

Dale's School Board Meeting Recap

June 15, 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.

Student Achievement and Student Support

Summer 2020 Student Activity (Return to Practice/Play) Protocol: The Board approved protocol and procedures to guide a potential return to “practice/play” for students during Summer 2020. The plan outlines expectations and procedures for any activities that are approved to take place on school property during Summer 2020. Definite start dates have not been determined. Coupled with the health and safety guidelines provided to us by MDE and MDH are construction logistics that we have to work around as well. Highlights of the plan include:

- Coach/advisor for a specific activity must submit plan to Activities Director (AD) and/or Principal for approval.
- All participants must have a signed waiver from their parents. (One waiver per sport/activity).
- All participants must sign in daily and answer a short screening questionnaire asking about travel along with signs and symptoms. **Any student stating that they have any signs or symptoms along with high risk answers will be sent home immediately. Temperatures will be taken for all indoor activities until further notice.**
- Efforts should be made to limit the use of touch points. (I.E.- Doors, handles, etc.)
- Staff member must be present at all times where students are meeting.
- Student-athlete to coach ratio will be set per MDH/MDE guidelines.
- Workout pods should be created per MDH/CDC/MDE Guidance and pod members should not change.
- Participants must arrive dressed and ready for workouts. No locker room access will be allowed until further notice. Restroom use will be limited upon approval.
- Participants must bring their own water and bottles. Access to drinking fountains will not be allowed.
- Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes must be available on site and participants must be provided with breaks to properly sanitize.
- Social distancing must be practiced. Students and staff are not allowed within 6 feet of each other.
- It is required staff wear their own masks while students and other staff are present (Outside and indoors). Students will have option of wearing masks when outside. Students must wear masks when inside until further notice. (Exceptions must receive prior approval from AD and/or Principal and/or Community Education Director.)
- Communal supplies are discouraged. Participants are encouraged to use their own equipment whenever possible (I.E.- balls, gloves, bats, clubs, etc.). Cleaning of shared equipment must occur following each individual use.
- Weight and Fitness Facility may be accessed if all MDH/CDC/MDE guidance can be met. Cleaning of equipment must occur following each individual use.
- Access to facilities will be limited to participants and coaches/advisors. No outside spectators.

K-3 Literacy Plan 2020-2021: The Board approved the K-3 Literacy plan for 2020-2021. Principal Anderson provided the following overview.

The state of Minnesota passed legislation that seeks to have all of Minnesota’s children reading well by third grade. The goal of the NRHEG Public School district is to ensure that all learners successfully achieve the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in English Language Arts (2010) for their grade level. The standards are aligned with the district’s curriculum and a plan is in place to ensure that the standards are taught within the time available. The bill requires local school districts to adhere to certain expectations including:

- All students are provided reading instruction that is scientifically based.
- Parents are notified of student progress at least annually for all students and must give parents of students not reading at or above grade level (in K-3) timely information. This timely information includes reading assessments administered, services available and strategies parents can use at

home to support their child. At the elementary, this is communicated during parent-teacher conferences and at other times during the year. All students in grades K-5 are assessed three times a year using The Benchmark Assessment Program as part of our *Fountas and Pinnell Balanced Literacy Program*. In grades K-2 students are also assessed using the FAST Learning Program. In grades 3-5 students are assessed using the STARS Program

- Students who are not reading at or above grade level are given intervention evidence-based practices to accelerate their growth toward grade-level expectations. These interventions are provided by classroom teachers and paraprofessionals who have been trained in interventions. Our Reading Interventionist also works closely with students.
- Assessment methods and data points used to determine grade level proficiency are reported to the Minnesota Department of Education annually. This report that you are adopting this evening is part of that process. Parents are kept informed of their child’s progress at every step of the process.
- Sufficient training is provided for all licensed staff to improve reading instruction. Our district is using the *Fountas & Pinnell Classroom* a balanced literacy program to teach reading in kindergarten through grade 5. Included in this program are components for guided reading, reading aloud, shared reading, and independent reading. To enhance this curriculum, our district has an extensive Leveled Guided Reading Library and an elementary library with a variety of fiction and nonfiction reading materials, covering a wide range of reading levels. The Leveled Library provides all students with instructional texts to best meet their academic needs. A variety of technologies have been integrated into the curriculum and instruction to meet the needs of the district’s diverse learners. Our last Progress Monitoring, before our dismissal in March, took place in January. Grade level percentages and expected benchmarks are listed below:

Grade Level	% of Students Meeting Target Level	Expected Level for January
Kindergarten	67%	Level C
Grade 1	56%	Level G
Grade 2	58%	Level L
Grade 3	52%	Level)

Typically we see the greatest growth in our students when we administer the third benchmark in May (measuring from the January Benchmark to the May benchmark). Due to COVID-19 and Distance Learning, we were unable to administer the May benchmark.

Specific information is included in the K-3 Literacy Plan that follows this summary. For those who are interested in learning more about NRHEG’s literacy program, please contact Elementary Principal Doug Anderson at 507-684-3181 or danderson@nrheg.k12.mn.us.

Workforce

Resignations/Retirements – The Board approved the following resignation notices. Thank you to Lillie and Ryan for their service!

- Lillie Nielsen – Secondary Paraprofessional
- Ryan Evans – Early Childhood Special Education Teacher

Employment – The Board approved the following employments.

- Devin Dobesh – 3rd Grade Teacher

- Alexis Kubista – Early Childhood Special Education
- Jessica Williams – Teaching and Learning Support Specialist (0.2 FTE)

Contract Renewals – The Board approved the following contract renewals.

- Naomi Elmhorst—Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant (COTA): We share Ms. Elmhorst’s service with JWP; NRHEG at 60% of the time and JWP 40% time.
- Amy Johns—Elementary Classroom Teacher: Non-renewal was due to license requirement.
- Sara Misgen—Elementary Special Education Teacher: Non-renewal was due to license requirement.
- Barb Roesler—Secondary Science Teacher: Non-renewal was due to license requirement.

Minnesota Valley Education District (MVED) FY 2020-2021 POHI Service Agreement: The Board approved renewing the Minnesota Valley Education District (MVED) FY 2020-2021 PIOHD Service Agreement. The agreement is for a Teacher of Physically Impaired/Other Health Disabilities on an “as needed basis” for Behavioral Observation in person or through video conferencing, and for telephone conferencing with staff.

AFSCME Agreement 2020-2022: The Board approved the 2020-2022 Agreement between the District and the AFSCME employee group. A tentative agreement was reached on June 2 with the membership voting in favor of the agreement on June 10. Thank you to the AFSCME team of Teri Kormann, Paul Kampen, Barb Hagen, Melissa McCornack, and representative John Rostad. Also thank you to Board team members Rick Schultz, Neil Schlaak, Karen Flatness, and Karla Christopherson. Highlights of the agreement include:

- 1.90% per cell increase for year 1 and 1.75% per cell increase for year 2
- Full step for all members
- 1 additional personal leave day (Increasing from 2 days to 3 days)
- Total 2-year cost package of 5.56%

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.

Anonymous	2021 Summer Targeted Service—Elementary	\$500
NR Legion Post 75	Fireworks	\$300
Ellendale Legion Post	Fireworks	\$100
PTO	Fireworks	\$500
Anonymous	Lunch Angel Fund	\$50
PTO	Smoke-Free T-shirts	\$165
PTO	Volta Spinner	\$6,105
Dan Petsinger	High School Gym Sound System & Lighting	<u>\$10,000</u>
	Total	\$17,720

YTD Total \$68,730.47

New Richland Area Foundation Grants: Four grants were announced at the Board meeting including:

- Secondary School Music Department for guitars in the amount of \$2,000
- Secondary High School Gymnasium Projector and Screen in the amount of \$5,000
- Secondary Planners for Students in the amount of \$750
- Softball Boosters for Netting and Turf in the amount of \$529

It was also mentioned that Junior Achievement was awarded \$1,500 for Secondary School programs. Thank you to the New Richland Area Foundation Grants Committee of Gail Schmidt, Pam Goehring, Jill Schlaak, Kris Schlaak, Matt Harrington, Kermit Schoenrock and Lee Mendenhall.

Bakery Bid for 2020-2021: The Board accepted the bid from Pan O Gold Baking Company which meets our required guidelines. The rate across the board is an increase of less than 1.5% with a range from \$0.02-\$0.06 increase per unit. We have been with Pan O Gold Baking Company since September 2012.

Dairy Bid for 2020-2021: The Board accepted the bid from Prairie Farms (formally Dean Foods). The half pint increase averaged just over 3.12%. We have been with Prairie Farms since September 2014.

Lunch and Milk Prices for 2020-2021: The Board approved a \$0.10 increase in the student breakfast and lunch rates and no increase in milk rates for the 2020-2021 school year.

Bus Lease Agreement: The recommendation was to approve a bus lease agreement with Santander to lease two (2) 2020 IC CE 77 passenger school buses with payments of \$24,918.50 for four (4) years. The Board tabled this item until the July 20, 2020, School Board meeting in the event the District has more information on busing needs for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

District Property, Liability, Auto, Workers Compensation Insurance Proposal: The Board approved the quote submitted by the Jensen Agency in Owatonna, MN in the amount of up to \$147,471.21 for the annual premium. This is an increase of about 32% over last year's quote of about \$111,674.90.

Northland Securities Financial Planning Agreement: The Board approved to enter into an agreement with Northland Securities to provide services for financial planning assistance related to planning for an operating referendum in November 2020. The agreement highlights four tasks or services provided in the \$3,000 fee including:

- Prepare interactive operating referendum analysis
- Prepare presentation materials
- Create tax calculator
- Coordinate legal requirements with District's attorney

Additional services are available.

Board Governance

Designation of Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Education User Access Authorization System: The Board renewed the appointments of the Superintendent and Business Manager to serve as the IOwA that gives legal authority to authorize persons to access MDE secured websites for NRHEG Public Schools.

Miscellaneous

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

- One (1) non-resident student attending our school district in Fall 2020
- Once (1) resident student attending another school district in which they recently moved from.