

WWG Team Returns From Annual MREA Conference

By Superintendent Loy Woelber

I am energized for our school as we return from our annual Minnesota Rural Education Conference in Alexandria. The Minnesota Rural Education Association was formed nearly 30 years ago with the purpose of making sure that the voices of rural MN were heard during the Legislative session. MREA is the only state organization that is made up of board members, administrators and teachers. This year WWG was represented by Board member Marv Kleven who also serves as on the MREA Legislative Action Committee, Superintendent Loy Woelber, who is the MREA President Elect and Sheryl Woelber who teaches math in the Westbrook building. As with farming, education can barely keep up with the changing technology. This MREA conference again highlighted technology and the many changes that continue to come to education. I was also able to present a couple of small sessions on multiculturalism in small schools and sharing of staff and school buildings as times get tight. I was very impressed with the technology sessions that were hands on for attendees and it got me very excited to keep our students moving forward with technology. The kids have passed us by and we need to keep up with the times in our school. I realized that I have not placed a high enough priority on technology the past few years and I need to take the initiative to keep our students moving forward. We have added a couple additional SMARTBOARDS this school year and are getting closer to one in every room but that is not enough. Many of our students have phones with more capabilities than some of our older computers. We currently have teachers in Westbrook pushing to get an additional computer lab in order to make sure students have access to computers whenever they want. I have now seen that much like farming, I must continue to push for the technology advances that our students deserve.

At our regular board meeting on November 15th I am going to ask the board to support me on two big initiatives as we continue to advance our technology. First, I am going to challenge the board to match me dollar for dollar on money raised by Christmas for the purchase of a mobile computer lab for 25 students and for an additional SMARTBOARD for Duane Hannan and the Language Arts Department. Secondly, I would like to have a technology show and tell before each board meeting at 6:00 p.m. throughout the remainder of the school year. It will be a chance for our staff to show what we know in technology and to discuss what could be. If approved, I am going to hit the road and come to you looking for donations for our kids and improved technology. If you would like to save me the nervousness of asking, please contact me at 507-828-6608 with your tax deductible donation towards technology at WWG. I would also ask you to mark your calendars to attend technology show and tells before

each monthly board meeting. Odd months are in Westbrook and even month meetings are in Walnut Grove. Thanks for your support!

Submitted by Superintendent Loy Woelber