

Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting
October 17, 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 September 16, 23, 30, and October 7 publications.

A. Information, Communication, and Correspondence

• News from Around the State and Beyond

Health: Anxiety about school can feel like being chased by a lion

Technology: Trying to get kids to put down the phone

Health: How schools can support students' mental health

Report: Warning of impending teacher shortage bears striking resemblance to 1984 report

Every Student Succeeds Act: Committee covers accountability, World's Best Workforce alignment, testing at latest meeting

Courts: Transgender student's suit against Wisconsin school district advances

Technology: Math teachers trade calculators for smartphone app

Court: Federal court orders Wisconsin district to accommodate transgender student

Every Student Succeeds Act: ESSA Accountability Advisory Committee covers weighting of indicators and option for grade span accountability

Licensure: Minnesota legislators submit proposals for restructuring teacher licensure system

- World's Best Workforce 2015-16 Summary Report and Public Meeting
- Facility Study Update
- Acknowledgment from Lester Prairie Head Football Coach
- Board Member Quarterly Check-ins with Dale
- School Cancellation
- Activities cancelled for Saturday, September 24
- Superintendent Work Goals and Objectives for 2016-17
- School Board Work Goals for 2016-17
- Flood Damage Update
- Building and Grounds Committee Meeting
- New School Board Member Mentoring Program Development Committee Meeting
- Concurrent Enrollment Update

- MSBA Annual Leadership Conference
- Homecoming 2016

B. Celebrations and Recognitions

- **2016 Homecoming Royalty:** Congratulations to the following seniors who were nominated by their peers to represent their class as homecoming royalty: Rachel Collins, Mercedes Dickerson, Grace Johns, Lacey Nelson, Cynthia Quezada, Kallie Spooner, Chad Agrimson, Alex Blaschko, Josh Fleming, Luis Gaona, Will Rudau, Jack Schultz. Congratulations to Rachel Collins and Alex Blaschko for being named Homecoming Queen and King.

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

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

- Always remember why you serve a school board – The article encourages boards to take time to reflect as to why board members serve and why they are in public service. One suggestion offered is including the Mission Statement on the Board Agenda. (We already do this.). Another suggestion was to take time to reflect together with staff what the district is doing right.
- The president should deal with unprofessional board ‘manners’ – The article discusses the board president or chair’s role to “set an example in the areas of board behavior and meeting decorum.” The article offers suggestions for the board chair to assist other board members in maintaining appropriate behavior when at a board meeting including:
 - ✓ Assume the higher purpose of school service will always prevail. Be sure each board member has the opportunity to be heard and contributions acknowledged and appreciated.
 - ✓ Set rules for meetings and discussions. Develop meeting norms. The norms may describe desired behavior of the board chair, each individual board member, and the board as a whole, as determined by the full board.
 - ✓ Take charge with confrontation, but in a confidential and professional manner.
- Boards make decisions collectively– The article defines the role of individual board members versus the whole board. It reminds board members that they are unable to make decisions impacting the business of the school district as an individual. It is when the board members come together that they “collectively set direction, make policy, establish goals for the superintendent, and act through voting to lead the district.” “Boards make their decisions . . . through voting. When the board is not meeting, it acts through its written directions – board policy, the direction and goals it sets for its superintendent, a written strategic plan, etc.”
- Clarify roles through regular discussion – The article encourages boards and superintendents to make time on a regular bases to discuss each other’s role. The article offers a sample of a chart that identifies the responsibilities of the board compared to the superintendent.

3. **School Board Candidate Forum** – Please plan to attend the candidate forum scheduled for Monday, October 24 at the Secondary School beginning at 6:30 pm in the Media Center. The schedule includes:
 - 6:30 p.m. Candidates and public gather for free discussion (Refreshments provided)
 - 7:00 p.m. Forum begins moderated by EDMN-NRHEG
 - 8:30 p.m. Planned ending time.
4. **2016-2017 World’s Best Workforce (WBWF) Plan** – The Board can look forward to administration presenting the 2016-2017 WBWF Plan at the November 21 School Board meeting. Work on the plan started in August and continues. Revisions to the plan will be made following the October 17 Public Meeting when a progress report on the 2015-2016 WBWF plan is presented.
5. **Building and Grounds Committee Meeting to Meet** – The Committee is planning a November 15 meeting at 5:30 pm in the Board Room. The tentative agenda includes:
 - Facility Planning – Strategic Plan Focus Area Ryan Hoffman from ICS will be in attendance
 - City of New Richland Athletic Field Lease and other Athletic Field needs
6. **New School Board Member Mentoring Program Development Committee Meeting** – Committee members will be meeting on Wednesday, October 19 beginning at 5:30 pm in the Board Room. Committee members include Michele Moxon, JoAnn Maloney, Lori Routh, and Dale Carlson.
7. **MSBA Annual Leadership Conference** – The 96th Annual Leadership Conference of the Minnesota School Boards Association will be held January 12-13, 2017, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The Conference concludes at noon on Friday, January 13. I will be planning to leave on Wednesday, January 11 and perhaps attend some of the “Early Bird” workshops and pre-conference events. Sue and I will need to know in the coming weeks those Board members planning to attend and how many nights of lodging is needed. Sue is in the process of reserving rooms sufficient for all Board members for two nights and then will revise the reservations prior to the cancellation date in early December. More information to come!

Thank you for all you do!

Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.
Superintendent