

Speak up

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For those about to rock

Festival put out call for local acts

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Cuts delayed until May

Board expected to announce superintendent today

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

Any cuts the International Falls School Board makes will wait one more month.

Board members during a special meeting Monday delayed action on proposed cuts until they meet in May. The decision to delay came after a recommendation from Superintendent Nurdy Nelson, who said more time for consideration is needed.

"We have too many variables out there at this time," he said, which include the board's decision on the superintendent position and final numbers on how many students enrolled in the Post Secondary Enrollment Option at Rainy River Community College.

"If we retain quite a number of our high school students, it means a whole different picture of revenue for the district," Nelson told the board.

The process of making certain cuts began in November due to the district's declining enrollment. Rather than dip into its general fund, or savings account, the board took into consideration a number of areas appropriate for reductions.

When the process began, however, the board set its goal at saving \$500,000 based on a 70-student drop since May 31, 2013. Last week, that goal was revised to \$630,000 based on an 86-student drop.

Nelson told The Journal the additional loss of students was unexpected. On top of that, the superintendent said the district is also aware of about 15 additional children who will be leaving the district with their families during the summer.

To date, the board has made a few adjustments, including offering early retirement to eligible teachers to save \$430,000, and removing the library media position to save \$50,000. In May, the board could consider the following:

■ Contract out the yearbook for a savings of \$8,600.

Board to A7 ►



DAZZLIN' dancers

L ights. Camera. Action. Backus Community Center saw an almost full house three times last weekend during each performance of the 2014 Dancin' with Darcie recital themed "Calendar Girl."

The 17th annual production featured about 200 dancers and performances highlighting different holidays and events throughout the year.



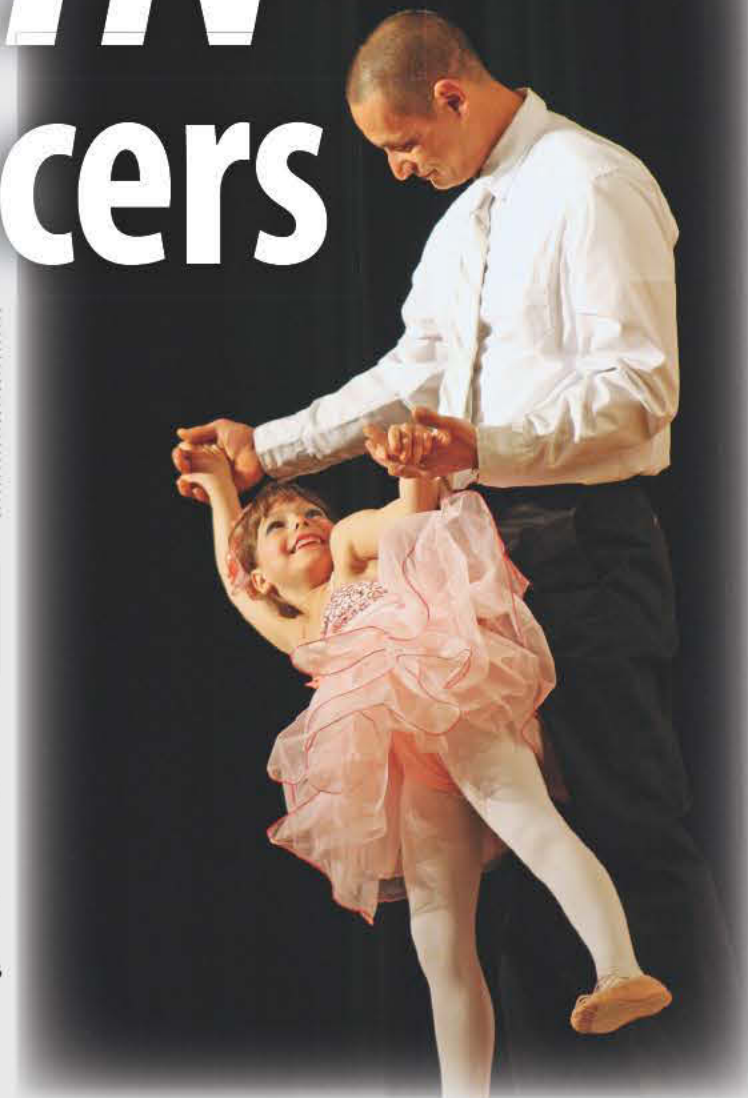
More Online

To view more photos or purchase photos, visit www.ifallsjournal.smugmug.com.

TO SEE MORE DANCE PHOTOS, TURN TO PAGES A10 AND B10.

Top: From left, Isabella Avis, Kendra Kalstad, Anna Bragg, Nissa Wright and Emily Fitzgerald perform to the Irish song "Too Ra Loo Ra Loo Ra" during Saturday's Dancin' with Darcie recital, "Calendar Girl," at Backus Community Center.

Left: Marissa Meyer performs to "Thriller," which appeared to be a crowd favorite at Saturday's afternoon performance.



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

Keira Magel shares a special dance with her father, Rick Magel, during "Love So Rare," a song to recognize Father's Day.

INTERNATIONAL FALLS EDA

EDA moves toward shovel-ready certification

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

International Falls Economic Development Authority agreed Monday to spend money budgeted to secure state certification of the multimodal district as shovel-ready.

The EDA unanimously approved spending up to \$7,500 to

complete several tasks remaining in a 12-point list of requirements for shovel-ready certification by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. The multimodal district is located along County Road 155.

In addition, the EDA agreed to spend \$3,200 for the DEED shovel-ready certification application fee. The money is budgeted in the

EDA's marketing account.

Shovel-ready sites certify the most time-consuming technical and regulatory aspects of development are already complete, the DEED website said.

"Our certification program gives your community a competitive edge by making the sites more attractive to companies and site-selection consultants looking

for locations for business start-ups, expansions or relocations," the website said.

Bob Anderson asked why some of the tasks remaining on the list, such as soil tests, weren't done before the purchase of the property for the multimodal district.

The EDA is made up of the members of the city council.

EDA President Gail Rognerud

said there was no reason to do the tests prior to the purchase of the property. Now, DEED requires it be done to be certified shovel ready, she said.

EDA Director Shawn Mason added the information provided in the requirements for certification will allow DEED staff to

EDA to A7 ►