

# *District Status Report*

*16 October*

*2020-2021 Report #16*

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

[Free school meal waivers extended through June 30](#)

[Can expanded rapid testing keep schools safe?](#)

[Experts predict jump in childhood obesity numbers](#)

### 2. 10-19-2020 School Board Meeting – A few items to bring attention to . . .

#### a. Within the Consent Agenda . . .

- 1) Board Bills of \$2,563,332.65
- 2) Donations
- 3) Employment
- 4) Job Share Requests
- 5) Retirement
- 6) Coaching and Co-Curricular Contracts
- 7) Deaf/Hard of Hearing Service Agreement
- 8) Assurance of Compliance with State and Federal Law Prohibiting Discrimination
- 9) Policy 2<sup>nd</sup> Readings
- 10) Statewide Enrollment Options

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

- 1) MSHSL COVID-19 Fees
- 2) Budget Transfers
- 3) Set Date for January 2021 Organizational Meeting
- 4) Set Regular School Board Meeting Dates for January and February 2021
- 5) Set Special Board Meeting to Canvass November 3, 2020, Election Results
- 6) Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading
- 7) 2020-2021 Superintendent Work Goals
- 8) 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.

### 2. COVID-19 County Case Rate and Learning Models – We continue to monitor closely the county case rates as well as our quarantine and positive cases in the school district. Unless we experience positive cases or a high number of quarantines, I anticipate continuing with *Hybrid Learning* for both buildings for the next several weeks. The Board will have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the learning model decision process at the School Board meeting Monday night. Board members can give me a call with questions or they can also contact Board Chair Rick Schultz. Outside of a regular School Board meeting, a request for the Board to convene to review the case rate and current learning models should be forwarded to Mr. Schultz.

### 3. Audit Presentation and Approval Rescheduled – In the last two status reports, I briefed the Board on anticipating to be presented with the 2019-2020 audit ending June 30, 2020, as part of the October 19 School Board meeting. Karla Christopherson and I met again with our auditor this week and we determined it would be best to delay the audit presentation and report. The primary reason is that our auditor continues to wait for MDE to make available its *Fiscal Compliance Table Website*. The auditor is required to submit this data each year and is placed in the final audit report to be presented to the School Board. At this time, the Board can anticipate the 2019-2020 audit report on the November 16 School Board meeting agenda.

### 4. Fund Transfers – In the last two status reports, I prepared Board members to anticipate a projected 2019-2020 audited budget surplus of about \$500,000 and an unassigned general fund increase of more than

\$300,000. As we continue to work with our auditor to finalize the audited report for last year, we have identified additional fund transfers that would be appropriate to do at this time that will be reflected on the 2019-2020 budget and will likely impact the projected balanced provided above.

At the School Board meeting Monday night, the Board can anticipate considering fund transfers. Most notably, the Board will consider transferring the planned \$300,000 of Long Term Facility Maintenance funding from the General Fund (LTFM) to the Construction Fund that was mentioned at the September School Board meeting as part of Knutson Construction's project update. After further review, we believe it is appropriate to transfer these funds to be reflected in 2019-2020 when eligible expenditures occurred rather than in 2020-2021.

In addition, we will be including additional transfers from the General Fund to the restricted funds of Food Service and Community Service to address deficit spending that took place last spring due to the pandemic.

When the Board last revised the 2019-2020 budget at the May School Board meeting, the Board approved a final revised budget that showed a surplus of \$124,412 in the unassigned general fund and a total budget surplus of \$32,772. The \$124,412 surplus was due in large part to changes in revenue and expenditures due to the pandemic. The Board can expect to see additional revenue and expenditure changes leading up to June 30 in large part due to the pandemic as part of the audit report.

As the Board examined and discussed throughout last spring and into July when the decision to move forward with the November operational referendum was made, the unanticipated 2019-2020 budget surplus does not suggest a change in our long-term budget planning beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Last May, the Board approved a planned 2020-2021 budget in which expenditures are anticipated to exceed revenue by \$200,000. We plan to provide an update on the 2020-2021 budget at the November School Board meeting.

5. **World's Best Work Force (WBWF) Plan Review Public Meeting Change** – School districts continue to seek guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education as to the status of WBWF plans given the waiver of student assessments in the spring of 2019 which impacted many of our student performance metrics included in our 2019-2020 WBWF plan. Typically, either in September or October, the district holds its annual WBWF plan public meeting review of the previous year. We tentatively had that scheduled for October 19 beginning at 6:00 pm prior to the start of the regular School Board meeting. At this time, we are going to reschedule the public meeting at a later date and time to be determined. We are unsure how this will impact the development and Board approval of our 2020-2021 WBWF plan that the Board typically approves in November.
6. **Mr. Anderson Chosen as United Way 2020 Community Volunteer** – Congratulations to Principal Doug Anderson for being chosen as 2020 Community Volunteer LIVE UNITED award recipient by United Way of Steele County. The recognition is made to Steele County residents that “GIVE, ADVOCATE, and VOLUNTEER in their community.” Award recipients are “exemplary in their charitable giving; strong advocates for projects, programs or initiatives that change lives and demonstrate an above average amount of volunteer time with a diversity of community organizations, institutions, projects or churches.” Congratulations Mr. Anderson! Well deserved!
7. **Costa Rica March 2021 Postponed** – Teacher and Costa Rica trip advisor Joanie Olson has communicated to parents and students that the planned March 2021 Costa Rica student trip is postponed until March 2022. The School Board had approved the March 2021 trip. I do not plan to have Ms. Olson resubmit the field trip request, and will work with her to make the necessary modifications on the field trip paperwork.

## School Board Calendar of Events

October 19, 2020	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center/Remote
November 16, 2020	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center/Remote
December 21, 2020	6:00 pm	Truth in Taxation Public Hearing – Secondary School Media Center
	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center/Remote
December 24, 2020 – January 1, 2021		Winter Break

## Dale's Calendar for October 19- 23 (As of 10-16-2020)

Monday	10:30 am	Check in with Doug
	1:30 pm	Check in with Dave
	2:00 pm	Check in with Karla
	2:30 pm	Check in with Sue
	3:00 pm	Weekly Call with Steele County Public Health
	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting
Tuesday	7:45 am	School Learning Plan Planning Committee Meeting
	8:30 am	Administrative Team Meeting with Heather and Linda
	9:00 am	Administrative Team Meeting with Karla
	10:00 am	Administrative Team Meeting
Wednesday		In the District
Thursday	7:30 am	Weekly Waseca County Public Health Check in with County Schools
	9:30 am	Region 2 Superintendent Meeting in Mankato
	4:00 pm	Weekly MDE Call
Friday		In the District
	7:00 pm	Football

Thank you for all you do!