

# WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOL

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**Angela Brandt**  
Superintendent & HS Principal

**Kayla Rusten**  
Elementary & Middle School Principal

March 14, 2023

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Angela Brandt, I am the Superintendent/High School Principal at Warwick Public School. This is my thirteenth year here at Warwick. I started out as a Pre-K teacher, moved to an Instructional Coach position, then Elementary Principal, and now in my third year as Superintendent and High School Principal. Before working at Warwick, I taught for eleven years at the Tate Topa Tribal School in Fort Totten. I have deep roots in this area, have built many relationships with families and community members, and have invested my entire educational career to the children of the Spirit Lake Nation.

I am writing to express my opposition of SB 2254. Although I've been told schools will not be taken over, that is not how this bill reads. Taking over our school would mean going back to square one and erasing all of the hard work we have done here at Warwick Public School.

We have worked hard on school culture and putting academics first. We've become intentional in our practices and it is starting to show. Our high school was identified as a TSI school in the past, fortunately, this year, the high school was not identified. The high school achieved this by making sure we scored high in the areas of accountability that we could control such as participation in the student engagement survey and meeting the requirements for all of our seniors as work choice ready. Our graduation rate is on the rise as well, scoring at 91% including the completer rate, for the 2021-22 school year.

Currently, both our elementary and middle schools receive CSI funding. Our elementary school is in the second cycle of CSI. The middle school is in the first cycle, having moved from TSI to CSI this fall. We are jumping through the hoops and requirements as best we can while meeting the academic, social emotional, and physical needs of our student population.

I don't believe a book should be judged by its cover. Warwick Public School has made many gains in many areas, such as attendance rates, NWEA assessment scores, and many more that are not recordable on paper or in a report. I encourage you, as I have encouraged employees of DPI as well, to visit our school, see for yourself the work that is being done, and meet our students and staff in person.

I ask that an amendment be done to SB 2254. Conduct a study of CSI schools – what are they doing to make a difference, what gains have been made and in what areas. If not a study then perhaps implement a turnaround process that would best fit the special needs of our school and student population.

Taking over our school, shaking up what is already in place, putting our students through more change and trauma, and putting us back to square one, is not the answer.

Please amend or vote no on SB 2254. I look forward to you visiting our school.

*Angela Brandt*

**Kelly Ganon**  
Board Director

**Jean Wallace**  
Board President

**Mary Langley**  
Board Director

**Bonita Morin**  
Board Vice President

**Shane Moxnes**  
Board Director