November



COMMUN[®]TY NEWS

Serving Northern Minnesota Communities Hill City, Jacobson, and Swatara

2023

Articles in this

Newsletter:

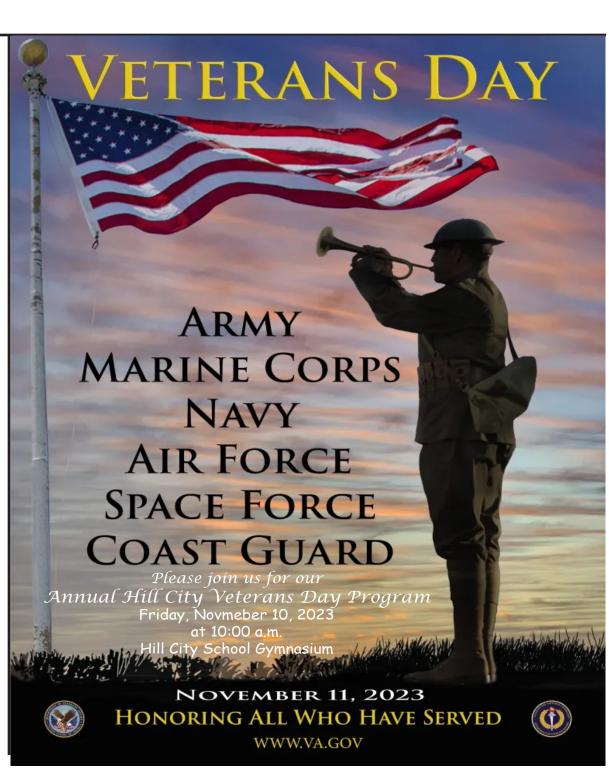
School News

School Board

Community Ed. News/Classes

Community Events

> Lunch Menu



Hill City School Board

Jay Zapzalka, Chairman	Joell Miranda, Clerk	Sarah Kingsley, Treasurer
jzapzalkaisd002.org	jmiranda@isd002.org	sakingsley@isd002.org
Mark Meyer, Vice Chair	Ron Saxton	Jeremy Nelson
mmeyer@isd002.org	rsaxton@isd002.org	jnelson@isd002.org

Committee Assignments for 2023

Committee

MSHSL

Negotiations Committee

Curriculum Committee

Community Education Advisory Council

Meet and Confer

Staff Development

School and Community Health Team

Recertification Committee

Comparable Worth

Safety/Transportation Committee

Athletic Advisory Committee

Itasca Area Schools Collaborative

Policy Committee

KBAJ

Representative

Mark Meyer

Jay Zapzalka and Mark Meyer,

(Ron Saxton, Alt.)

Ron Saxton (Joell Miranda, Alt.)

Sarah Kingsley (Mark Meyer, Alt.)

Joell Miranda and Jeremy Nelson

(Ron Saxton, Alt.)

Ron Saxton (Joell Miranda, Alt.)

Sarah Kingsley and Ron Saxton

Jeremy Nelson

Jay Zapzalka, Mark Meyer and Ron Saxton

Mark Meyer and Jay Zapzalka

Jay Zapzalka and Sarah Kingsley (Mark Meyer, Alt.)

(Width Wieyer, 71

Mark Meyer

Sarah Kingsley and Ron Saxton

YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

For School Closings and Emergency Information Broadcasts

CADITAL G DIURA		INSTANT ALERT	TV STATIONS	
RADIO USA	99.9 FM	INDIANI ALENI		
KOZY Grand Rapids	1320 AM	Infinite Campus' Voice	WDIO/WIRT	
11021 Offina Rupius	93.1 FM	Messenger system will	KDLH	
KMFY Grand Rapids	96.9 FM	call parents between	KBJR	
WTBX Grand Rapids	93.9 FM	5:00 - 6:00 a.m. for	WCCO	
KAXE Grand Rapids	91.7 FM	school closings.		

Community Newsletter Deadline

105.5 FM

Just a reminder, if you would like an article put in the Community Newsletter, it must be turned in to the school office by the 15th of the month to be put in the following months' newsletter. Newsletters are usually uploaded to the website around the 25th of the month. If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact Jessica at (218) 697-2394, ext. 101.



Support Within Reach serves Aitkin county residents. Our mission: To reduce the impact and harm of sexual violence in

the communities we serve. Free and confidential 24 hour Crisis Line:

Call 218-326-5008 or 1-866-747-5008

MEDICAL/LEGAL SUPPORT & FOLLOW-UP PEER COUNSELING COMMUNITY REFERRALS & EDUCATION

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2 HILL CITY, MINNESOTA

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 2, Hill City, Minnesota, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 25, 2023.

Roll Call showed all members were present except Sarah Kingsley

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- 1. Approved the Agenda as presented.
- 2. Approved the following:
 - *Consider Consent Agenda and remove as needed. *Corrected and Approved the Minutes of Special Meeting of August 15, and Regular Meeting of August 28, 2023.
 - *August 2023 bills presented for payment;
 - *Current bills through September 11, 2023.
 - *Investments and wire transfers;
 - *Reviewed Cash Receipts including donations.
- 3. Comments and requests from vistors: ICS Presentation with Sean Lewis
- 4. Transportation Report: All is good.
- 5. Curriculum Committee: No Report
- 6. Policy Committee: No Report.
- 7. School and Community health Committee: No Report.
- 8. Safety/Transportation Committee: No Report
- 9. Negotiations Committee: None
- 10. Community Education Report: There was No Report.
- 11. Early Education Report: None to Report
- 12. Building & Grounds Director Report: None to report
- 13. Principal's Report: Report is attached to the Official Minutes and made a part thereof.
- 14. Superintendent's Report: Report is attached to the Official Minutes and made a part thereof.
- Approved hiring Heidi Haddix as the .5 FTE Music/ Choir/Band Teacher starting the 23-24 School Year as per the HCUE contract.
- 16. Approved the purchase of services agreements with Northland Community Schools and Floodwood Schools for Early Childhood Corrdinator Services.
- 17. Approved the 23-24 Preliminary Seniority Lists.
- 18. Approved fitness center household pass at the rate of \$120.00 per year, with the addition that the replacement card will be \$10.00.
- 19. Superintendent Johnson recommends the Board set the Proposed Levy Limitaion and Certification 2023 Payable 2024 at the maximum.
- Set date and time for Truth in Taxation Meeting for December 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hill City School Community Room, Room 230. Notice was read after

- approval.
- 21. Meetings to be attended and Meetings Attended: 9/26 IASC Advisory Committee Meeting, 9/27 HCUE Negotiation Committee Meeting, 10/6 District 27/28 Meeting in Chisholm, 10/10 IASC Board of Directors Meeting. Fitness Center group Meeting scheduled for October 4, at 4 pm.
- 22. Approved to Adjourn @ 7:12 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Joell Miranda, Clerk

City of Hill City Minutes Regular Council Meeting-6:00pm September 12, 2023 Hill City Community Room

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Lange called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Present; Mayor Dave Lange, Council Members Lin Benson, Sean Lathrop, and Scott Brenny. Council Member Tom Semler arrived at 6:05 pm.

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda Add to New Business b. Approve Resolution 2023- 13 and c. Business Support.

Motion made by Lathrop to approve the agenda with the above-mentioned additions second by Brenny. MPU

Guest Speaker Michael Kearney- District 5 Aitkin County Commissioner is running late, will come back to him when he arrives.

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Brenny to approve the following consent agenda items, minutes of the Regular Council Meeting and the Work Session on 8/22/2023, Claim's, EFT's, & Transfer from 8/17-9/7 \$80,755.31, Reports from Public Works, Fire, Police, and Clerk, Resolution 2023- 11 accepting donations from HC Fire Relief Assoc. \$30,000 building Fund, and Resolution 2023 - 12 accepting donations from HC Fire Relief Assoc. \$30,000 Equip. Fund second by Lathrop. MPU

Maintenance

Changed oil in squad car. The red truck is starting to run rough, looking into why.

Water

Pilot program is done. Working with Bolton & Menk on Water Treatment project. Will be flushing within the next 3 weeks for the last time of the season.

Sewer

Nelson Sanitary was here to clean and televise lines.

Everything went well. Raising manhole lids. Did the annual brush cutting and weed spraying at the sewer pond. Parks.

The cabin here and painted white inside, the floor and bunks should be done this month. The raft and buoys are out for the year.

Airport

We will be doing some brushing.

Streets

Did annual brush cutting in the rights-of-way.

Trail

Did the annual brush cutting and weed spraying.

Police

USDA Grant-No local funding this year, maybe can get funding from national excess but doesn't look promising. Squad Car-Ordered \$41,000, refit reusing as much as possible, \$10,300, 6-8 months lead time.

Radios-Still waiting on programming key from the state. Cameras at Park/Beach-these have been installed and will monitor 24/7, hopefully keep the riffraff out and the place looking nice. School-Excited for the school year to start and having the guys in the school, there are some legislative challenges but other than that should be a good year.

Dates

Hill City Night Out 9/10 430pm, will land helicopter, sheriffs' dog, etc will be here. I will be out of town, but the departments will make it fun.

Traffic Stops- 75, CSC-1, Animal Complaint-, Garbage Dumping- 2, ATV Stop -1, Gas Drive Off- 1, AOA-1 Property Check - 99, Suspicion Complaint- 1, Car/Animal-1, Fraud -1, Motorist Assist- 1 Warrant Attempt- 1, Public Assist - 3, Theft -1 Neighbor Dispute -1, Damage to Property- 1 Ambulance- 2, Welfare Check- 1 otal Calls- 21 Self-Initiated -174

Fire

There were 5 Medical calls and 1 fire call for the month. The annual Hose testing is complete, and it went well. All the trucks have had the annual maintenance and DOT inspections done.

Clerk

Weekly meetings with Muni-Link. Implementation should be in October. NCR will be our new Credit Card Provider for Muni link. Worked on budgets. Met with Mark Jeffers on "Naturally Better" since I couldn't get connected on the WebEx meeting. Lunch in Aitkin with Jessica Siebert and Mike Skrbich. This is a quarterly get together to stay connected with other clerks. Working with the Auditor on getting everything into CTAS and balancing.

Tami and Brandi will be at the Clerk's Academy Thursday (9/14) & Friday (9/15).

Public Forum- 3-minute limit No public spoke.

Reports:

Mayor and Council

Mayor Lange met with some Senators about the bonding for the water treatment plant project, attended National Night Out, had a complaint about the garbage pick up at Quadna, he informed them they have dumpsters and would need to contact their Association about this issue and have been checking in almost daily with the office staff. There have been questions about when/if the recycling dumpster would be returned. There are a few broken down vehicles around town, council member Lathrop will talk with Public Safety Director Saxton about. Personnel Committee, Facilities/Equipment Committee, and Park Committee has not met. Land Use Committee Deputy Clerk Caverly followed up with the property on Linden Ave as to the status of their building permit application.

Events & Planning Committee

Met on September 6th, there were 20 people in attendance. Council Member Lathrop is the Chair and Sue Kaslow is the Co-Chair. There was discussion on what the mission, values, and goals are for the committee, with emphasis on community. Talked about past and present events. The next meeting is on October nth at 6 pm in the Community Room at City Hall.

Guest Speaker Michael Kearney- District 5 Aitkin County Commissioner.

Mr. Kearney apologized for being late. They were working on the County budgets and levy. He talked about the different funding that has benefited businesses, clubs, and the city over the past year. The money for this has came from State funded money. There is also some money available for Child Care. He attended a meeting last week about Housing, the State has allocated 1.3 billion with 35 million going to rural areas. When he gets more information, he will forward this onto the city. Old Business

Pikus RV Permit- tabled from 8/22 meeting The Council asked if Mr. Pikus had been contacted; Clerk Meyer was not sure but didn't think so. There was discussion on the ordinance. The permit application was tabled.

Budget update

Clerk Meyer informed the council that they had two budgets, one with Deputy Clerk Caverly at 32 hours and the other with her at 40 hours per week. Further budget discussions will be at the September 26th Work Session. **New Business**

Water Treatment Plant presentation- 9/7 & 9/28 Mayor Lange did a presentation for some Minnesota Senators who were doing a Bonding Tour around Northern Minnesota on September 7th. The presentation was on the Water Treatment Plant Project. There will be another presentation on September 28th.

Approve Resolution 2023 -13- Accepting a MPCA grant contract Hill City was awarded a grant in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the Wastewater Pond Equipment Replacement Project. Motion made by Brenny to accept the grant and to sign the contract with MPCA second by Lathrop. MPU

Business Support

Coundl Member Lathrop was wondering if businesses in town have seen a decline in the past year due to the recent road construction. His business, Cozy Cove, has seen a decline between July 5, 2022- July 5, 2023. How can the city support the businesses in town. Are there low interest loans or grants to help businesses. Mark Jeffers, Aitkin County Economic Development and Lisa Randall, CEDA are two people who can look into this.

Credit Card Machine

With the switchover from UbMax to Muni-Link we must change credit card companies. The new company, NCR, has a swipe machine we can purchase for \$300.00. By having this we will not have to manually enter information when someone comes in to pay their bills. Motion made by Benson to purchase the credit card machine for \$300.00 second by Lathrop. MPU

Council Member Benson asked if we need to have two meetings a month. This isn't something they need to decide tonight but to think about.

Up Coming Meetings

a. September 26th - 5:00 pm Work Session- Budget b.
 September 26th - 6:00 pm Regular Meeting c. September 28th- Water Treatment Plant Presentation
 Adjourn

Motion made by Brenny to adjourn the meeting at 7:04pm second by Benson. MPU

City of Hill City Work Session Minutes September 26, 2023 5:00 pm

City Hall Community Room, 125 Lake Ave Call to Order

Mayor Lange called the work session to order at 5:05pm. Council Members present; Mayor

Dave Lange, Council member, Sean Lathrop, Scott Brenny, Lin Benson, and Tom Semler.

Review Proposed Budget and Levy

Clerk Meyer provided the council with budgets from all the

department heads and a proposed levy. The 2023 Final Levy was set at \$233,795.65. There was discussion last December to do a

12% increase for the next 3 years. There was discussion on all the budgets. Some items that were discussed were the CEDA contract, the Deputy Clerk's hours and the police department. Past levies and budgets were also discussed.

Adjourn

Motion made by Lathrop to adjourn the work session at 5:45 pm second by Semler. MPU

City of Hill City Minutes Regular Council Meeting -6:00 pm September 26,2023 Hill City Community Room

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Lange called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Council Present: Mayor Dave Lange, Council Members, Sean Lathrop, Scott Brenny, Lin Benson, and Tom Semler. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda Motion made by Semler to approve the agenda as presented seconded by Brenny. MPU

Guest Speaker - There were no guest speakers. Consent Agenda

Motion made to Lathrop to approve the following consent agenda items. Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting 9112/2023, Claim's, EFT's, & Transfer from 9/8-9/21 \$36,560.59, Monthly Council Pay September, Resolution 2023- 14 revoking mail-in balloting second by Brenny. MPU

Public Forum- 3-minute limit - No public spoke. Engineer Report

Andrew attended a utility Information Meeting with Mn-DOT on August 28th. MnDOT provided direction that all utilities in the TH 200 and TH 169 intersection need to be relocated to be outside of the roundabout. This includes the City's forcemain. Bolton & Menk looking into possible ways to fund a forcemain reroute project. Wastewater Pond Capital Equipment Replacement Grant Update MPCA finally got contracts to the city for the \$25,000 grant the city received. Bolton & Menk to provide proposal for survey and design at the next council meeting. The goal would be to complete the survey before winter. Construct project in early spring 2024. Early June Deadline to spend the funds. Geographic Information

June Deadline to spend the funds. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Mapping Bolton & Menk teams is working to compile all the collected information and get it into a map for the city. Work will be ongoing through the fall to complete the city's map.

Water Treatment Plant Piloting

Bolton & Menk Inc completed Phase 1 and 2 of the pro-

posal. We are currently working in Phase 3. o Site survey is complete. Soil borings completed middle of the week. Geotechnical report to follow. Final step of the preliminary engineering proposal will be Phase 4, which is completing the Preliminary Engineering Report which compiles all the information and work done during this preliminary engineering phase.

Hill City Airport

The city accepted a grant from MnDOT for the Obstruction Clearing project for the city's airport. The estimated total cost of \$10,000. City did not receive a grant for an Airport Layout Plan. The city is unlikely to get other grants until this is completed. We will put this on the City's CIP for next year. Mr. Beadell presented the council with a Grant proposal from MN DEED Small Cities Development Program to relocate the existing forcemain in the intersection of TH 169 and TH 200. The forcemain needs to be moved due to the construction of the round-a-bout. There are 2 phases to the grant process. Phase 1 is due by November 29, 2023, and if we make it through Phase 1, Phase 2 is due by Aprill7, 2024 Motion made by Benson to approve moving forward with the grant process second by Semler. MPU CEDAReport. Combined brainstorming and survey results, compiled report and distributed. Suggested a city council work session with CEDA to thoroughly review and discuss the results and set priorities and direction for CEDA's steps forward. Discussions continue with Mark Jeffers of Aitkin County Economic Development about potential business and/or economic development projects, more to come. Attended Events Committee meeting will be working with Sue/Sean to assist in implementing events. Attended IRRR Housing Workshop in Chisholm. Forwarded slides and handouts to city council. Attended National Night Out. Met with county commissioner Michael Kearney about Hill City. Kearney invited CEDA to contact Mark Jeffers about speaking at a Aitkin County Board meeting. Forwarded CEDA suggestions on how to approach State bonding bill support for water treatment plant The council set a work session for October 10111 at 5 pm to discuss the survey results.

Old Business

Maintenance Truck Update

Casper and Jordan have been looking for a truck to replace the red truck with the plow and crane on it. They were not able to find a truck at this time. Casper presented the council with three quotes for snowplows. The plow would go on the gray truck. There were two quote's from Martin's Snowplow and Equipment. One is for a Western plow for \$9,830.75 and the other is for a Fisher plow for \$9,441.01. The third quote was from Joe's Garage for a HDV plow for \$10,333.43. Motion made by Lathrop to purchase the Western plow from Martin's Snowplow and Equipment for \$9,830.75 second by Selmer. MPU

New Business

Rent a Skid Steer for brush cutting on the trail Casper would like to rent a skid steer to brush along the walking trail. R&R Rental has them for \$550.00/8 hour day, Casper will need it for two days. Motion made by Lathrop to rent the skid steer second by Brenny. MPU Approve Proposed Budget and Levy The budgets and levy were discussed during the work session prior to the council meeting. Motion made by Semler to approve the proposed budgets as presented second by Brenny. MPU Motion made by Lathrop to set the proposed levy at \$261,851.13 to be broke down as follows: General Government \$95,831.48, Streets \$20,000.00, Trail \$15,235.50, Fire \$30,784.15, and Police \$100,000.00 second by Benson. MPU. CTAS Training for Clerk Meyer and Deputy Clerk Caverly The Minnesota Association of Townships is offering train-

ing on CTAS on October 51in Grand Rapids. Clerk Meyer and Deputy Clerk Caverly would like to attend this training. The cost is \$50.00/person. Motion made by Benson to approve Clerk Meyer and Deputy Clerk Caverly to attend the Training second by Lathrop. MPU FYI - Starting to look for Election Judges (Presidential Primary is in March) Set Truth in Taxation meeting date and time. The Truth in Taxation meeting will be on December 121 at 6:00 pm with the regular council meeting to follow. LPR Camera's - Ron License Plate Recognition (LPR) Cameras are security cameras with specialized optics and shutter rates to allow the camera to clearly capture numbers and letters of license plates on stationary or moving vehicles. These cameras are very useful in finding stolen vehicles, amber alerts, silver alerts, etc. They are \$3,000/year. Public Safety Director Saxton isn't looking for a motion at this time but wanted to know if this is something the council would be interested in. Saxton said that it would depend on if the City of Grand Rapids and surrounding areas would be purchasing them. The council is in support of the cameras.

Up Coming Meetings

September 28- House Capital Investment Committee at the Minnesota North College, Itasca campus 11:45 am, October 10- Work Session 5 pm- Discuss Survey Results, October 10- Regular Meeting 6 pm, and October 11 -Events Committee Meeting

Adjourn

Motion made by Brenny to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 pm second by Lathrop. MPU







Strength, balance and fitness for adults 55+

in-person exercise sessions in Hill City and

Jacobson! Times and locations below. Stay Active & Independent for Life (SAIL) is a low-impact Ptness program designed speciPcally for older adults to build muscle strength, improve balance and increase Bexibility to maintain or regain an active lifestyle. Sessions are 90 minutes, held twice a week, led by trained volunteers. Open to adults of all ages at no cost.

- Hill City Fire Hall
- Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:00 10:30 am
 - Jacobson Community Center
- Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 am-12:00 pm

If you are interested in either attending as a participant and/or serving as a volunteer, please contact:

> Lori Whitted at lori@eldercircle.org or 218-999-9233 x278







Yearbook Checklist 2024 Seniors

Three pictures including 1
Senior photo and 1 photo of your younger
self. The third is your choice!
Parent/Guardian/Mentor

letter: A letter by an adult you're close to. Must be at least 3 sentences!

Senior Quote

Answer the following questions:

What is your favorite high school memory? What advice do you have for underclassmen? What are five fun facts about yourself?

Get this stuff in to Miss Vanderport as soon as you can.

Please Join Us For

Coffee With The Ericksons

As we talk about School, Parent, Student Relationships



When: Thursday, November 9th from 8:30 – 9:00 AM Where: Community Education

Topics discussed will include:

- School-Home connection
- Tips for communicating with your student
- Tips for spending time together
- Family habits to support relationship building

Picture ~Re-Takes~

November 2

Homework Help

Available:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays

Right after School

In the Turn Around Room Room 208

Markyour Calendardari CONFERENCES

AT HILL CITY SCHOOL

Tuesday, November 14 4:00 to 7:00 PM Wednesday, November 15 4:00 to 7:00 PM

Visit Elementary and Secondary Teachers in their classrooms

Mrs.Vanderschaaf, Spanish teacher will be in room 206 via telepresence on Wednesday, November 15

Winter jackets will also be available for those in need donated by the Knights of Columbus

Letters will be sent home for Elementary students

Please call the school at 218-697-2394, if you have questions or would like a special appointment.

ISD #2 Breakfast Menu November 2023						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bagels with Cream Cheese	Oatmeal, Cereal, Grahams	3 Cinnamon Roll, Yogurt	4 Offer-vs-Serve Build a healthy Meal. Select a full or 1/2 serving of
5	6 NO SCHOOL	7 Oatmeal, Cereal, Grahams	8 French Toast, Sausage Links	9 Apple Frudel	10 Cinnamon Roll, Cheese Stick	fruit or veggie & a minimum of 2 other full meal components
Menu subject to change at anytime	13 Strawberry Bagel	14 Breakfast Pizza	15 Oatmeal, Cereal, Grahams	16 Cinnamon Roll, Yogurt	17 NO SCHOOL	18 4 meal compo- nents are offered daily. Students must select a
19	20 Cereal Bar	21 Oatmeal, Cereal, Grahams	22 Cinnamon Roll, Cheese Stick	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	One of the components must be a fruit or veggie.
Fruit, Juice and Milk served Daily	27 Nutrigrain Bar	28 Muffins, Cheese Stick	29 Breakfast Pizza	30 Oatmeal, Cereal, Grahams		

ISD #2 Lunch Menu November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Offer-vs-Serve Build a healthy Meal. Select a full or 1/2 serving of			1 Breakfast For Lunch	Corn Dogs, Tater Tots, Green Beans	3 Shrimp Poppers French Fries, Coleslaw	4
fruit or veggie & a minimum of 2 other full meal components.	6 NO SCHOOL	7 Chicken Strips, Rice, Roll, California Blend	8 Chicken Veggie Soup, Turkey Cheese Sandwich, Veggies & Dip	9 Cheese Quesadilla w/ Fixings, Rice, Beans, Salsa	10 Sloppy Joes on a Bun, Jo Jo's, Mixed Veggies	11 Fruit & Milk Served Daily with Lunch
5 meal compo- nents are offered daily. Students must select a	13 French Bread Pizza, Marinara Sauce, Green Beans	14 Chicken Nuggets Tater Tots, Mixed Veggies	15 Taco Soup with Tortilla Chips, Veggies & Dip	16 Pepperoni Pizza, Salad Bar	NO SCHOOL	Menu subject to change at anytime
One of the components must be a fruit or veggie.	Chicken Sandwich w/ LTO, Hashbrown Patty, Veggies	21 Fajita with Fixings, Rice, Corn	22 Ham & Turkey Sub, Baked Chips, Veggies & Dip	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	
26	27 Chicken Popper, Mashed Potato, Gravy, Roll	28 Rotini Pasta w/ Meat Sauce, Veggies, Breadstick	29 Stuffed Crust Pizza, Veggies	FARM 2 SCHOOL		

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Independent School District No. 2 500 Ione Avenue Hill City, MN 55748

win on Friday! Way to go, Storm!

Hill City, MN 55748 U.S. Postage Paid Permit No. 3 ECRWSS

Local Boxholder Hill City, MN 55748



Erickson's Update Dear Families of Hill City Schools,

I hope this message finds everyone in good spirits and good health. It has been an exciting few weeks here at our school as we settle into the first quarter of the academic year. I have a lot of updates to share with you all, so please read on for more information. I have noticed a significant improvement in student attendance over the past month. Our students are showing up to school on time and ready to learn, which is fantastic to see. We know that attendance is critical to academic success, so please keep up the great work. I am happy to see our school's sports teams doing exceptionally well recently, which includes great sportsmanship. I would like to congratulate all of our athletes for their hard work and accomplishments! Our Homecoming week was very successful, with a big

I would like to remind everyone that family-teacher conferences will be taking place very soon. Please mark your calendars for these important meetings, as they provide a great opportunity for families to touch base with teachers and discuss their student's progress. More information will be sent home soon.

Our school will be hosting a quarterly Coffee with the Ericksons starting Thursday, November 9th, from 8:30-9:00 in the Community Education Room. Coffee with the Ericksons is for families of students to create community and learn how to support students in the school aged years. Mrs. Erickson, the school counselor, and myself will host the event each quarter in the Community Education Room. We look forward to welcoming our families and learning together over coffee! Our first session will cover family, school, and student relationships. If you have any questions, please reach out to me. We hope to see you there!

I believe that family involvement is critical to the success of our school and our students. I would like to reboot the Parent Action Committee (PAC), which I believe will be a great way to get families involved and make a difference in our school community. As a member of PAC, you will have the opportunity to participate and lead in a variety of activities and events, such as fundraisers and volunteer opportunities. I want to welcome all parents, guardians, and family members to become members and help us achieve our mission. Please send me an email with your interest level, name, phone number, and email. I will get back to you with the date of our first meeting. Send all emails to zerickson@isd002.org

Finally, I would like to thank all of our teachers, staff, and families for their continued support and dedication to our school. We have an amazing community, and it is only through working together that we can achieve success.