

# Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting

June 15, 2020

## 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 Superintendent Report summarizes the communication with the Board of Education (BOE) throughout the month including the weekly District Status Report. In addition, the Report includes the building administrator reports as well as other information believed to be beneficial to the work of the BOE and school district. Detailed information for the items listed under the District Status Report Summary can be found within each weekly Status Report from the District's website. I appreciate feedback as to how we can improve the report. Thank you.

### **1. Principal Reports**

### **2. Weekly District Status Report Summary from May 15, 22, 29 and June 5.**

#### **A. Information, Communication, and Correspondence**

- **News from Around the State and Beyond**

- [Politics: Governor Walz issues executive order, MDE issues guidance for summer learning and child care](#)

- [Health: With schools closed, children's mental health is suffering](#)

- [COVID-19: How school will change when students return to classrooms](#)

- [CDC releases reopening guidance for schools, businesses](#)

- [COVID-19: CDC says U.S. schools should only reopen with social distancing as benchmarks met](#)

- [How will schools change after coronavirus?](#)

- [Parents share concerns over closures in survey](#)

- [Poll: One in five teachers unlikely to return to reopened classrooms in the fall](#)

- [Funding: Pandemic is driving schools toward a financial meltdown](#)

- [4 potential models for the next school year](#)

- [What does the CDC say about reopening schools?](#)

- **Construction Update**

- **AFSCME Negotiations**

- **AFSCME Negotiations Meeting Date Set**

- **Graduation Plans**

- **Long-term Substitute Nurse Needed**

- **Community Education Summer Programming Update**

- **End of School Year and Employee Work Schedules**

- **Community Education Summer Programming and other Activities Update AFSCME Negotiations Update End-of-Year Employee Recognition**

- **School Board Budget Work Session**

- **Community Education Summer Programming and other Activities Update**

- **District Summer Office Hours**

- **Updated School Board Meeting Guidance from MSBA**

- **Construction Update**

- **AFSCME Negotiations Update**

3. **Board & Administrator for Board Members Monthly Publication – May 2020 Reflection** - I have provided a brief reflection on a few of the articles from the May publication. I hope you have had an opportunity to read and reflect.
- Give board candidates unvarnished truth – The article provides board members with suggestions on how to respond to a citizen inquiring about what it is like to serve effectively on a school board.
  - Identify tasks for board, superintendent – The article provides an example from West (Texas) Independent School District in defining essential tasks for the board and the superintendent in order to clearly define roles.
  - 4 agenda problems to avoid – The article provides four common problems that can occur as part of a meeting agenda and/or meeting including:
    - ✓ Confusing agenda items – Clarify if it is an action item or information only.
    - ✓ Too many agenda items – Be realistic with time limits when developing the agenda.
    - ✓ Low-priority items at top of agenda – Take care of most important and urgent items first.
    - ✓ Items added to agenda at last minute – Do not allow items to be added at last minute.
  - Board should limit requests for staff work – The article addresses the challenging issue of board members asking staff members to perform work for their own personal interest. The author suggests a board to have a policy on individual board members being able to request a staff member to perform work. The policy should direct all individual board member requests to be approved by the full board first.
  - Ensure board consensus when goals change – The article encourages the full board supports and approves changes to the districts and board’s strategic goals.
4. **Principal of the Year!** – Congratulations to Principal Dave Bunn for being named by his peers as the *Southeast Division High School Principal of the Year of the Minnesota Association of Secondary Principals (MASSP)*. This type of acknowledgement is special when it comes from colleagues. Thank you Mr. Bunn for all you do and for your “tireless work in your school and communities your school represents” as referenced in your nomination. Mr. Bunn will now compete against high school principals from each of the eight divisions for the title of Minnesota High School Principal of the year to be announced at the MASSP winter conference in January of 2021.
5. **Construction Update** – 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>.
6. **School Board Budget Work Session Follow-up** – Thank you to the Board for its work at the special budget work session on June 1 where it was decided to move forward with an operational referendum on November 3, 2020. I am in the process of accessing resources in order to develop a resolution for Board consideration no later than the July 20, School Board meeting.
7. **Graduation** – A perfect evening outdoors set the stage for Commencement 2020. Thank you to Rick Schultz for representing the School Board with his presence and message. Special acknowledgments to Dave Bunn and Deb Bently. They spent countless hours in the past several weeks planning and then setting up. I also want to acknowledge Dan Petsinger with Radio Link Internet for all he did to

make the event a success. Thank you to staff members who assisted with parking, sound and making sure overall the event was a meaningful one for graduates and families.

- 8. End-of-Year Employee Recognition** – Employees came together on May 28 via a virtual Google Meet recognition program where we recognized and celebrated 22 employees who had achieved a milestone of service to the school district and/or to the education field. We also honored three employees retiring at the end of the school year including teachers John Schultz (29 years in the District and 34 total) and Frank Whitcomb (24 years in the District and 30 years in education), along with paraprofessional Judy Tweeten (6 years in the District).
  
- 9. Planning for the 2020-2021 School Year** – Planning for what we can expect to experience at the start of the 2020-2021 school year remains unclear. How the first day of school looks for students and staff will become more clear in the coming weeks and months, but for now, the school district is in the process of examining multiple scenarios considering the likelihood some degree of distancing and additional health and safety guidelines continue to be in place. Principals are in the process of forming a study committee consisting of teachers from both buildings. The committee purpose will be to assist administration in studying potential instructional delivery models and to develop appropriate protocol and procedures. At this time, MDE has identified the week of July 27 when school districts may expect more specific guidance on the type of instructional delivery that will be allowed ranging from 100% of students returning to school buildings to 100% of students remaining home under a distance-learning model. Our committee will be focusing on the potential of a “hybrid” model that may accommodate both in-person and remote learning depending on the direction we eventually received from MDE.
  
- 10. Updated School Board Meeting Guidance from MSBA** – MSBA updated its guidance on May 28 for school boards on how and when to meet remotely and for determining when a board may want to return to in-person meetings only. The Board may continue to meet remotely as it is doing as long as we are under a state of emergency and/or a declared pandemic.

Thank you for all you do!  
Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.