for 'no'

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Merry Christmas



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