

District Status Report

18 September

2020-2021 Report #12

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

Survey: [One-third of teachers considering resigning, early retirement due to coronavirus](#)

COVID-19: [Rising case rates put six Minnesota counties under distance learning recommendations](#)

2. 9-21-2020 School Board Meeting – A few items to bring attention to . . .

a. Within the Consent Agenda . . .

- 1) Board Bills of \$2,745,626.33
- 2) Donations totaling \$11,614.00
- 3) Purchase Service Agreement with SCSC for Vision, Audiology, and Orientation and Mobility for FY21
- 4) Employment
- 5) Resignations
- 6) Contract Renewal
- 7) Coaching and Co-Curricular Contracts
- 8) Policy 2nd Readings
- 9) Statewide Enrollment Options

b. Under Reports, a Construction Update will be presented.

c. Under Recommended Actions, the Board will be asked to take action on the following item(s):

- 1) Maximum Levy Authority for 2020 Payable 2021
- 2) Truth-in-Taxation Hearing Date
- 3) Substitute Rates for 2020-2021
- 4) Policies – 1st Reading
- 5) 2020-2021 School Board Goals
- 6) 2020-2021 Staffing Plan Revision
- 7) 2020-2021 School Year Calendar Revision
- 8) 2020-2021 School Year Learning Plan Revision
- 9) 2020-2021 School Year Learning Model Update

We continue to live-stream the Board meeting via YouTube. Board members and essential staff will continue using *Google Meet* to access and participate in the meeting.

3. School Learning Model Update – MDH September 17 publication (8/23 – 9/5) listed Waseca at 72.84, Steele County at 19.09 and Freeborn at 13.10. All three numbers have increased from the prior week. We have been in regular contact the past several weeks with Waseca County Public Health and our Regional Support Team examining the Waseca County case rate along with the other two school districts in the county. There is support to continue the Elementary School in *Hybrid Learning* at this time. While we cannot totally dismiss any source or exposure setting of where the positive cases are occurring when analyzing the case rate percentage, there is support from our public health partners to give special consideration to settings where cases are localized and believed to be more contained and less "community spread." One example that has been offered by some in our communities is the correctional facility in Waseca. Based on information reviewed with public health, there was support to remain where we are at with both school buildings (Elementary in Hybrid and Secondary in DL). We are unable to predict right now when Secondary might return to *Hybrid* and Elementary could move to *In-person*. We are trying to access as much "current" data that we can to better predict a trend in active cases so that we can plan for potential moves in our learning models.

I was encouraged to hear on our weekly call yesterday (Thursday) with MDE that MDH is working on providing information on COVID-19 in school settings. See the announcement below. There is some

speculation the data will continue to be “lagging” data similar to the weekly MDH Thursday publication, but we will see.

MDE Announcement (9-18-2020)

Public Reporting of School COVID-19 Case Data

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has made great efforts to keep Minnesotans informed with frequently updated, easy-to-access data on COVID-19 in our state. Now that the school year is in full swing, it will be important to provide information on COVID-19 in school settings. MDH is currently working on pulling this data together, which will be available to Minnesotans in the coming weeks.

4. **MSHSL Fall Activity Update** – I worked with Activities Director Dan Stork and Principal David Bunn in responding to the MSHSL survey sent to school districts on September 16 regarding the possibility of having fall football and volleyball instead of the spring as originally decided by the MSHSL on August 4. Our general response included many questions which would make it difficult to decide what is best for our student-athletes and also all our students, families and staff within the short time-frame (about 24 hours) we were given to respond. Questions included:
- What will the season look like?
 - ✓ Fall season with number of games and playoff format
 - ✓ Spring season with number of games and playoff format
 - Scheduling of seasons and changes needed to Winter and Spring seasons (condensing all seasons this year to make it work)
 - Considerations for schools forced to Distance Learning due to COVID county numbers
 - Will there be enough officials for both sports, scheduled last minute?
 - Can students who chose a different fall activity move to Football or Volleyball now and not have eligibility issues?
 - What will happen with fall practice seasons for softball and baseball, golf and track the MSHSL Board approved in August?
 - Will spectators be allowed this fall at both indoor and outdoor competitions and at what capacity?

It was very difficult to make a commitment either way to support or not support holding football and volleyball in the fall rather than the spring. The reality in our case is that our high school continues to be in the Distance Learning model which will mean that we will not be able to hold in-person practice and will not be able to compete while in that model. There are also other MSHSL rules that determine how long a student-athlete must practice in-person prior to competing. The longer schools must be in distance learning will result in students not being able to participate. This makes it very difficult for us to support a reversal of the MSHSL August 4 decision to possibly have football and volleyball this fall rather than next spring. Based on the little information we have to go on, it would appear our students would have a greater opportunity to compete in the spring scenario that we have all been planning for since August 4. We should know by the end of the day on Monday.

School Board Calendar of Events

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|--------------------|---------|--|
| September 21, 2020 | 6:30 pm | School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center/Remote (The meeting has had to be moved due to the Live-Stream Technology equipment) |
| October 19, 2020 | 6:30 pm | School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center/Remote |

Dale's Calendar for September 21-September 25 (As of 9-18-20)

Monday	10:30 am	Check in with Doug
	11:30 am	Check in with Karla
	1:00 pm	Health Office Assistant Interviews
	3:00 pm	Weekly Call with Steele County Public Health
	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting
Tuesday	9:00 am	Check in with Sue
	1:00 pm	Meeting with Skylight Contractor
	2:00 pm	Food Service Meeting
Wednesday	3:15 pm	Board Candidate Forum Planning with Deb and Angie
Thursday	7:30 am	Waseca County School Districts' Weekly Meeting with WCPH
	4:00 pm	MDE Call-in
Friday	9:00 am	School Law Webinar

Thank you for all you do!