

# Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting  
December 21, 2020

## Our Mission

**Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.**

## Our Vision

**To be the school district of choice, inspiring excellence in academics, arts, and activities.**

The Superintendent Report summarizes the communication with the Board of Education (BOE) throughout the month including the weekly District Status Report. In addition, the Report includes the building administrator reports as well as other information believed to be beneficial to the work of the BOE and school district. Detailed information for the items listed under the District Status Report Summary can be found within each weekly Status Report from the District's website. I appreciate feedback as to how we can improve the report. Thank you.

### **1. Principal Reports**

### **2. Weekly District Status Report Summary from November 13, 20, 27 and December 4 & 11.**

#### **A. Information, Communication, and Correspondence**

- **News from Around the State and Beyond**

- Teaching: More schools halt in-person classes as COVID-19 cases rise

- Referendum: Voters largely say no to fall school questions

- Superintendents: Why schools should not return to business as usual

- 7 areas of life you should not rush through

- Accountability: States' accountability changes may impact school designations, improvements timelines

- Climate: NRHEG project encourages gratitude

- Math, reading work together to prep for real life

- Teaching Young Children Remotely

- COVID-19: More school districts nationwide are shifting to remote learning due to increased spread of virus

- Teaching: Most students buckle up for another stretch of distance learning

- Teachers feel strain of teaching during a pandemic

- Parents concerned about long-term effects of pandemic

- Is there a better alternative to seat time?

- Grading: How educators are tweaking grading approaches in response to the pandemic

- The link between music education and achievement

- **Recommendation to Extend Secondary School Distance Learning Model**

- **Facilities with Cases and Exposures**

- **School Learning Model Look-up**

- **Building and Grounds Committee Meeting to Meet**

- **Board Member Quarterly Check-in**

- **New Board Member Orientation**

- **2021 MSBA Leadership Conference**

- **Special School Board Meeting Monday, November 23**

- **Board Member Quarterly Check-in**

- **2021-2022 Budget Development**

- **Winter Sports Start Date(s)**

- **Staff Working Remotely**

- **Special School Board Meeting Set for Tuesday, December 15**
- **2021-2022 Budget Work Session Planned**
- **Buildings Closed to Public Use**
- **Quarantine Guidance Update**

3. **Board & Administrator for Board Members Monthly Publication – November 2020 Reflection - I** have provided a brief reflection on a few of the articles from the November publication. I hope you have had an opportunity to read and reflect.

- Tight finances are a fact of life for districts – The article provides strategies for the board to consider when having to address financial reductions and decisions. Strategies include:
  - Maintain board teamwork through touch and challenging decisions
  - Engage community partners for creative ideas
  - Board and superintendent agree to and adhere to common messaging and transparency
  - Develop creative solutions
  - Board members offer expertise where helpful
- Set expectation for time on ad hoc committees – The article suggests clear parameters and expectations including timelines for the establishment of an ad hoc committee.
- Communicate constituent concerns to the superintendent – The article encourages board members to use the “chain of command” when addressing a constituent’s personnel and school management concerns. A sample Inquiry/Request Form is provided.

4. **Construction Update** – There continues to be a list of finishing items that need to be completed and/or redone. In the FACS room, some restrooms and a portion of a hallway, there was damage to wall tile and flooring from welders. We are working to address the FACS flooring immediately. At this time, we are delaying the restroom tile replacement until summer 2021. It was determined best to wait until summer 2021 to complete the canopy renovation at the east entrance of the Elementary School.

5. **January 25 Budget Work Session Planned** – The Board is scheduled to meet on January 25 beginning at 5:30 pm in the Secondary School Media Center. The purpose of the work session will be to begin development of the 2021-2022 budget. Administration is in the process of developing a preliminary budget based on initial revenue and expenditure assumptions.

6. **School Learning Models** – Staff leaders are examining and seeking clarification on the Governor’s updated guidance to bring elementary students back to in-person learning. An update will be given to the Board at the December 21 Board meeting. An elementary school may only consider implementing in-person learning if all mitigation strategies are in place and maintained.

7. **Winter Sports Start** – The Governor’s announced delayed start for winter activities of January 4 aligns with the Board’s decision from December 15.

8. **January 4, 2021, Organizational Meeting** – The Board will convene at 5:30 pm in the Secondary School Media Center for the organizational meeting. It is likely the agenda will also include an update on school learning models and activities.

Thank you for all you do!  
Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.