

District Status Report

03 May 2019

2018-2019 Report #40

The purpose for the weekly Status Report is to communicate to members of the School Board important and meaningful information relevant to the business of the school district. The Report is available to the public on the school district's website. Please contact me at 417-2602 if you have any questions regarding information contained in the Status Report. I would also appreciate hearing from you on ways I can improve the Report and make it more meaningful and informative for you.

Dale

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.**

Information – Communication -- Correspondence

1. News From Around the State and Beyond

Budgets, teacher morale among top issues for principals

Politics: As legislative leaders meet to hash out spending targets, House and Senate remain miles apart on budget bills

2. **Paraprofessional Association Negotiations** – The first negotiations meeting with the Paraprofessional Association is planned for Thursday, May 9, beginning at 7:00 pm in the Board Room. Board team members include: Luke Routh, Travis Routh, Rick Schultz, Karla Christopherson and Dale Carlson.
3. **Teacher Association Negotiations** – Meeting #3 is scheduled for May 15 beginning at 6:00 pm in the Secondary Medial Center. Board team members include: Rich Mueller, Neil Schlaak, Dan Schmidt, Karla Christopherson and Dale Carlson.
4. **Baccalaureate and Graduation 2019** – Board members are invited to attend both Baccalaureate on Sunday, May 19, beginning at 7:00 pm in the gymnasium, and Graduation on Sunday, June 2, 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! The senior planning committee is interested in having two Board members participate in the ceremony. Please let me know if you would be interested.
5. **Years of Service and Retirement Recognition** – Please save the date of Tuesday, June 4, 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.
6. **Staffing and Cancelled Courses** – A Board member contacted me this week regarding the proposed staffing plan specific to the section on Cancelled Courses under the Secondary School plan. In determining whether to cancel a course, factors included, but were not limited to: staff availability, minimum size guidelines, past trends in the number of requests versus scheduled and start of year course enrollment, course sequence including capstone, and college preparation.

When projecting the number of students enrolled in a “singleton” course (where only one section of the course is offered) at the start of the school year, one should consider the trend in the number of students registered and then scheduled. Often times, the number of students that actually are enrolled in a singleton course at the start of the school year is less than the total number of students who requested the course in February of the previous year. Reasons for this include the scheduling process where a student’s selection of courses may have a number of conflicts where one course is offered at the same time of another course, and the student must make a choice between the two. This most often occurs with singleton courses. With the exception of some college prep or sequence level courses, we applied a minimum course selection enrollment of 12 students in order to maintain the course. It is not unusual to see a selection enrollment of 12 students decrease to 9 or 10 students by the time the school year begins. In some cases, a course with a selection enrollment of more than 12 students was also considered for cancellation dependent on other factors impacting the overall scheduling of the school and/or specific department.

I referenced the decision to cancel Physics where seven students had registered and the ability for the District to sustain staffing levels for singleton courses that enroll fewer than 12 students. There are some courses that were not recommended for cancellation that have fewer than 12 students who registered for the course. In those cases, exceptions were identified that included such factors as: a college level course; cost potential of students taking the course as a Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO); a sequence level course; and staffing level of department. Our college level Calculus course is one example. Five students registered for

this course yet we believe it is important to still offer the course due to the likelihood that several of the students would complete the course under PSEO.

The decision to cancel a course is never an easy one to make as it impacts students who had an interest in the course and now they have to select another course. Give me a call if you have questions.

7. SW Metro Intermediate District Associate Membership – At the February 19, 2019, School Board meeting, the Board approved a resolution to move forward with applying for membership to the South West Metro Intermediate District 288. Since then, we have been working with the SW Metro leadership in advancing a membership request along with J-W-P, W-E-M, and Waseca. As discussion has continued, it was determined that an “Associate Membership” may be a better fit for our four school districts. The membership would be for two years at which time we would examine the partnership to determine to renew. I have given my support for the Associate Membership as the other three districts did as well.

With the Associate Membership, it was suggested by District 288 to not have School Board members serve on the Board of Directors at this time; rather, the four superintendents would be representing the districts. This is a change from the original plan, but I am comfortable with representing our District. At this point, I believe we are moving forward with the Associate Membership. Contact me with questions.

8. State Budget Update – It is crunch time where the House, Senate, and Governor need to reach consensus on the omnibus budget bills that have been developed and debated. The next big deadline is Monday, May 6, which is the date the House Speaker, Senate Majority Leader, and Governor have agreed to establish conference committee targets so a lot of progress needs to be made this weekend since there are significant gaps and differences when comparing the Senate’s budget targets for E-12 of \$206 million with the House’s targets of \$900 million and the Governor’s targets of \$733 million. Specific to the general education formula, we need to be very concerned with what the Senate has proposed for a formula increase (0.5% for year 1 and 0.5% for year 2). As you know, we have included a budget assumption of 2% for the 2019-2020 budget. With each 1% equaling about \$60,000+ in our district, we hope that the final budget number is at a minimum of 2%.

9. School Age Care (SAC) – In response to our School Readiness Goal within our World’s Best Workforce Plan specific to increasing participation in our preschool program, Community Education Director Macy Whiteside has been engaging our communities by surveying interest in having the District provide a SAC program where parents would be able to bring their child before school and/or leave after school in an attempt to accommodate parent work and personal schedules. The primary focus would start with children enrolled in our preschool program, but it is conceivable that we would expand the program for other grades. We will have more updates in the coming weeks.

School Board Calendar of Events

May 9, 2019	7:00 pm	Paraprofessional Negotiations – Board Room
May 15, 2019	6:00 pm	Teacher Association Negotiations – Secondary School Media Center
May 19, 2019	7:00 pm	Baccalaureate – High School Gymnasium
May 20, 2019	6:30 pm	School Board meeting – Elementary School Media Center
May 30, 2019	6:00 pm	Teacher Association Negotiations – Secondary Media Center
June 2, 2019	2:00 pm	Graduation – High School Gymnasium

June 4, 2019	2:45 pm	Staff Recognition Program – Secondary School Cafeteria
June 17, 2019	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center

Dale's Calendar for May 6 – May 10 (As of 5-3-19)

Monday	10:00 am	Check in with Terri
	10:30 am	Check in with Doug
	1:30 pm	Check in with Dave
	2:00 pm	Check in with Karla
	2:30 pm	Check in with Sue
	7:00 pm	Pops Concert
Tuesday	9:30 am	Secondary School Assembly
	1:00 pm	Budget Planning with Karla
	4:30 pm	Golf
	5:00 pm	BB
Wednesday	7:00 am	Monthly check in with Teacher President
	12:00 pm	Gopher Conference Spring Meeting
Thursday	1:00 pm	LTFM Meeting
	5:00 pm	BB
	6:00 pm	Paraprofessional Negotiations
Friday	8:00 am	Board Meeting Agenda Planning with Board Chair
	10:00 am	Negotiation Planning with Karla

Thank you for all you do!