

SUPERINTENDENT RECEIVES THREE-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION

ELK RIVER, MN -- At its Aug. 11, 2008 Meeting, the School Board extended Superintendent Mark Bezek's contract three years. The new contract is effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012.

Bezek, who is in the third year of his initial contract, leads a school district of 17 schools, nearly 13,000 students, approximately 1,900 employees and a budget of \$112 million. He is credited with the development of the Strategic Plan, a first-ever Mission statement and transparency in financial operations. The Board notes Bezek's reorganization of district leadership, recruiting first-class administrators and bringing accountability, transparency and credibility to the district's financial operations among his major accomplishments.

"We are extremely pleased with Dr. Bezek's performance," said Board Director Sue Farber. "Through his leadership we are creating a new model of education that by 2015 will result in ours being a world-class school district."

"I am thrilled with this extension," said Bezek. "We have created a framework, and are now implementing, a system that ensures every student is provided an outstanding education that will prepare them to accomplish their dreams."

He stressed his first priority is to pass a renewal levy this November. "Without voter approval we will lose \$1.6 million, which will result in cuts in programs and staff," he said. "It is imperative to continue this levy, which doesn't include new taxes, for us to succeed for our students."

Bezek, 51, has an Ed.D. in Educational Administration from St. Mary's University.