

District Status Report

18 December

2020-2021 Report #25

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.**

The next Status Report will be Friday, January 1, 2021

Information – Communication – Correspondence

1. News From Around the State and Beyond

Survey: Remote learning will keep a strong foothold even after the pandemic

Analysis: COVID-19 is having a devastating impact on children

Analysis: Comparing several learning-loss studies

2. 12-21-2020 School Board Meeting – A few items to bring attention to . . .

** Truth in Taxation Public Hearing at 6:00 pm

- a. Within the Consent Agenda . . .
 - 1) Board Bills of \$872,486.00
 - 2) Donations
 - 3) Winter Coaching Contracts
 - 4) Statewide Enrollment Options
- b. Under Reports
 - 1) 2021-2022 School Year Calendar
- c. Under Recommended Actions, the Board will be asked to take action on the following item(s):
 - 1) 2020-2021 World's Best Workforce Plan
 - 2) 2020-2021 School Year Calendar Revision
 - 3) School Learning Model Update
 - 4) School Activities Update
 - 5) 2020 Payable 2021 Levy Certification
 - 6) Community Education School Age Care Lead Notice of Assignment

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 –
- On Wednesday, December 16, Governor Walz directed the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to provide new guidance that prioritizes putting elementary students back into the classroom. Per the updated [Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year](#) as 12-16-2020, elementary schools may “*reduce the use of county data as a singular determining point when considering their learning models, and mitigation strategies are increased to help get students back in classrooms while keeping students, families, educators and staff safe.*”

The *Safe Learning Plan* will allow an elementary school to choose to operate an *in-person learning* model beginning January 18, 2021, as long as they are able to implement additional mitigation strategies that you will find in the *Safe Learning Plan*.

Staff leaders continue to develop transition plans to prepare the Elementary School to move to *in-person learning* and to determine if we will be able to implement the required mitigation strategies. We continue to seek clarification as to start dates for *in-person learning* for Elementary and *hybrid learning* for Secondary and how the Board's directive from December 15 to move both schools to *hybrid learning* no earlier than January 11 might be impacted.

The guidance for determining when the Secondary School may move to a less restrictive learning model has not changed. At this time, we believe the Secondary School will resume *hybrid learning* on January 11 as directed by the Board. The additional mitigation strategies also have to be in place for the Secondary School in order to move to *hybrid learning*; however, a 2-week “rolling start” will not be required of the Secondary School as we had consulted with our Regional Support Team on December 15 prior to the Governor’s announcement.

Regardless of what learning model we are in, we will still monitor positive cases and quarantines within both school buildings. The need to move a school to *distance learning* will continue to be a possibility due to either virus spread within the schools and/or communities, along with our ability to staff our schools.

An update will be provided to the Board at Monday’s meeting.

4. **Winter Activity Start Date Update** – At this time, we are planning to begin winter activities on Monday, January 4, if all health and safety procedures are in place.
5. **2021-2022 Budget Work Session Planned** – A Board Budget Work Session will be held on Monday, January 25, 2021, at 5:30 pm in the Secondary School Media Center, 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.
6. **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.

7. **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.

School Board Calendar of Events

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 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 21 – January 1 (As of 12-18-2020)

Week of December 21 – 25

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| Monday | 10:30 am 1:00 pm 1:30 pm 2:00 pm 2:30 pm 3:00 pm 4:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm | Check in with Doug Check in with Donna Check in with Dave Check in with Karla Check in with Sue Weekly Call with Steele County Public Health MDE Call-in Truth in Taxation Public Hearing School Board Meeting |
| Tuesday | 9:00 am 1:00 pm | Return to In-person planning with Doug and Dave Athletic Code Policy Review with Dave and Dan |
| Wednesday | 8:00 am | School Board Meeting Agenda Planning with Board Chair |
| Thursday | | Office Closed |
| Friday | | Office Closed |

Week of December 28 – January 1

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| Monday – Thursday | Out of Office |
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Friday

Office Closed

Thank you for all you do!