

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 January 12, 19, &26, and February 2 & 9.

A. Information, Communication, and Correspondence

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

Personnel: Does your school have a licensed school nurse? You may be surprised by the answer

Albert Lea Tribune~Sam Wilmes Article~Features Kari Buendorf's Classroom

<http://m.albertleatribune.com/2017/12/training-children-from-a-young-age-to-stand-up-to-bullying/>

Owatonna People's Press~Ryan Anderson Article~2018 Outlook/PTO/Targeted Services and Steve DeLaitsch artist in residence information

http://www.southernminn.com/owatonna_peoples_press/news/article_d6dc3f7c-7561-5dfa-8eed-34532b621ccb.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=usser-share

Politics: U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos says Obama and Bush education reforms did not work

A 'troubled waters' survival guide for schools

Schools turn to sun for their power

Brewing a remarkable school brand

Report: How screen time affects mental health

Court: Judge rejects transgender student's "full and equal access" argument in locker room case

What matters most to parents?

CDC: Most US teens don't receive enough sleep

Putting K12 tests to the test

One to Grow On / Measuring Doesn't Come First

Glencoe-Silver Lake: Makerspace adds a little extra to STEM program

Teachers design makerspace for elementary students

Brief links parent education, student achievement

Screen addiction among teens: Is there such a thing?

- **Board Work Session on Facility Planning**
- **Quarterly Check-ins with Dale**
- **Insurance Committee**
- **Flexible Benefit Consulting**
- **School Board Meeting Follow-up – School Play**
- **Community Night Out**
- **Vehicle Inspection**

2. Elementary and Secondary Principal Reports

3. Curriculum and Instruction Report

4. *Board & Administrator for Board Members Monthly Publication – January 2018 Reflection - I* have provided a brief reflection on a few of the articles from the January publication. I hope you have had an opportunity to read and reflect.

- Emphasize commitment, open processes when facing competition – The article offers ideas on what a school board and superintendent can do to make their district “stand out from the pack” in a time of school competition and choice. Ideas include:
 - ✓ Emphasize being a “community school”
 - ✓ Engage the community
 - ✓ Communication effectively
 - ✓ Be champions of public schools and voice of community
- Allow angry constituents to cool down – The article shares suggestions on policy and procedure for having citizens speak at board meetings.
- Communicate well with district’s internal stakeholders – The article offers principles for communicating with staff including:
 - ✓ Show appreciation
 - ✓ Demonstrate support
 - ✓ Make use of a recognition program
 - ✓ Be liberal with praise
 - ✓ Ask their opinion, using forums for dialogue
- Tips for inexperienced school board members – The article offers tips for new board members including:
 - ✓ Take it slow . . . listen and observe
 - ✓ Remember the board’s only authority comes from its collective action
 - ✓ Let the superintendent manage the staff
- Learn as a board and superintendent team – The article encourages board and superintendent learning together and offers characteristics seen in high-achieving districts including:
 - ✓ The board learns as a team
 - ✓ The board and superintendent take time to learn together as a team
 - ✓ The board and superintendent discuss “what is most important”
 - ✓ The board engages in policy development

5. **Facility Planning Update** – Thank you for the Board’s commitment and priority given to facility planning. It is a great deal of work but so important to the future of the school district. Following the

February 15 work session, next steps include finalizing a community task force that will assist the board in examining priority concerns important to the facility plan.

- 6. Community Night Out** – The annual Community Night Out Live and Silent Auction sponsored by the NRHEG Parent Teacher Organization is scheduled for March 17, 2018, to be held at Wedgewood Cove in Albert Lea. The Community Night Out event fundraises for the purpose of contributing to the life of the School District in various ways with a primary focus on students. Participation at the event as well as donations are appreciated.
- 7. School Play Update** – As a follow-up to the student public comments at the January School Board Meeting, Principal Bunn has provided the following steps that have taken place.
 - A spring play is moving forward.
 - Mr. Bunn and advisor Mrs. Inouye have met multiple times to discuss the play, including funding, as there was not a budget put forward this school year since a play was not being planned.
 - Mr. Bunn has approved various fundraising efforts requested by Mrs. Inouye.
 - Additional challenges being addressed include scheduling of performances and practices due to limited facility space.
- 8. Insurance Committee** – The District’s Insurance Committee held its first meeting on February 14. The Committee’s purpose is *evaluate insurance benefits for effectiveness, desirability, affordability and competitiveness and make recommendations to the Superintendent and Board of Education*. The committee consists of ten staff members representing different employee groups. Specific committee responsibilities include:
 - Examine issues related to insurance plans
 - Examine other school districts’ insurance policies
 - Review district insurance experience
 - Assist with review of plan bids
 - Recommend modifications to insurance plans and benefits
 - Assist with educating employees on health insurance issues and receive input
 - Meet a minimum of four times each year

The committee plans to meet on March 7. Representatives from Flexible Benefits Consulting will be in attendance to assist in facilitating the meeting.

- 9. School Board Recognition Week** – The Minnesota School Boards Association set this week of February 19-23 as School Board Recognition Week in Minnesota as a time to build awareness and understanding of the vital function an elected board of education plays in our communities and society. We join all public school districts across the state to celebrate School Board Recognition Week to honor our local board members for their commitment to our communities and to our children.

It takes strong schools to build a strong community, and our board members devote countless hours to making sure our schools are helping every child learn at a high level. They make the tough decisions every month and spend many hours studying education issues and regulations in order to provide the kind of accountability our citizens expect.

The key work of school boards is to raise student achievement by:

- Creating a vision for what our communities want the school district to be and for making student achievement the top priority;
- Establishing standards for what students will be expected to learn and be able to do;

- Ensuring progress is measured to be sure the district's goals are achieved and students are learning at expected levels;
- Being accountable for their decisions and actions by continually tracking and reporting results;
- Creating a safe, orderly climate where students can learn and teachers can teach;
- Forming partnerships with others in the community to solve common problems; and
- Focusing attention on the need for continuous improvement by questioning, refining and revising issues related to student achievement.

School board members give citizens a voice in education decision making. Even though we make a special effort to show our appreciation in February, their contribution is a year-round commitment. Thank you to Rick Schultz, JoAnn Maloney, Karen Flatness, Travis Routh, Mark Tollefson, Dan Schmidt, and Neil Schlaak for their vision, leadership and service!

Thank you for all you do!

Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.