

*Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!*

As I sit at my desk and write this letter, it is hard to believe we are in December. The New Year is just around the corner. I hope everyone knows how valuable you are to each and every student and staff in your buildings.

The executive board held a retreat in October and reviewed the current status of the MSNA strategic plan, including our successes, challenges, and victories. The board formulated the goals for the third year of the strategic plan and in doing so, built a year-long calendar of tasks and deadlines. Board members are leading various projects within the plan, and will be contacting MSNA members to participate in ad hoc committees. We hope you'll join if asked.



Keep March 11, 2024 open for our annual "Day at the Capitol." We will see many of our legislators and talk to them about what we do for our schools. More information to come.

We are continuing the analysis of chapters within MSNA and how best to move forward. President-elect Emily Malone and Vice President Glen Ritter are leading this discussion. We will continue to support chapters this year as we look towards the future of chapters. If you would like a board member to come to a chapter meeting please feel free to reach out to [MSNA](https://www.msna.org). We would love to attend.

MSNA is continuing our mentorship program for directors and managers. If you are a new director or manager and feel lost or in over your head, please reach out to MSNA or [myself](#) so we can get you the right person to help you. We do not want you to feel like you are all alone, as we have been where you are now.

Plans are beginning for our Annual Conference in August 2024 in St Cloud. The Annual Conference Co-chairs are Ashley Schneider, Moorhead Area Public School and Callie Neumann, Anoka-Hennepin Schools. More information will be coming in the next few months. We encourage you to be a part of the conference by being a presenter for workshop. Think about what you can offer to your fellow members. Call for proposals will open in early February.

Happy New Year. May 2024 be a great year for all of you.

Michele Hawkinson  
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***Board members at the October Board Retreat in Mankato  
We had a great time strategic planning and axe throwing!***

