

# Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting  
December 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 November 18, 23, and December 2 & 9 publications.**

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

##### **• News from Around the State and Beyond**

Curriculum: Reimagining high school one grade at a time

Pensions: Teachers Retirement Association Board OKs legislative proposal despite concerns from MSBA

Program: Cost for dual-credit programs to fall on shoulders of school districts

Politics: U.S. Department of Education releases final regulations for accountability and state plans

Politics: Rep. Kline and Rep. Rokita release statement of U.S. Education Department's final accountability regulations

Politics: Obama administration releases new rules for judging schools

Politics: U.S. Department of Education releases final regulations for implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act

Event: Rising rural property taxes highlight annual Rural Legislative Forum on December 8 in North Mankato | Flier

Pipstone Area: School board hires firm to assess facilities

Facilities: Task force closer to submitting recommendation to Winona Area School Board

Advocacy: MSBA Delegate Assembly OKs new round of legislative resolutions

- World's Best Workforce 2015-16 Summary Report and Public Meeting
- Building and Grounds Committee Meeting
- MSBA Annual Leadership Conference
- Boiler Checks and Process
- Phase I Training and Orientation for Newly Elected School Board Members
- MSBA Negotiation Seminars
- NRHEG Construction Class
- BoardBook
- Building and Grounds Committee Meeting Planned

## 2. Building Administrator Reports

### 3. *Board & Administrator for Board Members Monthly Publication – November 2016 Reflection - I* have provided a brief reflection on a few of the articles from the November publication. I hope you have had an opportunity to read and reflect.

- Rumors have no place in the superintendent's evaluation – The article offers advice from school board consultant Bob Hughes regarding superintendent behavior “rumors,” and advises that it is important for board members to share any rumored behavior or performance issues directly with the superintendent.
- Sharpen up your board meetings – The article shares tips for board to consider when attempting to manage discussion and move school business along efficiently including:
  - ✓ Keep the discussion going . . . don't let one board member dominate the discussion
  - ✓ Be aware of the non-verbal indicators of boredom . . . this can be a sign that it is time to move on
  - ✓ If consensus comes early, it's time for the vote . . . no reason to keep talking if it appears a decision has been made
  - ✓ Post-meeting debriefings can prevent future problems . . . a private conversation by the board chair with a board member about “dominating” the conversation and meeting may help prevent the behavior continuing in the future
  - ✓ Consider a timed agenda . . . may be beneficial if board members see a planned amount of time for each item.
- Wander around in the weeds and expect some pushback from the superintendent – The article reminds board members of their role which does not include doing the “staff's job.” Board members are reminded that “the full board is the only entity that can issue directives to the superintendent, not an individual trustee.”
- Retreat activity: Board team writes a member job description – The article offers a template for a school board workshop activity of writing a member job description. This provides an opportunity for the board to discuss together its role as a board and the role of an individual board member.
- 8 rules for avoiding board meeting conflict -- The article provides eight rules for avoiding board meeting conflict beginning with “being informed.”

### 3. **Building and Grounds Committee to Meet** -- The Committee plans to meet Wednesday, December 21, at 5:00 pm in the Board Room. The agenda includes:

- Facility Planning with updates on potential firms/consultants
- Ellendale softball field access
- City of New Richland Athletic Field Lease and other Athletic Field needs

### 4. **New School Board Member Orientation Meeting #2 Held** – I met with our newly elected Board members for the second time on Wednesday, December 14, as they continue to make the important transition to serving on the School Board. We reviewed and discussed the topics included on the

Orientation Plan that was approved by the Board at the November 21 School Board meeting. The development of the Orientation Plan achieves the Board's goal to *develop and implement a mentoring program for new school board members* by December 1, 2016.

5. **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 leaving on Tuesday, January 10 as I will be attending the Phase II training with Dan Schmidt beginning in the morning of Wednesday, January 11. Board members should be reviewing the different workshop opportunities in advance so that the Board may maximize the number of workshops attended. You will find the complete list of workshops with descriptions at <http://www.mnmsba.org/LeadershipConference>

Room reservations have been finalized. Please contact Sue Kulseth or me with questions.

6. **MSBA Negotiations Seminar** – MSBA will be offering member districts full-day Negotiations Seminars to help boards prepare for the negotiations process. Below are three locations I saw that are the closest to us. Notice that there is only one seminar offered on a Saturday. Please let me know if you are interested in attending a seminar. You can read more at [www.mnmsba.org/NegotiationsSeminars](http://www.mnmsba.org/NegotiationsSeminars).
  - February 9 (Thursday) — Mankato | Country Inn & Suites, 1900 Premier Drive
  - February 10 (Friday) — Rochester | Wood Lake Meeting Center, 210 Woodlake Drive
  - March 11 (Saturday) — St. Peter | Minnesota School Boards Association, 1900 West Jefferson Avenue

Thank you for all you do!

Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.  
Superintendent