

District Status Report

09 August 2019

2019-2020 Report #6

The purpose for the weekly Status Report is to communicate to members of the School Board important and meaningful information relevant to the business of the school district. The Report is available to the public on the school district's website. Please contact me at 417-2602 if you have any questions regarding information contained in the Status Report. I would also appreciate hearing from you on ways I can improve the Report and make it more meaningful and informative for you.

Dale

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.**

Information – Communication -- Correspondence

1. News From Around the State and Beyond

Do students focus better without their phones?

Girls more likely than boys to be targets of cyberbullying

2. **Design and Build Update** – A third meeting for the Secondary School user groups (Science, FACS, Ag, Industrial Tech) has been set for Monday, August 12. Following the August 12 meeting, I should be able to share an update as to the design work up to this point. Discussions are still taking place as to classroom design and shop addition location and design at the Secondary School, and secure entrance location and design at the Elementary School.

The Building and Grounds Committee reached an agreement with Knutson Construction to provide Construction Manager services.

3. **Board Budget Work Sessions** – The Budget work session is planned for Wednesday, September 11, beginning at 5:30 pm, in the Secondary School Media Center. Objectives for the work session include:
- 2019-2020 Budget adjustment expectations and directives
 - Budget reduction process including priorities and parameters to apply for 2020-2021 budget development
 - Long-range financial strategy including operational revenue and expenditures. Adopt a district philosophy that maintains any fluctuation in the property tax within a defined range. This would assist the District in managing a "smoothing" effect on property taxes and develop a long-range strategy in responding to decreasing debt and opportunities to increase revenue.

Dinner will be provided and available at 5:15 pm.

4. **School Board Self-Evaluation and Goal Setting for 2019-2020** – In recent years, the Board has held a work session in July or early August to conduct a self-evaluation of the prior year just ending and then develop Board goals for the coming year. This work will be part of the August 19 School Board meeting agenda. To allow for additional time that evening, the meeting will begin at 6:00 pm. As part of the same e-mail this Status Report was sent, I attached a copy of the evaluation tool for your assessment and reflection in preparation for the August 19 Board meeting.
5. **Lunch Account Collection** – The District has entered into an agreement with Advantage Collection to contact families with lunch account negative balances.
6. **Soccer Transportation Request** – As in recent years, the District was contacted by a parent inquiring about soccer transportation to Waseca. The response was that the District does not provide transportation. Call me if you have questions.
7. **Kindergarten Enrollment** – As part of the 2019-2020 Staffing Plan approved by the Board at the May 17, 2019 School Board meeting, staffing for Kindergarten included three (3) sections based on a projected enrollment of 56 students resulting in a class section average of 18.7 students. At that time, the projected enrollment for Bridges was 12 students resulting in a total Bridges/Kindergarten enrollment of 68. As of August 6, the Kindergarten enrollment was 61 students and Bridges with 10 students for a total of 71. Based on 61 students with 3 sections, the class size average for Kindergarten is 20.3. This remains within the administrative staffing guidelines but is at about 93% of the recommended capacity for the grade level based on a capacity of 66 students for 3 sections.

The Board would have the option of limiting any further enrollment of nonresident students in Kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year by adopting a resolution at a Board meeting. The decision to close nonresident

enrollment at the Kindergarten level at this time would be considered for budget purposes if we believed there was the possibility of having up to five resident students move into the school district at the Kindergarten level and the Board would not want to add a Kindergarten class at this time. In addition, hiring becomes more challenging especially after the school year starts.

However, not accepting any further nonresident enrollment at the Kindergarten level can have a negative long-term budget impact. It is more likely a nonresident student will continue in the District for future years if they are not denied enrollment in Kindergarten. Also, our philosophy as a school district has been, and continues to be, to encourage and invite nonresident families to enroll their children in NRHEG. This issue is not planned to be on the August 19 agenda, but I wanted to update the Board on the status of Kindergarten and the option of limiting nonresident enrollment.

- 8. 2019-2020 School-Year Calendar Revisions** – I intend to recommend revisions to the 2019-2020 school-year calendar to the Board at the August 19, 2019, School Board meeting. One revision is to increase the number of Flexible Learning Days from three to five as recommended by the principals. Other revisions may include an adjustment to the end of the school year (student instructional days) to provide for an earlier construction start date. I am not ready to share details but wanted to alert the Board of the likely revisions to be presented at the August 19 meeting.

School Board Calendar of Events

August 19, 2019	6:00 pm	School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center NOTE CHANGE IN STARTING TIME
August 26, 2019	8:00 am	Teachers Report to Work
August 29, 2019	8:00 am	Staff Breakfast hosted by School Board – Ellendale Methodist Church
September 4, 2019		First Day for Students
September 11, 2019	5:30 pm	School Board Budget Work Session – Board Room
September 16, 2019	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Elementary School Media Center

Dale's Calendar for August 12-16 (As of 8-9-19)

Monday	9:00 am	Facility User Groups (All Day)
Tuesday	9:00 am 10:00 am 1:00 pm	Check in with Macy Contract Language Prep with Deb Board Packet Prep with Sue
Wednesday		In the District
Thursday	11:00 am 1:00 pm	Orientation Planning with Doug, Dave, Terri Board Budget Workshop Planning with Karla
Friday		Out of District

Thank you for all you do!