

# Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting  
September 19, 2016

## 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 August 19 & 26, and September 2 & 9 publications.**

#### **A. Information, Communication, and Correspondence**

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

**Testing: Starting this school year, Wisconsin high school students must pass civics test to graduate**

**Courts: Supreme Court says school can block transgender student from using restroom that fits gender identity**

**Column: Everything I thought I knew about kindergarten, I was wrong**

**Policy: Confederate flag prohibited at Winona High School**

**Politics: Special session negotiations break down with no deal**

**College readiness: Making high school graduates ready for college**

**Courts: U.S. judge grants nationwide injunction blocking White House transgender policy**

**Waseca: Superintendent says testing as a way to excellence is a "failed concept"**

**Teaching: Down with homework**

**Teaching: How teachers are bringing financial literacy lessons to the classroom**

**Homework: Effectiveness of homework remains in dispute**

**Poll: Americans divided over main purpose of public schools**

**Buildings: Several changes will greet students when school begins**

**Graduation: Board to revisit graduation honors policy**

**Health: Mental health in schools is a hidden crisis**

**Survey: Rochester wants input on proposed 45/15 calendar**

**Courts: Supreme Court ruling shifts school expulsion policy**

**Politics: U.S. education secretary says status quo in schools is "unacceptable"**

**Safety: How domestic violence in one home affects every student in class**

- **Building and Grounds Committee Meeting**
- **School Board Member Elections**
- **World's Best Workforce (WBWF) Teacher Workshop**
- **New Staff Orientation Plans**

- **District Kickoff Breakfast and Inservice Plans**
- **Superintendent Evaluation Tool Workshop**
- **Media Requests**
- **District Strategic Plan and Action Steps**
- **Professional Learning Communities (PLC)**
- **World's Best Workforce 2015-16 Summary Report and Public Meeting**
- **Audit Report**
- **Facility Study Update**

**2. Board & Administrator for Board Members Monthly Publication –August 2016 Reflection - I**

have provided a brief reflection on a few of the articles from the August publication. I hope you have had an opportunity to read and reflect.

- The board and superintendent should define board and staff roles – The article reflects on that unique challenges board members encounter as they try to separate their own work experiences as an employee from their responsibilities as a board member. The author provides a chart to assist in defining “who does what in the district?”
  - ✓ Who teaches students? Answer: Classroom teachers.
  - ✓ Who supervises teachers? Answer: Building principals.
  - ✓ Who hires, fires, and manages principals? Answer: Your superintendent.
  - ✓ Who hires, fires, and manages the superintendent? Answer: The school board

The author provides a brief exercise to assist a board and superintendent in distinguishing between board and staff roles. Board members may answer the following questions on their own and then discuss with the superintendent to reach consensus.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| a. The board should interview teacher candidates?                                   | Y | N |
| b. Regular review of the policy manual is a board responsibility?                   | Y | N |
| c. The superintendent’s assistant should take minutes at board meetings             | Y | N |
| d. The board should approve staff requests for professional development training    | Y | N |
| e. The board should set a policy on how it wants district telephones to be answered | Y | N |
| f. Board members should visit classrooms to offer teachers instructional advice     | Y | N |
| g. The superintendent is the Board’s only employee                                  | Y | N |

- The board-superintendent relationship: It’s a lot like hiring an expert tour guide – The article reminds board members that their most important job as a board is to “hire a superintendent to manage the district’s day-to-day operations”, and to map out for her “where you want the district to go and what you want accomplished.” The author describes a superintendent as an “expert tour guide” that assists a board and district in reaching its destination. “Once the superintendent is hired and the strategic direction of the district is set, the board’s role becomes oversight and governance.”

**3. School Board Member Orientation –**

- District Strategic Plan
- Board Goals
- Superintendent Goals
- Role / Responsibilities
- Board member resources

- Open Meeting Law
  - District Website
  - Board Packet/Agenda
  - Laptop
  - Communication
  - Board Committee Assignment / Attendance
  - Orientation with District Office Administration
  - What do you need? What would be most helpful to you at this time?
4. **Soccer Transportation Request** -- I recently visited with a parent of a soccer player regarding her concern that the school district does not provide transportation for boys participating in the coop soccer team with Waseca. I shared with her the district does not currently provide transportation for girls soccer as well. She asked what could be done and I shared with her the Transportation Committee visited this issue a year ago and determined to not provide transportation. I shared with her that I am not aware the Board is interested in revisiting the issue at this time, but that I would make the Board aware of our conversation. If the Board is interested in taking this issue up at this time, I would suggest the Transportation Committee meet to identify the issues related to providing transportation i.e. budget, precedent, availability of drivers, etc.
5. **2015-16 World's Best Workforce (WBWF) Annual Public Meeting** – We will plan to hold the public meeting prior to the October 17 School Board meeting starting at 5:45 pm in the Secondary School Media Center. Please get this time and event on your calendars. I plan to send an invite to those who served on the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee. An announcement was part of my September article in the Star Eagle this week.
6. **Police Chief Scott Eads** – Thank you to staff for providing support, counsel, and comfort to each other and to our students over the course of the past week. I especially want to thank the Crisis Team members who assisted in planning what we needed to do to support staff and students. Also, thank you to the NRHEG High School Ambassadors and the Student Council for providing opportunities to remember Chief Eads and his family through the wearing of blue on Friday, offering blue ribbons to wear, and displaying ribbons on trees. Chief Eads was a valued member of our school community who provided support in so many ways. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with his family and the New Richland community.
7. **Board Member Quarterly Check-ins with Dale** -- Sue Kulseth will be contacting you to set a time to meet with me during the week of October 10. Let Sue know if the dates and times identified do not work for you and we will find a time that does. Please plan for 30-60 minutes. Possible dates and times include:  
 Tuesday, October 11, between 1:00 and 7:00 pm  
 Wednesday, October 12, between 8:00 am and 7:00 pm  
 Thursday, October 13, between 1:00 and 7:00 pm

Thank you for all you do!

Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.  
 Superintendent