

District Status Report

21 August

2020-2021 Report #8

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. Construction Update** – We have had a few setbacks this past week that may impact the completion schedule to a degree. Friday morning, I was alerted there had been a significant water leak in the new office suite area at the Elementary School due to construction. It is believed the cause was determined and is being addressed. Damage to the new area was being assessed and also addressed.

There will be a number of areas of the Secondary School not ready to go for this coming week when we anticipate some teachers starting to come into the buildings to begin preparing their classrooms. The principals are in communication with staff regarding specific building areas that are ready and not ready. All classrooms must be ready for Monday, August 31, when all staff do return.

As I was providing a tour for a Board member this past week, I was asked about the width of the renovated restroom entrances/exits and if they were intended to be part of the ADA renovation. I spoke with Bob Mickelson from ISG about the issue. Below is his response.

We updated the restrooms based on the 20% rule. The 20% rule is in reference to construction costs. 20% of your construction costs have to be related to ADA improvements. That can include a number of different ADA projects and there is a pecking order that ranks which are most important to address first. We were able to get the HVAC costs excluded from that 20% rule.

The code requirement is to improve accessibility “to the maximum extent feasible”. It was determined that updating the width of the doors to 36” doors with associated side clearances was not feasible due to the added structural requirements and clearance issues. If we did widen the doors we would not be able to keep the Janitor closet as is and the single-use restroom might not have been able to fit. While not ideal its important to note not all accessibility requirements exist solely for people in wheelchairs. With that, it should still be possible to get into the restrooms using a standard wheelchair. Some chairs are wider, generally for people with more severe disability or larger adults and that is where the standard 36” door comes into the mix to allow those to enter. Some but not all will be able to enter depending on what chair they use.

While I cannot speak for the other members of the Core Planning Team, I must admit that I did not catch this in the planning. My focus was on the interior of the restrooms and redesigning them for ADA accessibility. I assumed this meant the entrance/exit, but now know it did not. As I have watched the progress of the restrooms, I did not give attention to the exit/entrance as my attention as on the interior work. I do not believe there is anything we can do at this time, but perhaps it will be something we may want to address in the future.

There are a few things being followed-up on with the renovated Elementary School office area including the design of the vault closet and the positioning of the safe; reusing the old fixtures on the renovated restroom in the nurses’ office; and the positioning of the new desk unit in the reception office area.

Board members are welcome to visit both buildings to see the progress being made. Please contact the building principal or me in advance so that someone can meet you to escort you around. Keep up with some of the progress including photos by going to <https://www.nrheg.k12.mn.us/Page/3294>.

- 2. Board Member Quarterly Check-in** – Thank you Board members for taking time to check-in with me this week. Items discussed included:
 - Social Media use
 - Board visibility
 - School Learning Plan
 - Start of school year
 - Preparedness Plan

- COVID-19 Program Coordinator
- Construction
- Daycare need and costs
- November referendum
- COVID Funding (CARES / Coronavirus Relief Fund)
- 2020-2021 Board Goals
- Title IX

Please call me with questions regarding any of the items.

- 3. Start of School Year for Staff** – All staff will be reporting to their assigned school buildings Monday, August 31 for planned staff development and planning. I will let Board members know if there is an opportunity for Board members to welcome in-person staff members in each building. Board members are invited to visit at any time throughout the week observe and informally greet staff members.
- 4. Waseca County Positive Test Case Rate Check-in** – Rick Schultz and I had the opportunity to check in with Sarah Berry, Public Health Director, on Thursday, August 20, to discuss case rates and how the County assesses and projects positive test case counts. She shared that she was also surprised at the August 20 published number for Waseca County as she had projected for it to not change significantly from the previous week’s number of around 18. She did share with us that she projects the number to increase within the next two weeks including being in the 20-29 category.
- 5. New Teacher Orientation** – New Teacher Orientation will be held on Monday, August 24, beginning at 8 am in the Secondary School Media Center. All Board members are welcomed to join us for the start. Rick Schultz plans to welcome our new teachers.

School Board Calendar of Events

August 24/25	8:00 am	New Teacher Orientation – Secondary School Media Center
August 31, 2020	8:00 am	Staff Return
September 8, 2020		First Day for Students
September 21, 2020	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Elementary School Media Center/Remote (The meeting might have to be moved to the Secondary School due to the Live-Stream Technology equipment)

Dale’s Calendar for August 24-28 (As of 8-21-20)

Monday	8:00 am	New Teacher Orientation
	3:00 pm	Steele County Superintendent / Health Department Weekly Meeting
Tuesday	8:00 am	Meeting with Food Service, Custodial, Health Office and Principals
	9:30 am	Regional Support Team Orientation
	1:00 pm	Daycare Planning with Macy, Doug, Dave
	3:00 pm	Waseca County Call-in
Wednesday	9:00 am	Meeting with DP
	1:00 pm	Construction Owner’s Meeting
	2:00 pm	Referendum Website Prep

Thursday	11:30 am 1:30 pm	MDE Call-in Waseca County School District Weekly Check-in
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Friday		Out of School District
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Thank you for all you do!