

District Status Report

11 December

2020-2021 Report #24

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

[Grading: How educators are tweaking grading approaches in response to the pandemic](#)

[The link between music education and achievement](#)

2. **Special School Board Meeting Set for Tuesday, December 15** – A special School Board meeting is planned for **Tuesday, December 15, beginning at 5:30 pm** in the Secondary School Media Center for the purpose of discussing and taking action on the following items:
- Extending the distance learning period for both school buildings
 - Determining the start of the winter sports activities

There are two reasons for scheduling the special meeting next week rather than waiting for the December 21 regular School Board meeting. First, it is important for the Elementary School to know sooner than December 21 if the distance learning period is going to be extended in order to prepare and provide students and families learning materials for an additional period of time beyond December 23. Second, in the event the Governor does not extend the pause in the winter activity start date or even if he would extend it to January 4, administration needs direction on the district's decision regarding a start date and if it will align with the Governor's and/or the MSHSL announced dates. In order to hold a special Board meeting, the Board must post the meeting notice at least 72 hours prior to the special Board meeting date and time. The Board may not need to discuss a winter activity start date Tuesday night if the Governor would extend the winter start date to sometime after January 4. In that case, the Board may have an opportunity at its January 4 organizational meeting to discuss.

It will be my recommendation that the distance learning period for both schools be extended through at least Friday, January 8, with a tentative return date to hybrid learning for some or all grades no earlier than Monday, January 11. This recommendation is based on several factors including but not limited to:

- Elevated health data and metrics projected through the winter break and immediately following.
- Time needed to assess positive cases and quarantines of students and staff following the winter break.
- Time needed for staff to work with students and families to prepare for a potential transition to hybrid learning.

If the Board would extend the distance learning period Tuesday night at least through January 8, then the Board could consider at its January 4 organizational meeting the need to extend distance learning beyond January 8.

3. **Building and Grounds Committee to Meet** – The next Building and Grounds Committee Meeting is tentatively planned for Tuesday, January 19, 2021, beginning at 5:30 pm prior to the start of the regular School Board meeting. Agenda items may include discussion about potential land sale, construction project follow-up, and examining the Board's goal of developing a long-term facility plan.
4. **2021-2022 Budget Work Session Planned** – A Board Budget Work Session will be held on Monday, January 25, 2021, to begin addressing actions needed to occur in order to achieve the Board's finance goal of that by *June 30, 2020, adopt a planned budget for 2021-2022 that achieves the Board's fund balance target range while balancing the amount of revenue with planned expenditures. In the event of an unsuccessful referendum vote, the Board will need to be prepared to conduct a budget reduction process in advance of adopting the 2021-2022 budget.* The Finance Committee may be asked to meet prior to the work session.

5. **Buildings Closed to Public Use** – The two buildings continue to be closed to public use. I responded to a community member this week who had inquired about walking early in the morning and indicated that the buildings remain closed and not open for community members to walk.
6. **Quarantine Guidance Update** – In the December 10 update to families, I referenced the updated quarantine guidance recently issue by the CDC and MDH that allows for shorter quarantine periods for a close contact under special circumstances. However, both the CDC and MDH continue to recommend a quarantine period of 14 days. There is an increased risk for transmission with the options for a shortened quarantine period. The person doing the shortened quarantine will need to monitor themselves very closely for ANY symptoms and isolate immediately if symptoms occur. The other mitigations put in place need to be followed very closely, such as, wearing a mask and 6 feet social distancing. The distancing can be very challenging in our classrooms especially with younger students. At this time, NRHEG Public Schools will continue to implement the 14-day quarantine period for those students and employees identified as a close contact. The district is working closely with MDH and our county public health partners in determining if or when there should be consideration to permit a shorter quarantine period.
7. **2021 MSBA Leadership Conference** – The 2021 MSBA Leadership Conference will be held virtually this year on three different Thursday mornings. As it is free, Sue Kulseth went ahead and registered each Board member. See the communication below from MSBA

The **2021 MSBA Leadership Conference** will be presented to you in a **virtual format**.

Save the dates on your calendar for these Thursday mornings — **January 14, January 21, and January 28, 2021**.

As a membership benefit, the Leadership Conference is offered at no cost to your district, **but registration is necessary and will be opening soon**.

MSBA gathered your feedback from a membership survey in August – and your message was loud and clear. While you would like to attend the MSBA Leadership Conference in-person, due to a variety of health and safety reasons, more than half of you do not feel an in-person conference is a viable option in January 2021.

You also shared that you are saving the nights and weekends for your family and away from technology. The preferred date and time for attending the conference virtually is Thursday mornings.

The conference will include a number of top-notch workshops, roundtable sessions, and much more. Some sessions will be available via recording at a later time. Watch the [MSBA website](#) for more details.

This year’s conference will feature two keynote speakers: **Phyllis Braxton-Frierson** and **Dr. Phil Gore**.

- **Braxton-Frierson** is the CEO and Founder of PINK Consulting, LLC, and has worked in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) field for nearly 25 years.
- **Gore** is in his sixth year as Division Director for Board Development Services with the Texas Association of School Boards and is a nationally recognized researcher on school governance.

School Board Calendar of Events

December 15, 2020	5:30 pm	Special School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center/Remote
December 21, 2020	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Truth in Taxation Public Hearing – Secondary School Media Center School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center/Remote
December 24, 2020 – January 1, 2021		Winter Break
January 4, 2021	5:30 pm	School Board Organizational Meeting – Board Room

January 14, 2021	Morning	MSBA School Board Leadership Conference (Virtual)
January 19, 2021	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Building and Grounds Committee Meeting School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center/Remote
January 21, 2021	Morning	MSBA School Board Leadership Conference (Virtual)
January 25, 2021	5:30 pm	School Board Budget Work Session
January 28, 2021	Morning	MSBA School Board Leadership Conference (Virtual)

Dale's Calendar for December 14 – 18 (As of 12-11-2020)

Monday	10:30 am	Check in with Doug
	1:00 pm	Check in with Donna
	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
	3:30 pm	Meeting with Knutson Construction regarding FACS flooring
	5:00 pm	Quarterly Board Member Check-in
Tuesday	8:30 am	Administrative Team Meeting with Heather and Linda
	9:00 am	Administrative Team Meeting with Karla
	9:30 am	Administrative Team Meeting
	3:30 pm	Waseca County Public Health Partner Call
	5:30 pm	Special School Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 am	2020-2021 WBWF Plan Review with Jessica, Doug, Dave
	1:00 pm	Athletic Code Violation Policy Review with Dan and Dave
Thursday	7:30 am	Waseca County School District Weekly Call with MDH
	9:00 am	Check in with Donna
	4:00 pm	MDE Weekly Call
	6:00 pm	MSBA Phase II Training – Part 2
Friday		Out of District

Thank you for all you do!