

Dale's School Board Meeting Recap

February 18, 2020 School Board Meeting

Our Mission Together

**Empowering students with
knowledge and skills to succeed.**

Our Vision

**To be the school district of choice, inspiring
excellence in academics, arts, and activities.**

NOTE: This review is authored by the Superintendent, intended as information for the District employees, to keep them informed of the important decisions made by the School Board. This review includes selected items as determined by the Superintendent, and does not include all items of business conducted by the Board. This review is not intended to replace the official minutes of the School Board. Additional information can always be obtained from the official Board minutes or by contacting Dale.

School Board Recognition Week February 17-21

The NRHEG Public Schools has joined school districts throughout the state this week to salute their local education leaders during Minnesota's annual School Board Recognition Week February 17-21. The week is intended to recognize the contributions made by Minnesota's school board members, including our NRHEG School Board, who are charged with governing public education under state law. School board members provide hope to our children for a bright future. They give unselfishly of their time and talents so that children have the opportunity to grow and develop into productive citizens in their community.

Our elected school board members are responsible for formulating school district policy, approving curricula, developing a budget, maintaining school facilities, and adhering to state and federal education law. Legal concerns and the complexities of school finance, including budgeting and taxation, require them to spend many hours in board training programs and personal study to enhance their understanding of these issues.

School boards are charged with the responsibility to create the conditions within their school districts that enable all students to learn at high levels. While the primary work of school boards is to improve student achievement and increase community engagement to promote student learning, they often have to find a balance between the forces of political reform efforts and mandates, individual stakeholder interests, and an inherent resistance to change. Budget challenges alone make the work of the school board difficult, but all that more important for the future of our children.

School boards provide stewardship and direction for public education in a community. School board members represent the educational values and priorities of the members of their community including students, parents, employees, and taxpayers. School boards provide a forum for community members to be heard, key issues to be debated and public votes to take place.

In a past article from the American School Board Journal, a board member stated "excellence in the classroom begins with excellence in the boardroom." The NRHEG Public Schools has been fortunate to have had committed and caring community citizens serve as school board members in the past and present. Our school board articulates the educational mission of the district and garners the public support and resources needed to achieve that mission. Our school board members provide the leadership through governance that creates the conditions under which excellent teaching and student learning can take place.

Our deepest appreciation is extended to past and current board members who have made it and currently make it possible for local citizens to participate in education in our community. We salute the public servants of our NRHEG School Board whose commitment and civic responsibility make local control of public schools in our communities possible. Please join us in thanking our current members Karen Flatness, JoAnn Maloney, Rich Mueller, Travis Routh, Neil Schlaak, Dan Schmidt, and Rick Schultz for their service!

Student Achievement and Student Support

Teaching and Learning Feature – Thank you to Frank Whitcomb and his student, Luisa Gaona, for presenting on the Youth Service Leadership (YSL) program.

Administrative Reports – Staff Recognition

New Achievers Award – Dave Bunn recognized teacher Kelly Delacruz for her New Achievers Award. Way to go Kelly!

Workforce

Resignations/Retirements – The Board approved the following resignation/retirement notices. Thank you to John, Mark and Judy for their years of service!

- John Schultz – Secondary Health and Physical Education Teacher. Effective end of the 2019-2020 school year. John has been with the District for 30 years and 35 years total in Education
- Mark Rud -- Drivers Training Instructor. Effective end of Summer 2020 driving session. Mark has been our Drivers Training Instructor since 1997.
- Judy Tweeten – Secondary Paraprofessional. Effective end of the 2019-2020 school year. Judy has been with us for 6 years.

Letter of Assignment Renewals: The Board approved the following Letter of Assignment renewals for 2019-2021:

- Stacy Hutchens – 3-Year Old Preschool Program Paraprofessional
- Michelle Thiele – 4/5-Year Old Preschool Program Paraprofessional

2020 Spring Coaching Contracts: The Board approved the following coaching contracts for Spring 2020. Thank you coaches!

- Marcus Fischer—JH Baseball Coach
- Dan Schmidt – JH Softball Coach

Extended Leave Notice to Not Return: The Board accepted Jackie Schultz’s notice that she will not be returning following her three-year extended leave that was approved for the 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 school years. Jackie had served the district for 24 years prior to her leave.

Superintendent Mid-Year Performance Review -- The Board met in closed session for the purpose of conducting a mid-year performance review of the Superintendent as authorized by M.S.12D.05,Subd.3(a).

Finance

Donations -- We are fortunate to have community members, organizations, and businesses who make donations to the school district. Often the donations are designated toward specific programs or activities. The Board approved the following donations.

NRHEG Basketball	BB Jerseys	\$674.10
Dale & Sharon Carlson	Books to Elementary Media Center	
	Total	\$674.10
	Total to Date	\$30,957.54

Cooperative Activity Transportation – The Board approved discontinuing transporting students participating in the cooperative activities hosted currently by Waseca beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. This includes gymnastics. This was mentioned as part of the presentation at the October 21, 2019, School Board meeting when the Board approved adding JWP to the Coop. We will not be providing transportation for students participating in any of the coop activities hosted by Waseca which now include soccer (boys and girls), hockey (boys and girls), and gymnastics.

Resolution for Reduction of Programs and Positions – The Board adopted the resolution “directing the Administration to make recommendations for reductions in programs and positions and reasons” for the purpose of planning and for the Administration to recommend reductions in programs and staffing for 2020-2021 school year. The Board has taken this action annually. The resolutions states:

WHEREAS, the financial condition of the school district dictates that the school board must reduce expenditures immediately, and

WHEREAS, there has been a reduction in student enrollment, and,

WHEREAS, this reduction in expenditure and decrease in student enrollment must include discontinuance of positions and discontinuance or curtailment of programs, and

WHEREAS, a determination must be made as to which teachers' contracts must be terminated and not renewed and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits in effecting discontinuance of positions,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2168, as follows:

That the School Board hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools and administration to consider the discontinuance of programs or positions to effectuate economies in the school district and reduce expenditures and, as a result of a reduction in enrollment, make recommendations to the school board for the discontinuance of programs, curtailment of programs, discontinuance of positions or curtailment of positions.

2019-2020 Budget Revision – The Board approved the budget revision as presented. The Board-approved annual budget development calendar calls for the Board to approve a revised budget at its February meeting. The Finance Committee reviewed the most recent revenue and expenditure update for 2019-2020 and recommended the Board approve the 2019-2020 budget revisions as recommended that included an increase in the General Fund deficit amount from an estimated (\$74,913) in November 2019 to about (\$104,060) as of February 18, 2020. The Board originally adopted a 2019-2020 budget in May 2019 with a planned General Fund deficit in the amount of (94,808).

Audit Services Bid – The Board approved an Audit Request for Proposal (RFP) and directed administration to move forward in seeking proposals from licensed certified public accountant firms to audit our financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. The District has been with the same firm since at least 1987, and we believe it is time to do this. The plan is to have a recommendation for Board approval at the April 20, 2020, School Board meeting.

Board Governance

2020-2021 School Year Calendar -- The Board approved the 2020-2021 school year calendar as recommended. The calendar draft addresses the 6 teacher staff development (SD) days, 4 teacher planning days, 2 days total for parent-teacher conferences, 3 required inservice days for paraprofessionals (beyond the contracted student days) and any scheduled non-school days for teachers and students. Highlights of the calendar include:

- 1st day for teachers is Monday, August 31
- 4 teacher SD days scheduled August 31 – September 3
- Tentatively planning for "kick-off" breakfast and potential keynote to be on Monday, August 31, in the morning, which would be a change from this year.
- 1st day for students is Tuesday, September 8
- Three 2-hour early dismissals and one 2-hour late start scheduled – This will be the second year of implementing a combination of late start and early dismissal days for teacher development. You may remember that the Staff Development Committee proposed the change with Principal support after surveying staff and parents. The early dismissal dates have attempted to be placed on dates that minimize conflicts with after-school practices.
- Semester 1 is 86 days compared to Semester 2 being 88 days.
- Last day for students is Friday, June 4, and final day for teachers is Monday, June 7
- Five Flexible Learning Days are included in the calendar.

- Any cancelled days beyond the five flexible learning days would be rescheduled unless waived by the School Board.

Miscellaneous

Statewide Enrollment Options: The Board approved the following enrollment options:

- One (1) student from another district choosing to attend our District. One (1) student in our District choosing to attend another district.