

Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting

May 21, 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 April 13, 20, 27; and May 4 & 11

A. Information, Communication, and Correspondence

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

Testing: Minnesota students near top on national test, but breakdown by race tells a different story

Funding: Governor pushes to make preschool funding permanent

Curriculum: Some schools pairing college-oriented courses with career and technical education

Safety: Police officers in Minnesota schools — common, controversial and not regulated by the state

Politics: Bill would mandate school start times

Study: Literacy text messages benefit students

Maryland schools may tell children when it's time to log off

Researchers consider phone use, learning

Schools seek to extinguish vaping trend

Graduation: High-paying trade jobs sit empty, while high school grads line up for university

Data: State data on how well high schools prepare students for college is lacking

Every Student Succeeds Act: Education stakeholders address chronic absenteeism, discipline practices under ESSA

Politics: Gov. Mark Dayton proposes nearly \$138 million in emergency aid to Minnesota schools

Health: Highly addictive e-cigarette use in schools is much worse than parents think

Majority of secondary schools have sworn officers on site—but not all the time

How we hold teachers accountable to obsolete metrics

Minn. district holds Screen-Free Week

A Texas school district is using billboards in Oklahoma to recruit teachers

Tips for creating makerspaces for teens

NCTQ calls for changes to teacher compensation

Minn. considers radon testing in schools

Data show uptick in anxiety among students

Teenagers are less likely to work today, and some say school is to blame

- **Facility Task Force Update**
- **AFSCME Negotiations**
- **Baccalaureate and Graduation 2018**
- **Years of Service and Retirement Recognition**
- **Day at the Capitol**
- **Employee Appreciation Week**
- **Quarterly Check-ins with Dale**
- **Building and Grounds Committee to Meet**
- **Finance Committee to Meet**
- **Radon Testing**
- **US News and World Report Best High School Recognition**

2. Steele County Historical Society Presentation

3. New Richland Area Foundation Grants Presentation

4. Elementary and Secondary Principal Reports

5. Curriculum and Instruction Report

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

- Public Participation at board meetings: Avoid a black eye – The article reminds board members to “take the high road” when addressing a resident who may be disrupting a board meeting. Separate from the article, I have experienced situations where the board may take a “time out” or recess in order for the board chair and superintendent to meet with the resident privately. It is only after numerous attempts to ask the resident to either sit down or leave when a board may have to take action to remove the individual in a professional, respectful, and orderly manner. Thankfully we haven’t had to experience this.

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- Guidance for managing public comment at board meetings – The article provides guidelines from the Oregon School Boards Association for handling public comments including limiting comments to specific items on the agenda and giving time limits that are applied consistently to each speaker. Our policy does not limit the speaker to an item on the agenda, but this also restricts board members from discussing the item as it is not on the agenda. We currently have a five minute maximum.

- How should board members handle complaints? – The article offers a process for board members to follow on how to respond to stakeholders complaints and/or requests including:
 - Direct the person with a complaint to the appropriate person on the “chain of command” within the district.
 - Inform the citizen the board member needs to remain impartial in case the situation comes before the board at a later date.
 - Inform the superintendent of the complaint.

I would add that the board member can always refer the person to me if the board member is unsure who the appropriate person would be.

- Consent agenda is a big meeting time-saver – The article offers benefits for having a consent agenda similar to what we have put in place this past year including being a time saver for agenda items believed to be more routine or recurring items. Examples may include:
 - Budget amendments
 - Gifts and donations
 - Financial information including bills, etc.
 - Meeting minutes
 - Personnel items
 - Bid recommendations

Thank you to the Board for adopting the consent agenda format this year.

- Develop a classification of duties chart to prevent role confusion – The article offers a board development retreat activity in developing together a classification of duties chart that can clarify respective roles.
7. **Facility Planning Update** – The Facility Planning Task Force held its second meeting on May 2. The focus of the meeting was examining the programmatic priority needs and challenges. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 30, 2018, beginning at 6:30 pm in the Elementary School Media Center.
 8. **Baccalaureate and Graduation 2018** – Board members are invited to attend both Baccalaureate on Sunday, May 20, beginning at 7:00 pm in the gymnasium, and Graduation on Sunday, June 3, beginning at 2:00 pm in the gymnasium. This is an exciting time for our seniors and their families. Come and celebrate with our students, families, staff, and those throughout the community! Travis Routh and Karen Flatness will be participating in the graduation ceremony.
 9. **Years of Service and Retirement Recognition** – Please save the date of Wednesday, May 30, at 2:30 pm in the Secondary School Commons where all staff will gather to celebrate those achieving significant milestones in their service to the school district and to education. We will also be recognizing staff members who are retiring from the school district.
 10. **Quarterly Check-ins with Dale** – I look forward to meeting with board members for quarterly check ins in the coming week or two. If for some reason you have not confirmed a date with Sue Kulseth, or if you need to change the date and time, please contact Sue Kulseth.
 11. **Building and Grounds Committee to Meet** – The Building and Grounds Committee will meet at 5:30 pm on Monday, May 21, prior to the start of the School Board meeting. The agenda includes:
 - Tree removal decision from Secondary School garden area
 - Discussion about future property purchases in the school district
 - Facility Planning Task Force Update
 - Placement of sign on school property in Ellendale
 - Landscaping project at front entrance of Secondary School
 12. **Finance Committee to Meet** – The Finance Committee will meet at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, June 6, beginning at 5:30 in the Board Room. The agenda includes:

- Review Budget Development Calendar for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020
- Review 2018-2019 Preliminary Budget
- Examine assumptions for forecast model
- Examine Board Goal for Superintendent which is to: *share progress made in integrating the finance committee into budget development process with the purpose of annually planning and managing revenue and expenditure budgets that meet or exceed the fund balance goal (Strategic Plan Finance Focus Area - Objective 1C).*
- Examine/identify assumptions for 3 year forecast model

13. Radon Testing – You may have seen the KARE 11 report from May 7 on radon testing in schools. According to the KARE 11 report, 53 of Minnesota's 331 districts reported testing for radon since 2012 based on Health Department records. In 2015, a total of 39 detectors were placed in our two buildings (22 in the Elementary School and 17 in the Secondary School primarily in classroom spaces). The findings were reported to the School Board on May 18, 2015. While I have not yet been able to confirm that we are one of the 53, we believe we have followed the guidelines. All classrooms tested were below the 4.0 pCi/L level. There was one non-classroom area (Elementary Boiler Room Storage Wall) that exceeded the recommended action level of 4.0 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L). We will plan to test the classrooms again in 2020 as recommended unless there are changes to HVAC or foundation. We are considering retesting the Boiler Room area even though it doesn't fit into the category of a frequently-occupied area.

14. US News and World Report Best High School Recognition – For a second year in a row, NRHEG High School has been recognized by US News and World Report as a Best High School by earning a bronze medal. Less than 30% of high schools across the nation are recognized as a Best High School. Schools are ranked based on their performance on state-required tests and how well they prepare students for college.

A four-step process determines the Best High Schools including:

- a. Student performance on state reading and math assessments
- b. Student performance on state reading and math assessments of underserved students
- c. Graduation rate
- d. College readiness based on Advanced Placement (AP) and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) student participation and test performance – We did not score in this area as we did not offer AP or IB. If we did qualify in AP or IB, then it is likely we may receive a Silver distinction.

Congratulations to our staff and students!

Thank you for all you do!

Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.