

# Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting

August 19, 2019

## 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 and Curriculum & Instruction Director Reports**

### **2. Weekly District Status Report Summary from July 12, 19, 26, and August 2 & 9**

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

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

- Can music help students heal from trauma?

- A Perfect World is One with No Grades

- Enrollment: How open enrollment is playing out in Greater Minnesota

- Health: Oregon will allow students to take "mental health days"

- Policy: Pennsylvania school district warns parents their kids could be put in foster care unless lunch debt paid

- Safety: Researchers roll out revolutionary approach to school safety

- Activity level not much different for teenagers who play sports

- Study affirms importance of CTE classes

- Should retention be based on reading skills?

- Do students focus better without their phones?

- Girls more likely than boys to be targets of cyberbullying

- **Design and Build Update**

- **School Board Self-Evaluation and Goal Setting for 2019-2020**

- **Board Budget Work Sessions**

- **School Lunch Account Debt Collection**

- **Policy Committee Meeting Planned**

- **Lunch Account Collection**

- **Soccer Transportation Request**

- **Kindergarten Enrollment**

- **2019-2020 School-Year Calendar Revisions**

### **3. Board & Administrator for Board Members Monthly Publication – July 2019 Reflection -** I have provided a brief reflection on a few of the articles from the July publication. I hope you have had an opportunity to read and reflect.

- More insight into the superintendent hiring process: The interview – The author shares his experience in applying and interviewing for a superintendent position.
  - Total agreement isn't necessary– The article reminds board members to “vote like you feel on the issue, but always support the majority’s final decision.”
  - Board Self-Assessment – The article offers a sample ‘self-assessment for your reflection.
4. **Budget work session** – The Board will hold a special budget work session on Wednesday, September 11, beginning at 5:30 pm in the Secondary Media Center. A light dinner will be provided starting at 5:15 pm. Objectives for the work session include:
- 2019-2020 Budget expectations and directives
  - Budget reduction process – parameters
  - Long-range financial strategy including operational revenue and expenditures. Adopt a district philosophy that maintains any fluctuation in the property tax within a defined range. This would assist the District in managing a “smoothing” effect on property taxes and develop a long-range strategy in responding to decreasing debt and opportunities to increase revenue.
5. **Design and Build Update** – The Secondary School user groups (Science, FACS, Ag, Industrial Tech) met for third time on Monday, August 12. Discussions are still taking place as to classroom design and shop addition location and design at the Secondary School, and secure entrance location and design at the Elementary School. ISG and Knutson will review design input from staff and provide revised designs along with preliminary costing estimates. A next step will be to convene the *Core Planning Group* which consists of ISG, Knutson, principals, business manager, superintendent, and Board Chair to begin providing direction to ISG and Knutson for moving forward with design decisions.
6. **Kick Off Breakfast and Keynote** – Please make plans to attend the staff breakfast hosted by the School Board on Thursday, August 29, at the Methodist Church in Ellendale, beginning at 8:00 am. Also plan to stay to hear our keynote, Dr. Stuart Robertshaw (Dr. Humor). I look forward to seeing you there.
7. **Staff Kickoff Week Schedule** – I have highlighted below the schedule for the week of August 26 and invite Board members to attend any and all events.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 26 -- Secondary School Cafeteria** (Teachers only)

- Analyzing and Applying Data to Improve Instructional Practice with Susan Burris

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 27 -- Secondary School Cafeteria** (Teachers & Paraprofessionals)

- Trauma Responsive Schools with Danielle Theis in AM (Teachers/Paraprofessionals)
- Principal Meetings in PM (Teachers only)

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28 – Assigned Schools**

- Analyzing and Applying Data to Improve Instructional Practices (Teachers)
- Infinitic Professional Development Modules (Paraprofessionals)

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2019 - United Methodist Church, Ellendale**

- Breakfast hosted by School Board
- Dr. Stuart Robertshaw “Dr. Humor” - Keynote Speaker

**8. Elementary Enrollment** – As part of the 2019-2020 Staffing Plan approved by the Board at the May 17, 2019 School Board meeting, staffing for Kindergarten included three (3) sections based on a projected enrollment of 56 students resulting in a class size average of 18.7 students. At that time, the projected enrollment for Bridges was 12 students resulting in a total Bridges/Kindergarten enrollment of 68. As of August 14, the Kindergarten enrollment was 61 students and Bridges with 11 students for a total of 72. Based on 61 students with 3 sections, the class size average for Kindergarten is 20.3. This remains within the administrative staffing guidelines but is at about 93% of the recommended capacity for the grade level based on a capacity of 66 students for 3 sections.

The Staffing Plan approved by the Board in May included two (2) classroom sections for Grade 5 with a grade level enrollment of 50 students resulting in a class size average of 25.0 students. As of August 14, the Grade 5 enrollment was 55 students with a class size average of 27.5 students. This remains within the administrative staffing guidelines but is at about 92% of the recommended capacity for the grade level based on a capacity of 60 students for 2 sections.

The Board would have the option of limiting any further enrollment of nonresident students in Kindergarten and/or Grade 5 for the 2019-2020 school year by adopting a resolution at a Board meeting. The decision to close nonresident enrollment at the Kindergarten and/or Grade 5 level at this time would be considered for budget purposes if we believed there was the possibility of having up to five resident students move into the school district at the Kindergarten and/or Grade 5 level and the Board would not want to add a Kindergarten and/or Grade 5 class at this time. In addition, hiring becomes more challenging especially after the school year starts.

However, not accepting any further nonresident enrollment at the Kindergarten and/or Grade 5 level can have a negative long-term budget impact. It is more likely a nonresident student will continue in the District for future years if they are not denied enrollment in Kindergarten. Also, our philosophy as a school district has been, and continues to be, to encourage and invite nonresident families to enroll their children in NRHEG. This issue is not planned to be on the August 19 agenda, but I wanted to update the Board on the status of Elementary enrollment and the option of limiting nonresident enrollment.

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