

# NRHEG Public School

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## **Secondary Principal Board Report 2-11-20**

Message that I sent staff after the MASSP Conference:  
Staff,

I am sharing a little information about the great MASSP (Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals) convention. I was able to attend the legal seminar that was put on by MASSP Roger Aronson, Esq. It is vital to try and stay current with school law as it evolves on a regular basis. The session covers many different aspects of the principalship. The important topics covered were as follows: Legislative Issues 2019, Sexual Harassment, Student Discipline, Unrequested Leave of Absence, Resignations, Disciplinary Action on License, Current Issues in Data Practices, Defamation and School Leaders and issues raised by the group of principals attending. Some other issues of interest that were covered were: Labor Day School Start, School Newspapers, Civic Life, and MSHSL (Minnesota State High School League) issues.

In the law seminar, there was information about the push from some folks (not administrators) to get rid of the use of suspensions. This is originating from a large number of students of color that are suspended. This discussion also came up in our discussions with Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker later in the conference. MASSP's stance is that in order to consider such a movement that all districts would need time, space and resources to make such a change. It will be interesting to see where this goes. Roger shared with the Commissioner Ricker that there is a time and place for suspensions. Some school districts have been contacted that they needed to make changes to their suspension practices due to the disparity of students of color being suspended compared to their white counterparts.

There also was some discussion about the MSHSL transfer rule. It will be interesting to see if the league considers changing the transfer rule or leaving it as is. One other

*Dale N. Carlson, Superintendent*

*David A. Bunn, High School Principal*

*Douglas A. Anderson, Elementary Principal*

MSSHSL issue was brought up was the Waseca Hockey Police Uniform for Officer Arik Matson who was shot in the line of duty.

Our first main speaker was Dr. Adolph Brown III regarding ALL means ALL! Cultivation, Inclusion and Inspiring Equity. He was one of the best speakers that I have heard in a long time. I would love to have him share his insights with our district sometime if that would be possible. His website is <https://www.docspeaks.com/>. We need to strive to find ways to include ALL students in a positive learning experience. We all have (invisible) backpacks that we want others to see and judge us by. However, inside each backpack, is another hidden backpack that we do not want others to see in it or we might not be aware of what is in it that impacts our daily lives. We as educators, also have the second backpack and are not immune to situational occurrences that have impacted our lives in a negative fashion. We must work together to help people unpack that second backpack and free us of those issues. Of course, I do not give Dr. Brown's presentation justice, but nonetheless, you get the point.

A couple of my other sessions had to do with SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) and Student Engagement/Motivation. There is a buzz in education surrounding SEL and the increased level of mental health concerns of our students. Many folks are implementing various programs to try and provide students with support. Some of you may remember a former employee of NRHEG, Mindy Chevalier. Mindy is the current principal of Belle Plaine. She and another colleague shared an intriguing program that was implemented this year for SEL. The program is mainly video-based and takes about 10-12 minutes a day to implement. Belle Plaine has seen a positive shift in their school climate. They shared video examples of students implementing learned strategies. The program is called "Move This World." Here is a link to the website <http://movethisworld.com/>. Another program that supports students and teachers was called the BARR Model. This program differs as it is implemented mainly in regular classrooms as opposed to advisory periods. Susan Burris, MDE consultant that we have worked with for a couple of years, shared the name of this program at the last leadership meeting. Here is a link to the BARR system <https://barrcenter.org/>. Both programs, I believe, can have a positive impact on students and staff. In both sessions, the focus was on building relationships with students which impacts all areas of the school environment. I am going to solicit conversations about how we can provide SEL and/or improving student engagement. We need to give students more tools in their toolbelt on how to navigate the challenges of life. I am hoping some of you will check out the websites.

Being a principal is a lonely profession at times. It was great to spend time with colleagues to bounce ideas off with them, hear their stories, celebrate their successes and listen to their visions. Like everyone, I am less than perfect, but give my best every single day just like you do. We are on this educational journey together, and I am very

thankful for the dedicated educators that are a part of this district. Every position is important in the district, and you all touch the lives of our students. Continue to be there for students, families and each other. You are part of the greatest profession that exists. Thank you to the Staff Development Committee that supported this opportunity! There is still more I learned, but think you get the idea of how great of the convention it was. Keep your heads high and be proud of what you do! There are never enough thank you's that I could give to you for everything you do. Know that even if I do not say it enough, you are very important to NRHEG, and I am very lucky to work with you all. Have a good one!"

**Again, congratulations to Kelly Delacruz for her New Achievers award! New Achievers Award: An emerging professional who has shown potential for making significant contributions in the field of Family and Consumer Sciences. Must have at least 3 years but not more than 8 years of service to the Family and Consumer Sciences field and is an active member of MAFCS. The New Achievers Award was introduced in 1984 to recognize emerging professionals who have shown potential for making significant contributions in the field of family and consumer sciences.**



**From Mr. Sorum:** "In FFA....

The Small Animal & Vet Sci team qualified for state.

Tiara Malakowsky took 2nd in the region with her Diversified Livestock Proficiency application."

**From Mrs. Fredrickson:** "Congratulations to our All-Conference High School Choir members: Alexandra Combs (12th) & Dylan Loken (11th)!"

They participated in an all day rehearsal at Bethlehem Academy in Faribault, MN on February 7, with another morning rehearsal on February 8 culminating in the final concert at 1:30p.m. This second annual Gopher Conference Honor Choir event brings our schools together, working with guest conductors on selections the students have been preparing the previous month with their own schools directors.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to work and perform in a high caliber ensemble, well done!"

**From Lise' Weegman:** "Thursday of last week I was participating in a Hospitality/Tourism Minnesota workshop for a potential new class.

My Business specialist from MDE, Dean Breuer, was there to talk about the curriculum for the potential class. In one of our discussions, Dean informed me that my class approvals are complete and have been approved, with no edits to contend with. ☺

Thought I would share the great news with you!"

**From Mrs. Bently:** "Members of the One-Act Play acting troupe are giving public performances of their two productions on Friday, Feb. 14 and Saturday, Feb. 15, finishing their "season" which began with auditions back in November. It has been a privilege to work with these energetic, enthusiastic, determined young thespians. Pasted here are the brief summaries of the two plays as provided in the program: "Law & Order: Fairy Tale Unit": When two homes are discovered in ruins, Fairy Tale Police Department (FTPD) detectives Cindy Rella and H. Dumpty are under pressure to collect the evidence, assemble the clues, find the mysterious house-wrecking perpetrator, and assure the Fairy Tale County Justice System can prevail. "Walkin' Home": In NRHEG's 2020 MSHSL Contest One-Act Play, Sonja, 20, lingers outside her childhood home, nervous and uncertain about whether she'll be welcomed after her icy departure two years before. Inside, her mother, father, and sister speculate about the past and the future as they prepare Thanksgiving Day dinner.

About 10 people have expressed interest in the school's competitive speech team. Some have been working for weeks to refine and strengthen their

contest pieces. Team members will begin attending Saturday tournaments on Feb. 22; their season continues through early April.

Members of the senior class are in the process of ordering their senior shirts and making plans for their spring events. So far, the zoo is the frontrunner for their class trip, but a number of voices remain to be heard.

**From Mr. Otstot:** "We had 9 band students and 2 choir students who participated in a fantastic concert this weekend as part of the Gopher Conference Honor band."