

Greetings from WWG Schools,

Summer break for our students is quickly winding down and all of us at the school are ready for our turn to have them with us during the day! As I see a few of the students trickle in to register, I realize how much I miss seeing them and how much some of them have changed over the summer. The weather has cooled and that is a welcome sight as we approach the last couple weeks of August. I actually made a mental note about the cooler temperatures as I walked around WWG on Friday. This summer has slipped by without nearly enough time to visit with the good folks of the district. I have shared with many this summer that it is my only regret of working two districts; I simply do not take enough time to visit with all the good folks that made this district what it is. But, I weigh that against the money it saves the district and I just try to prioritize more visits.

We have a new Social Science teacher in Westbrook by the name of Jennifer Stevenson and she hails from the metro area and has a lot of world experience to share with our students. She is also experienced in the arts so we have someone to work under the wings of Bill Richards. The other major change that actually won't be noticed by the students is the new boilers and heating system in both Westbrook and Walnut Grove. This major investment will keep us in a good position for years to come. All of our neighboring schools have a long laundry list of buildings and grounds projects that need to happen. I can confidently say the WWG barely has a sticky note left of updates. We have made great strides in the past 10 years and we are poised for the future!

We are down in our enrollment this year and our enrollment in the Walnut Grove elementary is at its lowest point since we came together in 1990. It's not the best of news but what we do celebrate is that our students tested well last spring and the results reflect that Mr. Olson and the rest of the WG employees are doing a great job teaching our kids! We lost a few families but also had some nice families move to town. I have warned for years that our enrollments are dipping but we can make the best of it and keep giving our kids a great education in academics, arts and athletics. All of our students have the opportunity to be a part of something great and the only reason they can't is that they won't. Please encourage your child to get involved in school! It will pay big in the future.

I will continue to be in the WWG district in the afternoons and many evenings while being at Tracy Area in the mornings. I've had an average of 3 comments per month over the past year about "Woelber's motives" of working with Tracy. Let me repeat:

1. We have two districts that are both sound in terms of staffing, finances and offerings for kids.
2. We have two districts that have a Hmong population that is vital to the strength of the schools.
3. We have two districts that I want to FOREVER keep the kids where they are at and not move them to other towns.
4. We have two districts that I can fly over and look for ways to share employees and resources to save money in a way that the students will not notice.
5. We have two district school boards that do not want to "consolidate kids" but instead want to share good people so that whether it's a Superintendent or a special education teacher or a

sport like soccer and wrestling or even some equipment. These two boards enjoy each other and look forward to being proactive in keeping your taxes down and opportunities for kids.

I look forward to a memorable year with only 4 kids in WWG and a daughter off to college. I hope to see many of you at the evening events and please feel free to let me know if you would like a visit to talk about our schools. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at lwoelber@mntm.org or 507-828-6608. Have a great finish to the summer!