



## *From the Cabinet*

*By Business Manager Jackie Gapp*

### **Welcome Back!**

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 school year! Spring and summer 2020 challenged all of us to find a new “normal” for learning and serving our students and community. What I have learned most throughout this experience is the dedication our teams have to Fargo Public Schools and how much I appreciate the caring community we have built.

Throughout this time, our food services department was hard at work ensuring students were fed. These essential personnel worked tirelessly while many of us were sheltered in our homes. Free meal service began in March and continued throughout the summer. More than 312,000 meals were distributed! Currently, free meal service to all students will continue through December 2020 or as U.S. Department of Agriculture funding allows.

With lower traffic in our school buildings, the Maintenance and Operations Department was able to complete over 100 projects during the summer months! Projects took place throughout every building in the District and included plumbing, painting, carpeting, classroom relocations, grounds work, and, of course, cleaning to ensure the health and safety of all who enter.

Transportation adjusted from transporting students to supporting the nutrition services department with meal service to keep our students fed during closure and throughout the summer. Food distribution routes were created and staffed with employees from Valley Bus, as well as many Fargo Public Schools volunteers. Community meal service would not have been as successful without the kindness and support of our staff who took time out of their day to volunteer.

Lastly, the business office finalized school year 2020 and opened 2021. While this process occurs each year, ensuring families were properly refunded for activity fees, lunch accounts, and parking passes added an additional layer to typical summer operations. District assets were inventoried. Products and equipment that can be used to clean surfaces and protect students and staff were researched, ordered, and distributed.

Although the start of this school year may have been a bit different than those in the past, we will continue forward with our mission of *Educating and Empowering All Students to Succeed*.

