***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.***

**School District Update**

Dale Carlson, Superintendent

January 2021

Our vision as a school community is to *be the school district of choice, inspiring excellence in academics, arts, and activities.* We strive to do this every day by *empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed*.

I am writing this article shortly after informing the School Board, staff and families of my intent to resign from my position as superintendent effective June 30, 2021. The School Board intends to take action on my resignation at the January 19, 2021, School Board meeting.

NRHEG will remain a special part of my 36-year journey in public education. I will leave here with many fond memories and friendships. Thank you for your partnership over the past six years.

**New School Board Members Take Office**

Terri Engel, Loren Schoenrock and Dan Schmidt officially began their four-year terms January 4 as they publicly affirmed their oath of office at the School Board’s annual organizational meeting. Congratulations and thank you Ms. Engel, Mr. Schoenrock and Dan Schmidt for your leadership and service to our students, families, employees and communities.

**School Learning Model Update**

At the January 4, 2021, Organizational School Board Meeting, the Board approved plans to return the Secondary School to the *hybrid learning* model on January 11 where students attend school “in person” two days of the week and attend school remotely in *distance learning* the other three days of the week. The Board approved plans to move the Elementary School to *in-person* learning beginning January 18 under a two-week “rolling start” in which grades Bridges/Kindergarten through 2 will attend in person four days of the week while grades 3-5 attend in the *hybrid learning* model. Beginning February 1, all Elementary School grades levels will attend in person four days of the week. Students will attend school in the *distance learning* model Wednesday mornings with Wednesday afternoons dedicated to teacher *distance learning* planning as required by the Minnesota Department of Education.

**School Activities Update**

Winter school activity practices started Monday, January 4. Additional mitigation strategies are required including the wearing of face coverings/masks during practice and competitions for several of the activities. Some activities are exempt from the requirement in specific situations. Distancing and spectator requirements are being finalized at the time of writing this article.

A reminder that the School Board conducts its regular monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month beginning at 6:30 pm. Typically, the location of the meeting is rotated monthly between the NRHEG Secondary School Media Center in New Richland and the NRHEG Elementary School Media Center in Ellendale. However, until further notice, the School Board will hold its regular monthly meetings at the Secondary School Media Center due to “live-stream” technology requirements. The School Board intends to continue live-streaming regular School Board meetings at least through the COVID-19 pandemic period when restrictions are placed on the number of the public that may attend. The January 19, 2021, School Board meeting and the February 16, 2021, School Board meetings are scheduled on Tuesdays due to federal holidays. Until further notice, Board members have the option to attend the meeting remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be a minimum of one Board member and myself at the designated site. All COVID-19 CDC safety guidelines will be enforced for any public attending. Members of the public may view the Board meeting live via YouTube by going to the link at <https://www.nrheg.k12.mn.us/Page/3436>. Recordings of the Board meeting are available by going to the same link as above. You may also access the link by going to the District Website at <https://www.nrheg.k12.mn.us/pages/NRHEG>. At this time, anyone wishing to make a public comment to the Board will need to attend in person at the designated site.

We celebrate together in the accomplishments of our students because we are in this journey together as a school community. Thank you for all you do to support NRHEG Public Schools and our students!