



## From The Superintendent's Desk

Proctor Public Schools, ISD 704

John Engelking – Superintendent of Schools

November 16, 2012



*This is my weekly update on the state of the district which focuses on a variety of issues relating to facilities, curriculum, activities, and programs occurring throughout our district. There may be weeks in which I only focus on one or two topics, but I do want to keep you informed. I welcome comments and feedback regarding this update or any of your concerns regarding our district.*

### Dr. Brenda Cassellius Visits ISD 704:



The Commissioner of Education made a stop at Proctor High School today to visit with teachers, administrators, board members, and staff. From my previous meetings with Brenda Cassellius, I had a pretty good hunch that she would be engaging and bring a positive message to our District. It was a pretty good hunch. The Commissioner helped to reinforce our curriculum work and validate the very hard work that you do to educate our students. It was refreshing for our commissioner of education to recognize that standardized testing is not the end all when it comes to identifying success stories in schools. It was equally refreshing to hear positive statements regarding funding for education in Minnesota. But more importantly, it was great to have a commissioner who is so relatable and supportive. As she left today the Commissioner told me that she was impressed with the Proctor staff and appreciated how welcomed you made her feel.

We asked high school seniors Corrine Maki and Katrina Hagemeyer if they would represent our student body and present a Rail-Strong shirt to the Commissioner. Not only did they agree, but Corrine Maki wrote an excellent speech which define what she thought it meant to be Rail-Strong. I thought you might like to read it.

*When observing a group of people, what is it that one notices first? Is it the expressions on their faces? Perhaps it is how they interact with each other? First impressions take only seconds to form but can take years to redefine. How then, would you like to be perceived? At Proctor High School, we are intelligent, dedicated students striving to achieve and surpass their goals whether it be in sports, academics or various other extracurricular activities. This is a school full of leaders; students are not afraid to take control of a situation and get things done efficiently while continuously exceeding expectations. The faculty consists of caring, dedicated people willing to be there for the students no matter the difficulty. Although negative attitudes can greatly fluncea a first impression, I believe a positive and upbeat attitude is even more powerful. The bad things will fade away with memory, but the good things will persevere. They will not diminish over time and are far more difficult to break down. By empowering ourselves with a positive persona, we are a stronger and better school. We are Railstrong. We fight for what we believe in. We support each other through the times of difficulty and the times of ease. We are proud of our school. We come to the aid of our community. We try our best and never give up hope. We rise to challenges rather than back away in cowardice. We inspire each other. We believe in each other. We are Railstrong. By Corrine Maki*



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Seeing and hearing those two students represent Proctor today made me proud to be involved in public education. Let's make it a point to live up to Corrine's ideals. Thanks for all you do for kids and for education.

### Closing Comments:

I welcome your feedback and comments. Have a terrific weekend.