



THE ART AND SCIENCE OF PARTNERSHIPS
MASA Fall Conference
October 4, 2010



Michael Lovett, Superintendent
Pete Wiltonson, Executive Director of Business Services
White Bear Lake Area Schools

DEFINITIONS


Partnership – a contract entered into by two or more persons or entities in which each agrees to furnish part of the human or financial capital and labor for a joint enterprise, and from which each receives gain in some proportion to the success of the whole.



DEFINITIONS

Art – the conscious use of skill and creative imagination especially in the production of aesthetic objects: skill in conducting any human activity.

Science – from the Latin *scientia* “to know”; any methodological activity, discipline or study.



*Building partnerships is both
an art and a science*



**PARTNERSHIPS IN WHITE BEAR
LAKE AREA SCHOOLS – 2010-11**

- o YMCA
- o Tamarack Nature Center
- o MacPhail Center for Music
- o White Bear Center for Arts
- o Vadnais Heights Sports Center
- o Hangzhou Foreign Languages School



**PARTNERSHIPS IN WHITE BEAR
LAKE AREA SCHOOLS – 2010-11**

- o YMCA
- o Tamarack Nature Center
- o MacPhail Center for Music
- o White Bear Center for Arts
- o Vadnais Heights Sports Center
- o Hangzhou Foreign Languages School

Finally - a home pool!

Through a partnership with the YMCA, elementary students receive water safety lessons during the school year. Extended Day participants receive summer swimming lessons. The YMCA serves as the high school swimming team home pool.



PARTNERSHIPS IN WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOLS – 2010-11

- o YMCA
- o Tamarack Nature Center
- o MacPhail Center for Music
- o White Bear Center for Arts
- o Vadnais Heights Sports Center
- o Hangzhou Foreign Languages School

Experiential opportunities

The District partners with Tamarack Nature Center to provide students with experiential learning on environmental issues throughout the school year. The Early Childhood Program partnership with the Center, which serves as a program site.



PARTNERSHIPS IN WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOLS – 2010-11

- o YMCA
- o Tamarack Nature Center
- o MacPhail Center for Music
- o White Bear Center for Arts
- o Vadnais Heights Sports Center
- o Hangzhou Foreign Languages School

World-class music education



Birch Lake Elementary partners with MacPhail Center for Music to offer an enhanced music program to the school's students. Additional after-school and weekend music lesson opportunities are offered to the whole community.



PARTNERSHIPS IN WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOLS – 2010-11

- o YMCA
- o Tamarack Nature Center
- o MacPhail Center for Music
- o White Bear Center for Arts
- o Vadnais Heights Sports Center
- o Hangzhou Foreign Languages School

Award-winning art for all!



Every elementary student receives watercolor and drawing lessons through a partnership with the White Bear Center for the Arts. The partnership received a Local Government Innovation Award from the Humphrey Institute in 2010.



PARTNERSHIPS IN WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOLS – 2010-11

- o YMCA
- o Tamarack Nature Center
- o MacPhail Center for Music
- o White Bear Center for Arts
- o Vadnais Heights Sports Center
- o Hangzhou Foreign Languages School

Breaking the ice

The new Vadnais Heights Sports Center project will provide White Bear Lake Area High School athletic teams with brand new, state of the art facilities. Upgraded facilities provide "home" convenience the team has never before experienced.



PARTNERSHIPS IN WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOLS – 2010-11

- o YMCA
- o Tamarack Nature Center
- o MacPhail Center for Music
- o White Bear Center for Arts
- o Vadnais Heights Sports Center
- o Hangzhou Foreign Languages School

International ties

WBLAS partners with Hangzhou Foreign Languages School for teacher and cultural exchanges. Long-term exchange teachers serve residencies in elementary schools and are resources to secondary world language departments.





*The Partnership Process:
White Bear Center for the Arts*



STEP 1

WHAT DRAWS US TOGETHER

- A compelling need or promising vision
 - School District had eliminated elementary art during the 1990s as a result of major budget cuts.
- WB Center for the Arts came to the School District with:
 - A **big dream** to re-establish high quality art experiences for 3700 K-5 elementary students.
 - \$7000 raised from private donations
 - Untried K-5 curriculum developed by retired art teacher



STEP 2

RELATIONSHIPS ARE ESSENTIAL

- Relationships
 - Time together
 - Increasing the size of the circle
- Initial meeting was School Board member and Superintendent meeting in tiny Arts Center office/work room.



STEP 3

THE POWER OF STORY

- Creating the story
 - Telling the story
 - Selling the story
- In time, we jointly created the story and learned to tell the story to make it compelling to the community.



STEP 3
THE POWER OF STORY



STEP 4
THE DETAILS

- Working out the details
 - Successive 1-year contracts approved by the School Board.
 - Applied for Legacy Amendment grant.
- Implementation
 - Started small – 3 watercolor lessons in years one and two.
 - Growing slowly – added 2 drawing lessons in year three.



STEP 5
CELEBRATE

- Student artwork adorns the walls of each school.
- Humphrey Institute Innovation Award in March, 2010.





The Partnership Process:
YMCA



STEP 1
WHAT DRAWS US TOGETHER

- o A compelling need or promising vision
 - School District had a record of seven failed referendums to build a swimming pool over a 50 year period.
 - o Wanted to:
 - o Provide a home pool for girls' swim and dive team.
 - o Continue and expand elementary water safety lessons.
 - o Find cost-effective solution.



STEP 1
WHAT DRAWS US TOGETHER

- YMCA approached 2 school districts and 5 municipalities with:
 - o **A big dream** to expand and significantly remodel a community recreational center, with an attached senior/teen center.
 - o 10-acre site with a 40 year old building in need of major upgrading and repair.
 - o An invitation to municipal and school district partners willing to invest and share risk and reward.



STEP 2 RELATIONSHIPS ARE ESSENTIAL

- Relationships
- Time together
- Increasing the size of the circle
 - School Superintendent, CFO and Community Education Director participated in two years of needs assessments and planning.



STEP 3 THE POWER OF STORY

- Creating the story
- Telling the story
- Selling the story
 - In time, we jointly created the story and learned to tell the story to make it compelling to the community.



STEP 4 THE DETAILS

- Working out the details
 - The YMCA needed at least one school district and two municipalities for the project to be economically feasible.
 - Each of the potential partners had distinct priorities, financial challenges and political realities.
 - Each partner developed a separate long-term partnership with the YMCA.
 - The school district ultimately was the first entity to formally approve an agreement, which provided for a 20-year lease, with lease payments for only the first 10 years, and a provision that would return half the revenue from pool use by other school districts.



STEP 4 THE DETAILS

- o Implementation
 - Groundbreaking of Phase 1 occurred in November of 2009, within two weeks of official Board approval.
 - Senior/Teen Center scheduled for late fall, 2010.



STEP 5 CELEBRATE

- o Grand Opening event took place in June, 2010.
- o First girls' home swim and dive team meet hosted at the White Bear Lake Area Schools YMCA Aquatics Center in August, 2010.
- o Elementary water safety program back in place in September, 2010.



CONTINUING THE STORY

- o Each partnership:
 - Creates **opportunities for students** often not possible without the partnership.
 - Proceeds through similar **steps**.
 - Is a unique **story**.
 - Presents unique **opportunities** and **challenges**.
 - Is **cost-effective** and **mutually beneficial**.



*All partnerships are both
an art and a science*



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

- **Michael Lovett,**
Superintendent
 - mjlovett@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us
 - 651-407-7563
- **Pete Willcoxon,**
Executive Director of
Business Services
 - pwillco@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us
 - 651-407-7516
- **Dave Guenther,**
Director Community
Servi
 - daguen@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us
 - 651-407-7509
- **Marisa Vette,** Director
of Communications and
Community Relations
 - mavett@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us
 - 651-407-7695
- **Lori Swanson,** School
Board chair
 - schoolboard@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us
 - 651-429-1408