

# *District Status Report*

*23 April*

*2020-2021 Report #42*

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

Teachers respond to a stressful year

Study: Gifted programs not beneficial

How will the pandemic affect kindergarten enrollment?

### 2. Building and Grounds Committee Meeting Planned – The Building and Grounds Committee is planning to meet on Wednesday, April 28, at 6:00 pm in the Secondary School Media Center. The tentative agenda includes:

- High School Gym bleacher replacement
- High School Gym moveable wall removal
- High School Gym lobby entrance remodel
- Secondary School electronic sign replacement
- City of New Richland Legion Field Lease Agreement and Update
- Long Range Facility Plan Update

Members of the Building and Grounds Committee include: Rick Schultz, Travis Routh, Terri Engel, Karla Christopherson and Dale Carlson.

### 3. Paraprofessional Negotiations – The Paraprofessional Association has made a request to begin negotiations for 2021-2023. No date for the first meeting has been identified but there might be interest in mid-May. Board team members include: Rick Schultz, Travis Routh, Loren Schoenrock, Karla Christopherson and Dale Carlson.

### 4. Teacher Negotiations – The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, beginning at 7:00 pm. Board team members include: Dan Schmidt, Travis Routh, Rich Mueller, Karla Christopherson and Dale Carlson

### 5. Graduation 2021 – Graduation 2021 plans are being discussed and developed. Mr. Bunn and Senior Class Advisor, Mrs. Bently, are reviewing the Minnesota Department of Health's Indoor and Outdoor Venue Guidance to ensure all plans adhere to the guidance. At this time, consideration is being given to hold an in-person graduation ceremony for our 2021 graduates with limited seating for guests on Sunday, June 6, in the High School gymnasium. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

### 6. Employee Recognition June 4 – Please make plans to be part of hosting the employee recognition scheduled for Friday, June 4, beginning at 2:15 pm. More will be shared as plans are developed.

### 7. MDH and MDE Guidance Updates and Announcements – Below are several COVID-19 updates from MDE and/or MDH as of April 22, 2021.

## Guidance Updates for Schools and Sports

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) issued updated guidance to support COVID-19 testing for students in middle and high school as well as any Minnesotans participating in organized sports.

The guidance comes as Minnesota is experiencing increased community spread of COVID-19 and an especially high circulation of variants. Health officials now estimate that 60% of all COVID-19 cases in Minnesota are associated with the B.1.1.7 variant, a more transmissible version of the virus that may be

associated with more severe symptoms. Much of the spread of COVID-19 in recent weeks has been seen in younger Minnesotans, particularly among middle and high school.

**Beginning on April 26, 2021, in order to keep our students learning in-person and continuing with sports, the state is increasing our testing efforts:**

- All Minnesotans who are participating in organized sports are strongly encouraged to test every week.
- Every student in middle and high school, regardless of participation in activities, is strongly encouraged to get a COVID test every two weeks.
- Schools have a key role to play by helping make testing more accessible to all of our students and their families by promoting testing opportunities in their communities and strongly encouraged to offer onsite testing for middle and high school students.

The state will provide free COVID-19 saliva test kits for any middle school, high school and organized sports team through the state's partnership with Vault Health.

- [Questions and Answers: COVID-19 Testing for Middle and High School Students \(PDF\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Saliva Testing for Students and School Staff: Program Guide for Coordinators \(PDF\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Testing for Minnesota Organized Sports Participants \(PDF\)](#)

**Outdoor sports face covering requirements and recommendations have also been updated.**

- Requirement: Face coverings are required to be worn when sports participants are not actively practicing or playing and cannot maintain physical distancing.
- Recommendation: Participants are strongly recommended to either wear a face covering at all times (including while actively practicing or playing) or test all participants weekly for COVID-19.

**Face coverings must continue to be worn at all times for indoor sports.**

- [COVID-19 Organized Sports Practice and Games Guidance for Youth and Adults \(PDF\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Intercollegiate Sports Guidance for Higher Education \(PDF\)](#)

## **Record of Vaccination**

You should receive a card when you get your COVID-19 vaccine that has the vaccine product you got and the date you were vaccinated.

- Hold on to your vaccine card between shots (if you got a two-dose vaccine) and after you are fully vaccinated. Bring the card with you to your second appointment so that both doses can be recorded on the same card.
  - Keep your card in a safe place with your other records.
  - Take a picture of your card on your phone.
- It is okay if you lose your card. If you lose it in-between shots, ask for a new one when you get your second dose and ask them to record the first dose on it.
- If you lose your vaccine card after you are fully vaccinated, you can request your vaccination record at [Find My Immunization Record](#).
- We do not yet know if someone will need to show proof of vaccination for events such as traveling, concerts, or other activities. CDC has issued new guidance on traveling for fully vaccinated people, but does not state any requirements for showing proof of vaccination: [When You've Been Fully Vaccinated](#).

Learn more at [About COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

## COVID-19 Testing Announcement

Today, MDE and MDH [announced updates related to COVID-19 testing](#) for students and athletes:

- All Minnesotans who are participating in organized sports are strongly encouraged to test every week.
- Every student, regardless of participation in activities, is strongly encouraged to get a COVID test every two weeks.
- Schools have a key role to play by helping make testing more accessible our students. **All middle and high schools are strongly encouraged to offer onsite testing for students.**

The [COVID-19 Saliva Testing Program Guide for Schools](#) has been updated to include important information on how to offer testing for students along with existing staff testing programs in schools. [Read the document Questions and Answers: COVID-19 Testing for Middle and High School Students.](#)

### Resource: Vaccines for 16- and 17-year-olds

The Minnesota Department of Health has created a resource with information about [COVID-19 vaccines for 16- and 17-year-olds](#).

At this time, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine that has been studied and authorized for use by 16 and 17 year olds. Data from Pfizer vaccine studies show the vaccine is safe and effective for this age group. Other vaccine manufacturers are also studying their vaccines in younger age groups but have not yet received authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Please share this resource with families in your high school communities.

## School Board Calendar of Events

April 28, 2021	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Building & Grounds Committee Meeting–Secondary School Media Center Teacher Negotiations – Secondary School Media Center
May 12, 2021	7:00 pm	Teacher Negotiations – Secondary School Media Center
May 17, 2021	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center/Remote
June 2, 2021	7:00 pm	Teacher Negotiations – Secondary School Media Center
June 4, 2021	2:00 pm	Last Day for Students – 2-hour early dismissal Staff Recognition Program
June 6, 2021 (Tentative)	TBD	Graduation
June 21, 2021	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center/Remote

## Dale's Calendar for April 26 - 30 (As of 4-16-2021)

Monday	10:00 am	Check in with Donna
	10:30 am	Check in with Doug
	1:00 pm	Check in with Dave
	1:30 pm	Check in with Karla
	2:00 pm	SW Metro South Leadership Team Meeting
	2:30 pm	Check in with Sue
	3:00 pm	Weekly Steele County Public Health Call
Tuesday	11:00 am	Star Eagle Interview
	3:30 pm	Waseca County Public Health Partner Call
	5:00 pm	Meeting in Mankato
Wednesday	10:00 am	Meeting with Angie
	1:00 pm	ESSER Funding Planning Meeting
	3:00 pm	Principal Evaluation Conference Follow up
	6:00 pm	Building and Grounds Committee Meeting
	7:00 pm	Teacher Negotiations
Thursday	7:30 am	Waseca County Public Health School District Call
	9:00 am	Check in with Donna
	4:00 pm	MDE Weekly Call
Friday		Out of District

Thank you for all you do!