

# Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting

January 16, 2018

## 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. Weekly District Status Report Summary from December 15 & 22, and January 5.**

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

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

- Neb. district works to transform kindergarten

- Purpose is bigger than a mission statement

- Help stressed team members motivate themselves

- Report offers policy suggestions for rural education

- Politics: U.S. Education Department tells Minnesota, other states they have more work to do on Every Student Succeeds Act

- It's OK to say no sometimes

- Strategies to help mitigate effects of trauma

- Every Student Succeeds Act: Concerns growing about ESSA plans

- Advocacy: MSBA releases 2018 Legislative Agenda

- How to design modern classrooms

- Breakthrough Classrooms feature tech, mindfulness

- **MSBA Annual Leadership Conference**

- **Facility Planning**

- **Activity Requests**

### **2. Elementary and Secondary Principal Reports**

### **3. Curriculum and Instruction Report**

### **4. Board & Administrator for Board Members Monthly Publication – December 2017 Reflection - I**

have provided a brief reflection on a few of the articles from the December publication. I hope you have had an opportunity to read and reflect.

- Lines of communication must stay open – The article encourages regular and effective communication between board leaders.

- Skills present in effective board members – The article shares how *preparation* and *sensitive to* impact are two types of skills and attributes which are consistently present in effective board members. Board members are encouraged to be prepared on the issues impacting the

school district and also be prepared for meetings. The article reminds board members to be willing to listen, agree and disagree on issues, and support the group decision even if it's not your personal choice. Board members should be sensitive and aware of the community and staff's perceptions of the board. Board members should consider how stakeholders might interpret your behaviors and decisions and then act accordingly.

- Use time wisely – The article offers several tips to help board members be more efficient in their use of time including:
  - ✓ Organize on the basis of your own most effective way of working
  - ✓ Be able to say “no” to some activities in order to dedicate the necessary time to your board role
  - ✓ Acknowledge concerns from stakeholders, but refer them to the appropriate employee so you are not involved in handling their concern.
  
- Board Meeting Checklist – The article suggests a board takes time at the end of each board meeting to evaluate the effectiveness of the meeting in order to improve efficiency. A checklist is offered that includes:
  - ✓ Parliamentary procedure followed?
  - ✓ Agenda was followed and conducted in a businesslike manner
  - ✓ Members arrived on time
  - ✓ Meeting started on time
  - ✓ Meeting ended on time
  - ✓ Meeting lasted two hours or less
  - ✓ Members arrived prepared
  - ✓ Member absences were minimal
  - ✓ Meeting room was comfortable and conducive to the discussion
  - ✓ Discussions were polite and not dominated by a few
  - ✓ Members dealt with controversy properly

**5. Facility Planning Update** – Doug Anderson, David Bunn, Terri Engel, Karla Christopherson and I met with Rod Schumacher and Paul Lawton from ISG on January 5 to review the educational programming reports prepared by Mr. Anderson and Mr. Bunn in preparation for the January 22 Board work session. I also had the opportunity to clarify questions in preparation for ISG's services proposal they will present at the January 16 Board meeting.

Thank you for all you do!

Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.