

District Status Report

05 February

2020-2021 Report #31

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

- Report: Students with historically higher absenteeism rates struggle most during COVID-19
- China bans children from using mobile phones at school
- Can summer programs curb learning loss?
- How to reach the unreachable: Closing K-12 attendance gaps
- Report: Tutoring, other methods can curb learning loss
- Politics: Governor Walz proposes \$745 million in new state aid for E-12 education
- Cardona: Teacher vaccinations, mental health are priorities

2. Learning Model Update – Bridges/Kindergarten – Grade 6 attending *in-person* seems to be going well due to the efforts by our teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians and food service employees. A number of Grade 12 students are taking opportunity of being able to attend *in-person* four days a week as well.

In response to the Board's discussions at recent Board meetings and a general interest in developing a plan to begin to move more secondary grade levels to *in-person learning*, plans are being developed to begin transitioning grades 7-12 to *in-person learning* over the next 4-6 weeks. An update will be provided at the February 16 School Board meeting even though we might already be moving into a next phase. Board members believing the Board should discuss any potential transitions, please contact Mr. Schultz.

I do want to report that the plan Mr. Bunn and I submitted to our Regional Support Team to transition grades 7-12 to *in-person learning* was received well with general support. Cautions remain and an emphasis on the mitigation strategies of wearing face coverings, washing hands frequently, disinfecting touch points daily and maintaining as much distance as possible is expected.

Moving forward with any transition will likely include "transition days" for staff planning and not having school for some or all secondary grade levels. As plans develop, more details will be shared regarding "planning days," but depending on the timeline to move forward with grades 7 and 8, a transition day might come as early as Friday, February 12. It would be our hope to only impact grades 7 and 8, and still have school for grades 9-12. Then when we are preparing for transitioning grades 9-11 (seniors will already be in), transition days would be scheduled for those grade level teachers.

I know I have spoken about my strong feelings regarding the wearing of masks on several occasions. When moving more of our secondary students to *in-person learning* on a daily basis, the wearing of masks, including wearing them appropriately, is critical and non-negotiable. We know we will not be able to maintain 6 feet distancing throughout, so making sure we are implementing all other mitigation strategies beginning with face coverings is a must. The plans we are developing are based on all students and staff wearing face coverings at all times and worn correctly. If this cannot happen, then I will recommend we move immediately back to a more restrictive learning model.

3. Vaccine Update – We estimate that about 60% of our employees will have received at least the first dose of the vaccine by February 10. 100% of our employees have had the opportunity to express a desire to receive the vaccine. Only a very small number of employees remain that do not have a vaccine appointment to receive their first dose.

We are concerned about the potential impact on our ability to adequately staff our schools following those dates when employees begin receiving their second dose of the vaccine. Public health officials are cautioning employers of the reaction employees may experience after receiving a second dose even to the point of not being able to report to work. We are aware of at least two dates in early March when we have reason to believe a significant number of those employees who have received their first dose will be

receiving their second dose. We are working on a contingency plan to cover a high number of absences on one or multiple days. While I hope we do not have to consider it, a default plan will be to have a day or more of distance learning for some or all grade levels in a school building.

- 4. Superintendent Search Process Update** – Board members should make sure they can participate fully in the search process. Please note the dates below in the Calendar of Events. Some of the starting times may change including the start of the special meeting on March 1 and the interviews for finalists on March 9 and 10. Looking ahead to the planned interviews on Thursday, March 4, Rick Schultz has been working with the SCSC consultants in putting together the Staff/Community Interview Team. The Board will interview candidates in one location that will also be open to the public and the Staff/Community team will interview the candidates in a different location and that will be closed to the public. At this time, I am recommending the interviews take place at the Elementary School based on space and layout. However, I will look to Mr. Schultz and our consultants to make the final decision. It also has not been finalized whether or not virtual interviews will be an option. Please contact Rick Schultz with questions.

School Board Calendar of Events

February 15, 2021		No School for Students and Staff (Presidents' Day)
February 16, 2021	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center/Remote
March 1, 2021	6:30 pm*	Special School Board Meeting (Superintendent Search) – Sec. School/Remote
March 4, 2021	12:00pm	Special School Board Meeting (Superintendent Search) – Location TBD
March 9, 2021	6:00 pm*	Special School Board Meeting (Superintendent Search) – Sec. School/Remote
March 10, 2021	6:00 pm*	Special School Board Meeting (Superintendent Search) – Sec. School/Remote
March 15, 2021	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center/Remote
April 19, 2021	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting—Secondary School Media Center/Remote

* Starting times may change

Dale's Calendar for February 8-12 (As of 2-5-2021)

Monday	10:00 am	Check in with Donna
	10:30 am	Check in with Doug
	1:30 pm	Check in with Dave
	2:30 pm	Check in with Sue
	3:00 pm	Weekly Call with Steele County Public Health
	3:30 pm	Staff Development Committee Meeting
Tuesday	8:00 am	SW Metro South Leadership Team Meeting
	9:00 am	Check in with Macy
	3:30 pm	Waseca County COVID-19 Partner Call
Wednesday	7:30 am	Waseca County School District and Public Health Weekly Call
		Monthly check in with Teacher Association President
	12:30 pm	Meeting with staff member

	1:30 pm	2021-2022 Secondary Staffing Meeting
Thursday	9:00 am	MSBA Negotiations Seminar Check in with Donna
	1:00 pm	2021-2022 Elementary Staffing Meeting
	2:30 pm	Principal Evaluation Conference
	4:00 pm	Weekly MDE Commissioner Call
Friday		Out of District

Thank you for all you do!