

# *Dale's School Board Meeting Recap*

*April 17, 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. Deb Bently and three students, Nora Retallick, Naomi Retallick, and Ben Lewer presented (and performed) on the Speech Team at the Secondary School.

Softball Team Field Trip Request – The Board approved a request for the Softball Team to attend the Minnesota Gophers Women’s softball game on Wednesday, April 26. The reason the request needed Board approval was due to the trip being scheduled on a Wednesday and the potential impact on Wednesday evening activities for families. The District has made a commitment to not schedule student activities on Wednesday evenings. While this request was approved, scheduling activities for Wednesday evenings is to be avoided.

## Finance

Second Reading of Policy 714 (Fund Balance) and Policy 721 (Uniform Grant Guidance) -- Two policies were forwarded to the Board for second 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 second 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.

Raatz Barnyard Treasures	\$50.00 to the Clay Target Team
Roesler Seeds	\$100.00 to the Clay Target Team
NR Firemen’s Relief Association	\$500.00 to the Clay Target Team
Quad Graphics	\$200.00 to the Clay Target Team
Misgen Auto Parts	\$150.00 to the Clay Target Team
Geneva Lumber Company	\$100.00 to the Clay Target Team
Jeff Sampson	\$100.00 to the Clay Target Team
Dave’s Body Shop	\$250.00 to the Clay Target Team
Sportsman’s Stop Inc	\$100.00 to the Clay Target Team
Pioneer Seed / Brian Wayne	\$200.00 to the Clay Target Team
Tim Raimann Construction	\$250.00 to the Clay Target Team
Olson Excavating	\$250.00 to the Clay Target Team
L & D Ag Service	\$300.00 to the Clay Target Team
Pioneer Seed / Scott Routh Agency	\$200.00 to the Clay Target Team
Sorenson’s Appliance and TV	\$20.00 to the Clay Target Team
Winegar, Inc.	\$100.00 to the Clay Target Team
NRHEG PTO	\$1,125.00 for Rollerskating

Interquest Detection Canines Contract – The Board approved renewing our contract for the “drug dog” services. The rate for the services has not changed.

Letter of Agreement with Eide Bailly – Each year at this time, the Board needs to approve our agreement with our auditor for the coming fiscal year. The Board approved continuing with Eide Bailly.

2017-2018 Health Insurance Plan – The Board approved the recommendation to renew our Health Insurance Plan with the South Central Service Cooperative. We will experience a 3.5 % rate increase for the similar plan this year. I also shared with the Board that we are exploring putting in place an Insurance Committee that would be made-up of a representative group of employees representing our different employee groups. Look for more information on a potential Insurance Committee in the future.

## **Workforce**

Resignations / Retirements – The Board approved resignations and retirements as presented. We congratulate Marilyn Dobberstein and Renee Holmes on their planned retirements, and thank them for their many years of service. We also wish Jacob Bender, Andrew Filla, and Claire Dembsky much success in the future as they pursue other opportunities. Thank you to Jacob, Andrew, and Claire for their service to students.

Preliminary 2017-2018 Staffing Plan -- Each year at this time, I present a preliminary staffing plan to the Board and then ask the Board's approval at the May Board meeting. The purpose for the staffing plan is to examine and plan for our staffing needs for next year and for 2017-2018 budget planning that will be presented to the Board in May and approved in June. Personnel costs make-up approximately 80+% of our general budget, and the staffing plan represents a large part of the total personnel costs.

The plan presented included no change in the overall number of K-5 classroom sections including Bridges. At the Secondary School, the plan reflects little change in the overall number of full-time employment (FTE) teacher positions.

The plan includes a recommendation to add an equivalent 1.0 FTE special education teacher position for the District, but is partially offset by a 0.4 FTE reduction in the ECSE staffing.

The plan includes a preliminary reduction of up to 2.0 FTE paraprofessional positions in part due to the plan to add the special education teaching position. The reduction would occur through vacant positions not being filled.

Administration will continue to examine potential changes in the coming weeks before asking the Board to approve a final plan. Even though the Board will eventually approve a final plan, we will continue to closely monitor student enrollment and other needs over the summer and after the start of the 2017-2018 school year as we have in the past.