

Q-COMP

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Board members Willi Kostiuk and Dena Wenberg also voted the program down, while Mike Holden, Darrell “Boxer” Wagner and Michelle Hebner voted in its favor.

“I like the program,” Holden said. “I just think (teachers) have worked toward making the school better and Q-Comp is part of that.”

The board will reconsider the issue when it meets in June. In the meantime, school officials are gathering information to hopefully achieve a different outcome.

“The vote was disappointing,” said John Sandberg, local teachers union 331 president and Falls High social studies teacher of Monday’s action — or lack thereof. “We are meeting with (Superintendent Nordy) Nelson to work out the differences in the teacher evaluation plan and then we will discuss the Q-Comp program with him also.”

Sandberg, noting Dault’s comment about lack of data, said teachers are compiling statistics and information from previous years about the goals of Q-Comp and how “very hard work by staff” has reached the goals created.

“As of (Wednesday), we do not have all the data in from this year’s (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment) math scores, but they are very positive with most of the scores reported,” Sandberg said. “We won’t know the final totals until mid June.”

Program history

Since the district started Q-comp, during the 2006-2007 school year, it has had an on-again, off-again relationship with the program.

The program pays teachers an additional stipend of \$3,000 on top of their contract pay if they meet all five of the following benchmarks determined by the program:

- Develop and implement two professional growth plan “projects” each year.
- Attend weekly learning team meetings.
- Participate in peer and administration observations.
- Perform self assessments.
- Collectively meet

school-wide student academic achievement goals.

Q-Comp’s latest off-again status was in 2011, when it was discontinued by the board. The break-up lasted only a year before it made its way back into the district for the current school year.

“I’m supportive of the Q-Comp arrangement because it organizes school personnel into carrying out the different communication that’s necessary to keep things going with curriculum and the whole cycle,” Nelson told The Journal Wednesday.

The timing was right to bring the program back last year because legislation now requires all districts to have a plan in place for teacher observation. Q-Comp, according to Nelson, addresses that plan.

“Without Q-Comp, there is an extensive state plan that is so neutral and so broad,” he said. “Almost everything in that plan would have to be re-discussed or re-written.”

In other words, with or without Q-Comp, the district will need some kind of plan to meet state guidelines.

“If there isn’t a local plan (the board) will have to work out a plan from the state document and that’s going to involve a lot of time putting it into place,” the superintendent said. “There’s really no point in the teachers and the school board taking all the time again trying to revise or come up with another plan...I didn’t expect there’d be a split vote over this.”

Cha-ching

Costs associated with the Q-Comp are minimal to the district compared to what the state of Minnesota chips in. The program, Nelson said, costs the district just over \$100,000 in levy dollars and the state provides about \$230,000 in aid. Without the program, the district will not receive that state funding.

Nelson, who will leave the district when his contract expires June 30, said moving forward, the district needs to stay consistent with programs like Q-Comp.

“The importance is keeping people organized and focused on student results,” he said. “Q-Comp helps with that. If there isn’t Q-Comp there will need to be some other type of organized plan.”

DISTRICT COURT

The following people have been sentenced for aggravated misdemeanor or felony crimes in Koochiching County District Court.

Michael J. Burnell, 23, International Falls, was sentenced April 28 for felony fifth-degree possession of drugs.

He was given a stay of imposition of sentence and placed on five years of supervision. He was ordered to pay \$975 fine and fees.

He was ordered not to use alcohol or drugs and may

not enter places where it is being used or sold. He must complete a chemical assessment and submit to random testing and searches. He must provide a DNA sample to the state and may not leave the state without written court approval.

Anthony S. Hubbard, 42, International Falls, was sentenced April 28 for gross misdemeanor obstruct legal process — interfere with police officer.

He was sentenced to one year jail, with all but eight

days stayed on court conditions. He was given credit for three days served. He was placed on three years of supervised probation and ordered to pay \$3,225 fine and fees. All but \$50 of the fine was stayed on court conditions and he was ordered to serve 10 days with the Sentence to Serve program. He was ordered not to use alcohol, follow recommendations of an evaluation, and submit to random tests and searches.

Matthew A. Cole, 19, Big

Falls, was sentenced May 6 for gross misdemeanor motor vehicle registration — intent to escape tax.

He was sentenced to one year jail, with all but five days stayed on court conditions. He was placed on three years of supervised probation and ordered to pay \$3,150 fine and fees. All but \$200 of the fine and fees was stayed on court conditions. He was ordered to serve 24 hours with the Sentence to Serve program.

NOLAN

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and Border Protection and Canadian National Railway.

Nolan told The Journal Tuesday he’d spent the weekend in Borderland to research the issues caused by Canadian National Railway trains blocking roads and delaying the lifting of the rail bridge to accommodate boat traffic at Ranier.

“I personally experienced the frustration with the lift bridge when Mayor Dennis Wagner took me for a boat ride and we waited an hour and a half to get under the bridge,” he said.

Nolan said the meeting with CN and CBP officials Tuesday was productive. It follows a meeting in April in Ranier with members of the Ranier City Council, Koochiching County Board and others who say the train traffic creates concerns about safety and the economy and causes inconvenience.

At that meeting, Koochiching County and Ranier officials said a solution to the concerns involves relocation of the CBP inspection facility south of its existing site, which would allow the train to move more quickly through Ranier and pass the Van Lynn Road crossing.

Nolan pledged in April to bring the parties together toward a solution that would work for all involved.

Nolan said the problems are twofold:

The lift bridge, when it is left in the down position to allow trains to travel between Fort Frances and Ranier, is an obstacle to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congressman Rick Nolan, center, called U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officials and executives of CN Railway to his Washington office Tuesday to discuss possible solutions to train scheduling problems that continue to plague Borderland. Nolan said CN and CBP officials agreed to study possible solutions to the ongoing disruptions, including moving the Customs inspection facility further inland. Nolan is flanked by Canadian National Railway Director of Government Affairs Kevin Soucie, left, and Christopher Kennally, deputy executive director in the Office of Field Operations at U.S. Customs and Border Protection, at right.

commercial and recreational boat traffic. “An increase in traffic on the river is important to the economic success of the area,” he said.

A dramatic increase in the volume of train traffic and increase in the length of trains is “bisecting and dividing the town in half for hours at a time,” he said. “It’s affecting kids getting on the bus, access to community services, and emergency services — serious stuff like fire trucks and ambulances.”

As a result of Tuesday’s meeting, Nolan said CN Director of Government Affairs Kevin Soucie said the company would consider how the lift bridge control system works “or fails to

work” and would report back his findings in 10 days to two weeks.

In addition, Nolan said Soucie agreed to “consider and collaborate on examining a cost analysis of a possible solution to the problem of the divided city, including moving the Custom inspection facilities.”

Nolan said he expects the CN and CBP officials to agree to consider doing a cause and effect analysis on fixing the problems.

“We’re getting them off the dime and got them agreeing to recognize they have some obligation here in helping solve the problem,” Nolan said.

Moving a CBP inspection facility has been done elsewhere, he said, noting a

facility at Brownsville, Texas, that was moved inland.

“So we know there is precedent for it,” he said.

Nolan said the increased rail traffic, on one level, is good news for the railway and represents growth in business.

“I am glad for that, but it comes with that special obligation, too,” he said. “The city of Ranier is experiencing adverse effects from it.”

Nolan said he’s optimistic a solution can be reached, and credited Ranier and county officials, especially county Engineer Joe Sutherland, for researching and preparing a suggested solution.

“We will have another story in a couple weeks,” he said.

ICE

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“My main reason is my wife chose that day,” Rooney said. “I have a wise friend named Willie. Willie has taught me the “happy wife, happy life, philosophy of life. I know this will make her happy.”

Annual ice out days are recorded for Rainy and Kabetogama lakes, and go back to 1930. The ice out day has usually occurred on Rainy Lake in the last week of April or the first week of May, and the date has occurred in April for 25 of the 82 recorded years. Factors like spring temperatures, ice thickness, and the type of winter determine when the ice goes out.

Kabetogama ice was declared out May 13.

More information

Rainy Lake Ice Out

1930.....May 3
1931.....May 5
1932.....May 7
1933.....May 6
1934.....May 6
1935.....May 8
1936.....May 13
1937.....May 7
1938.....May 3
1939.....May 5
1940.....May 10
1941.....April 25
1942.....April 25
1943.....May 4
1944.....May 11
1945.....April 23
1946.....April 22
1947.....May 11
1948.....May 6
1949.....April 28
1950.....May 22
1951.....May 9
1952.....May 4
1953.....May 4

1954.....May 14
1955.....April 23
1956.....May 11
1957.....May 7
1958.....April 22
1959.....May 6
1960.....May 16
1961.....May 8
1962.....May 7
1963.....April 30
1964.....May 6
1965.....May 7
1966.....May 15
1967.....May 5
1968.....May 6
1969.....April 28
1970.....May 9
1971.....May 2
1972.....May 16
1973.....April 23
1974.....May 11
1975.....May 10
1976.....April 18
1977.....May 3
1978.....May 10
1979.....May 12

1980.....May 2
1981.....April 29
1982.....May 7
1983.....May 1
1984.....April 28
1985.....April 30
1986.....April 23
1987.....April 18
1988.....May 6
1989.....May 6
1990.....April 29
1991.....April 27
1992.....May 7
1993.....April 30
1994.....May 8
1995.....May 2
1996.....May 18
1997.....May 5
1998.....April 13
1999.....May 1
2000.....April 22
2001.....May 1
2002.....May 4
2003.....May 5
2004.....May 1
2005.....April 23

2006.....April 16
2007.....May 4
2008.....May 14
2009.....April 29
2010.....April 10
2011.....May 3
2012.....April 6*
2013.....May 16
2014.....May 20

Kabetogama Lake

1952.....April 28
1953.....April 30
1954.....May 4
1955.....April 20
1956.....May 9
1957.....May 2
1958.....April 17
1959.....April 30
1960.....May 10
1961.....May 6
1962.....May 4
1963.....April 28
1964.....May 3
1965.....May 5
1966.....May 14

1967.....April 25
1968.....April 29
1969.....April 25
1970.....May 6
1971.....April 30
1972.....May 12
1973.....April 21
1974.....May 9
1975.....May 8
1976.....April 18
1977.....May 1
1978.....May 5
1979.....May 10
1980.....April 28
1981.....April 18
1982.....May 5
1983.....April 26
1984.....April 24
1985.....April 28
1986.....April 18
1987.....April 17
1988.....May 2
1989.....May 6
1990.....April 26
1991.....April 25
1992.....May 5

1993.....April 29
1994.....April 25
1995.....April 27
1996.....May 18
1997.....April 29
1998.....April 13
1999.....April 30
2000.....April 20
2001.....May 1
2002.....April 30
2003.....May 1
2004.....April 28
2005.....April 20
2006.....April 16
2007.....April 30
2008.....May 9
2009.....April 29
2010.....April 4
2011.....April 30
2012.....March 31*
2013.....May 14
2014.....May 13

*Earliest ice-out dates for the lakes.



*Put your arms around her Lord,
Don't leave her on her own,
For today is our daughter's birthday,
Her third away from home.*

*Celebrating and remembering
our sweet daughters
8th birthday in Heaven.
Sadly missed and never forgotten.
We love you in Heaven and back.*

*Happy Birthday
Audrey Julie Ann
on May 22nd.
Love,
Dad, Mom and Ryan*

FOREST HILL CEMETERY
ST. THOMAS CEMETERY

Live and artificial flowers
will be allowed only during Memorial Day
observance. The period of observance will be
from 5 days before until 7 days after Memorial Day.
All flowers, ornaments, shepherd hooks
and anything that will interfere with mowing
must be removed after Memorial Day.
We hope that each spring around Memorial Day, when
new life emerges everywhere that our cemetery too,
will bloom with the colorful remembrances of our
departed loved ones.


Board of St. Thomas Cemetery
& Forest Hill Cemetery

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