

Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting

February 18, 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 and Curriculum & Instruction Director Reports

2. Weekly District Status Report Summary from January 24, 31 and February 7.

A. Information, Communication, and Correspondence

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

- Politics: U.S. Department of Agriculture proposes new rules for school meals

- Politics: Four education issues Minnesota lawmakers want to tackle in 2020

- Studies point to effect of air quality in schools

- Survey: How parents view teens' video game playing

- US high court case concerns use of state funds for religious entities

- Health: Minnesota parents fight schools to allow children access to CBD

- Teaching: Rural schools court homegrown teachers amid shortage

- More Mo. districts to adopt 4-day weeks

- In-class breakfast may help behavior in one school

- Analysis: Alarming number of teens reporting sexual exploitation

- Restorative justice among top education issues

- Study: Kids eat better after they watch certain cooking shows

- GPA trumps ACT in predicting college success

- What does a safe school look like?

- Analysis shows benefits of group work

- Broad relationships are vital to student success

- Screen time in school has some parents pushing back

- Inadequate sleep may harm pediatric mental health outcomes

- **Quarterly Check ins**

- **Policy Committee Meeting Planned**

- **“Thank a Coach/Advisor Week”**

- **Building & Grounds Committee Meeting Planned**

- **Finance Committee Meeting Planned**

- **Spelling Bee Winner**

- **Gymnastics Transportation**

- **Audit Request for Proposal (RFP)**

- **Vehicle Inspection**

3. Board & Administrator for Board Members Monthly Publication – January 2019 Reflection - I have provided a brief reflection on a few of the articles from the January publication. I hope you have had an opportunity to read and reflect.

- What should you expect of your superintendent – The article provides guidance about board and administrator roles and responsibilities from both the perspectives of the board members and of the superintendent.

The superintendent should expect from the board to:

- ✓ Provide counsel, advice, expertise and insight into local community
- ✓ Delegate responsibility for management to superintendent
- ✓ Refrain from managing administrative functions including personnel
- ✓ Understand that staff report to the superintendent
- ✓ Communicate openly and honestly with superintendent
- ✓ Support the superintendent
- ✓ Hold superintendent accountable for district's performance
- ✓ Provide annual evaluation of superintendent's performance
- ✓ Plan strategically for district's future
- ✓ Arrange educational opportunities for board

The board should expect from the superintendent to:

- ✓ Communicate promptly, openly, and honestly
- ✓ Act as board's professional advisor
- ✓ Implement board policies
- ✓ Serve as district's CEO
- ✓ Recommend appropriate policies for board consideration
- ✓ Present professional recommendations on all problems and issues
- ✓ Develop budget for board consideration
- ✓ Keep board informed of district's financial status
- ✓ Recruit competent personnel; develop and supervise them
- ✓ Assist the board in developing effective community information programs
- ✓ Provide board with professional judgement about district needs
- ✓ Participate in strategic planning
- ✓ Provide board with annual self-appraisal

- Balance what's best for all with your personal interests – The article reminds board members of their role in supporting staff with a focus on student learning.
- Get more out of your superintendent's evaluation form – The article suggests providing individual board members the opportunity to offer written comments as part of the superintendent's evaluation that allows for specific feedback. The author also suggests for boards to consider including a section at the end of the evaluation instrument that allows for board responses to open-ended questions. I would add that while I value individual comments and that we allow for that opportunity as part of our process, the final evaluation reflects only the full board's assessment.
- Meetings – The article provides meeting “norms” to help the board's meetings remain on task and focused including:
 - ✓ Meetings follow a system of parliamentary procedure
 - ✓ Stick to the agenda
 - ✓ Start on time and end on time
 - ✓ Board members arrive on time

- ✓ Keep length of meetings two hours or less
- ✓ Board members come prepared
- ✓ Board members participate in discussion
- ✓ Minimize board member absences
- ✓ Room/space is comfortable
- ✓ Committees only meet when necessary
- ✓ Discussions cordial and all members involved
- ✓ Agendas include positive items
- ✓ Controversial items addressed and solutions acceptable to all board members developed
- ✓ Minimize need for closed sessions
- ✓ Meetings focused on policy, planning and evaluation

- 4. Design and Build Update** – The bid opening was held on Thursday, February 13 at 3:30 pm. As of this time writing my report, I do not have further information to share regarding results. A special Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, beginning at 5:30 pm, for the purpose of considering approval of bid recommendations.

The construction of the shop addition is planned to begin in April or May contingent on weather and other scheduling considerations. The majority of the project is planned to be completed over the summer of 2020 with the shop addition at the Secondary School being completed by late 2020.

We continue to work on a facility usage plan for summer 2020 that will minimize disruption to summer programming.

- 5. School Board Budget Work Session** – A budget work session is tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 9, beginning at 5:30 pm at the Secondary School. A light dinner will be provided.
- 6. Building & Grounds Committee Meeting** – A meeting is planned for Wednesday, February 19, 2020, beginning at 7:30am in the Board Room. Agenda items include:
- Construction Update including Spring/Summer 2020 impact on programs and property
 - Ash Avenue house update
 - Legion Field
 - Snow removal
- 7. Policy Committee Meeting** – We have additional MSBA revised policies to review along with possibly one or two new policies. A date and time needs to be determined.

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