

# LOCALNEWS

## District to implement principal, teacher monitoring system

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

The success of a school and its students rests on the shoulders of its leaders and their ability to effectively set goals, structure and support for the people they lead.

With more than 2,000 public schools in Minnesota, state lawmakers passed legislation that requires school administrators to develop a system to monitor people holding those leadership roles.

The way principals and teachers manage and lead has a direct impact to the success of students, according to Nordy Nelson, Independent School District No. 361 superintendent. Educators are trusted to prepare children for life outside of elementary and high school. Support from every leader-

ship role within a school is needed when considering the tools and resources needed to mold young scholars into successful adults.

This year, Minnesota lawmakers are making it mandatory for principals to be routinely evaluated on an annual basis and Nelson believes it can only move the district in a positive direction.

“(Observation) can’t help but benefit anyone,” he said.

Nelson said that in the past, he would issue biannual written summaries to Tim Everson and Melissa Tate, the district’s principals. This year, however, a



Nordy Nelson

formal observation will include one-on-one monitoring between Nelson and each principal.

And, Everson and Tate will not be the only school officials to be monitored. Next year, state law will require a more structured monitoring system for teachers as well. Nelson said in preparation for the 2014-2015 school year, the district will begin monitoring teachers this year.

“Since we have the Q-Comp (Quality Compensation) program, we’ll use that format with teachers,” Nelson said of the monitoring.

The Q-Comp program includes guidelines that require teachers to have two peers observe their class and each teacher in turn is also required to sit in on the classes of two teachers.

Nelson said non-tenured teachers are re-

quired to be reviewed three times per year, but that it will expand to include tenured next year.

The superintendent said about one third of the tenured teachers will be observed this coming school year.

“We just need to get that going because it has to be in place a year from now,” he said. “We are using this year to ease into the process and lay the format for having a solid plan in place next year.”

Nelson said feedback from the observations will hopefully promote and interest in material being covered in the class with the ultimate goal of boosting student performance and test scores.

“We need to get there little steps at a time, but I see this as moving in the right direction,” Nelson said.

## City to seek energy efficiency, savings

### Program intended to provide incentives toward projects

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

International Falls city buildings are expected to become more energy efficient under a program offered by Minnesota Power.

The Falls City Council Monday agreed to participate in the company’s Conservation Improvement Program, known as CIP, which offers incentives based on energy and/or demand savings.

Mayor Bob Anderson told the council Monday city staff met with a Minnesota Power consultant who prepared an energy plan for each building the city owns.

“There is an opportunity to save money,” Anderson said, adding he recommended the city become part of the program. He said the paybacks for investment range from two years to 10-12 years. As an example, he cited an investment of \$2,000 to \$4,000 to upgrade lighting in the Falls Municipal Building which would provide a two-year payback on the investment.

Councilor Paul Eklund supported joining the program. He said it’s difficult to purchase the existing tubes used for lighting in the municipal building and replacing the system with more energy efficient lighting would save money and energy.

Councilor Cynthia Jaksa called the program an excellent idea and said an

energy-efficiency program presented to the council a year or so ago required extensive accounting.

“Tracking the data would have been a burden on staff,” she said. “This doesn’t look as burdensome.”

Councilor Pete Kalar said the savings would be used for future energy efficiencies.

Jaksa asked if industries like Boise Inc.’s paper mill could be a part of the program, and Anderson also asked if the local hospital would be eligible.

Information about the program provided to the council stated CIP is an enhancement to the existing PowerGrant program and to promote ongoing investment in energy efficiency would be offered as a pilot program opportunity for increased incentive.

To qualify, according to the information, the city must agree to establish and maintain a separate energy efficiency account where the incentive money earned through qualifying energy efficiency projects would accumulate for the purpose of funding future projects.

Minnesota Power provided examples of qualifying projects, which include electrical and lighting retrofits and upgrades with less than a seven-year payback; and heating, ventilation, air conditioning and plumbing projects with less than a 20-year simple payback.



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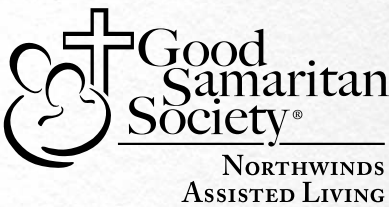



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**All daytime events are FREE!**

**Weekend Entertainment Pass \$10 Adult, \$5 Child**

### Wednesday, Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>

6:00 pm Elk's Spaghetti Dinner

### Thursday, Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>

2:00 pm Concessions Open  
2:00 pm Craft Show  
4:00 pm Beer Gardens Open  
6:00 pm Boat Parade  
6:30 pm Falls Carting Club  
8:00 pm Teen Idol Contest

### Friday, Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>

10:00 am Arts & Crafts Festival  
11:00 am Rad Zoo  
12:00 pm Family Fun Zone opens  
12:00 pm Tractor Rides  
12:00 pm Beer Gardens open  
1:00 pm Kids Games & Old Fashion Races  
2:00 pm Cash Box  
4:00 pm **Weigh-Ins**  
6:00 pm Steak Dinner  
7:30 pm Casting Call Talent Show  
10:00 pm Music/Dance/Karaoke

### Saturday, Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>

8:00 am Kids Fishing Tournament  
8:00 am Car Show Registration  
9:00 am 5 K Race  
10:00 am Arts & Crafts Festival  
10:00 am Car Show  
11:00 am Family Fun Zone opens  
12:00 pm Game Show  
12:00 pm Beer Gardens open  
12:00 pm Tractor Rides  
12:00 pm Kids Games & Old Fashion Races  
2:00 pm Cash Box  
4:00 pm Car Show Awards – drive thru  
4:00 pm **Weigh-Ins**  
7:00 pm Hypnotist  
9:00 pm Jonah and The Whales  
10:00 pm Raffle Drawing

For more information contact the  
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