

Dale's School Board Meeting Recap

March 20, 2017 School Board Meeting

Our Mission Together

**Empowering students with
knowledge and skills to succeed.**

Our Vision

**To be the school district of choice, inspiring
excellence in academics, arts, and activities.**

NOTE: This review is authored by the Superintendent, intended as information for the District employees, to keep them informed of the important decisions made by the School Board. This review includes selected items as determined by the Superintendent, and does not include all items of business conducted by the Board. This review is not intended to replace the official minutes of the School Board. Additional information can always be obtained from the official Board minutes or by contacting Dale.

Student Achievement

Teaching and Learning Feature -- To start each Board meeting, a Teaching and Learning Feature is showcased as determined by the building principal. The Minnesota Reading Corps program at the Elementary School was highlighted. Thank you to Sue Nelson and Terri Engel for presenting great information on the achievements and successes of the program.

Cancelled School Days and Make-up Plan-- The Board was presented with for options to assist in determining if the cancelled school days on February 24 (inclement weather) and/or March 15 (Girls Basketball State Tournament) were to be rescheduled for students. The Board approved a recommendation to extend the student day seven (7) minutes in response to February 24 and not reschedule the March 15 cancelled day.

This decision will extend the length of the student day for each of the 45 days of Quarter 4 this school year in lieu of rescheduling an additional instructional day on June 7 in response to the February 24 cancelled school day. Specifically, each day will be extended by seven (7) minutes beginning Monday, April 3. The student day is planned to begin five (5) minutes earlier at 8:25 am and end two (2) minutes later at 3:07. Students at the Elementary School who are normally released at 3:20 pm. will be dismissed at 3:22 pm. We do not believe it is necessary to adjust the morning pick-up times for students who ride the bus.

This decision also “waives” the rescheduling of the March 15 cancelled school day. This is the third day where no instructional time is rescheduled out of a total of six cancelled school days this year. I was asked about the status of the number of instructional hours for the year if March 15 was not rescheduled. We still are above the minimum number of instructional hours required by the state, but not by much. After considering cancelled days not rescheduled, late starts, early dismissals (as of March 22), and the decision to extend the days in Quarter 4 by 7 minutes, we will have approximately 1,023 hours of instruction scheduled for students. The state minimum number of required instructional hours calls for 1,020 hours for grades 9-12. The Board will not have the option to waive further instructional hours this year in the event school is cancelled.

Flexible Learning Day Recommendation for the 2017-18 School Year -- Mr. Bunn and Mr. Anderson presented information supporting an administrative recommendation for the Board to approve a plan to schedule up to three (3) Flexible Learning Days for the 2017-2018 school year to be used in the event students and staff are unable to report to their building due to inclement weather or some other unplanned event. These would be applied to the first three cancelled days. Thank you to those staff who served on the committee that assisted Mr. Bunn and Mr. Anderson in putting a plan together.

2017-2018 School Year Calendar -- The Board approved the 2017-2018 school year calendar as recommended. I relied on the involvement of a staff committee to advise me on the development of the calendar. While I am ultimately held accountable for recommending a calendar to the Board, and for the implementation of the calendar, my recommendation reflected the majority of interests identified by the committee beginning with the desire to end school for students on May 30, 2018. I shared a few interests that I believe we have more work to do to fully reflect in a future calendar including scheduling staff development throughout the year, as well as the potential of scheduling more extended weekend breaks. I am hopeful future calendar development and Board approval will occur much earlier in the year, but I supported the delay in presenting the 2017-2018 calendar due to the work on the Flexible Learning proposal. I also mentioned it may be time to incorporate the use of a survey (staff, parents, students) to collect data and information on priorities and interests to be considered in the development of a future calendar. Thank you to the committee members for their input into the calendar.

Finance

Budget Development Calendar – A calendar identifying the different events throughout the year required in developing the annual budget of the school district was presented to the Board. The Board was not asked to take action on approving the calendar, but was offered an opportunity to provide input to administration. The Finance Committee had reviewed the calendar draft at its last meeting and recommended presenting to the Board.

First Reading of Policy 714 (Fund Balance) and Policy 721 (Uniform Grant Guidance) -- Two policies were forwarded to the Board for first readings as recommended by the Finance Committee. As part of a recommended revised Fund Balance Policy, the Board approved a recommended target range of 22% - 28% in which the District will use in its financial planning.

The Board also approved the first reading of the Uniform Grant Guidance Policy. The policy addresses the requirement for school districts to have policies which establish uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for federal awards to school districts.

Donations -- We are fortunate to have community members, organizations, and businesses who make donations to the school district. Often the donations are designated toward specific programs or activities. The Board approved the following donations.

NRHEG PTO	\$4,444.05 to the Artist in Residence Series at the Elementary School
Eagle Concrete	\$50 to the Clay Target Team
Todd Norton Construction	\$100 to the Clay Target Team
Channel Seed/Mike Denherder	\$500 to the Clay Target Team
Colony Court	\$100 to the Clay Target Team
Golf Carts & More	\$200 to the Clay Target Team

Workforce

Employee Letter of Assignment – The Board approved a recommendation to employ Ms. Riley Holmes as Secondary School Family and Consumer Science Teacher beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. Ms. Holmes will be stepping in for our retiring LaDona Flowers.