

Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting

April 17, 2017

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 March 17, 24, 31 and April 7.

A. Information, Communication, and Correspondence

• News from Around the State and Beyond

Red Wing: Rural schools lead Minnesota teacher shortage

Safety: Legislators move toward consensus on school-discipline rules

Column: Mandatory seat belts in school buses is not a good idea, research shows

Politics: Bill would limit seniority when it comes to teacher layoffs

Attendance: Chronic absence rates by district

What does research say about 4-day weeks?

Courts: Supreme Court rules in favor of a special education student

Politics: With all three budget proposals out, the stage is set for the Legislature's biggest battle

Researcher seeks to debunk learning myths

Study links higher test scores, healthy lunches

Politics: Gov. Dayton pushes Republicans unwilling to expand pre-K program

Data: Index of Minnesota teacher supply

Politics: Omnibus education finance bill approved during contentious hearing

DeVos continues advocacy for school choice

When "thank you" isn't enough

Politics: Minnesota House approves education funding bill; Gov. Dayton wants more

Politics: Everything you need to know about omnibus bills, and why they are so popular at the Minnesota Legislature

Politics: 2018 is shaping up to be a banner year in Minnesota politics — or a nightmare

Politics: Minnesota Senate passes tax bill amid school squabbles

Politics: Minnesota House passes overhaul of teacher licensure system

Enrollment: Parents learn about New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva kindergarten

Politics: Senate school bill falls between House and Gov. Dayton

Politics: Lawmakers fine-tune proposed overhaul of teacher licensing in Minnesota

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton: Teacher nixes homework in favor of more student-driven approach

United South Central: School district institutes a tip line to combat bullying and other concerns

Study: Pre-K program improves health

What does a work ethic mean to you?

How leaders can empower their followers

- **Policy Committee**
- **Paraprofessional Negotiations**
- **Teacher Negotiations**
- **Community Night Out**
- **Facility Assessment Update**
- **MSBA Phase III Board Member Training**
- **Building and Grounds Committee to Meet**
- **School Nutrition Administrative Review for Elementary School**
- **ISG Facility Assessment Update**
- **Board Member Quarterly Check-ins with Dale**

B. Celebrations and Recognitions

- **Industrial Technology:** Congratulations to Ethan Streng for placing 1st out of 60 participants in the Carpentry Contest which was held on Thursday, March 30, at Riverland in Austin.
- **Boys Basketball Section 2AA Coach of the Year:** Congratulations to Pat Churchill for being named Section 2AA Coach of the Year!
- **Boys and Girls Basketball:** Congratulations to both the Boys' and Girls' basketball for earning state consolation championships. Also, congratulations to Oakley Baker and Marnie Wagner for making their respective "All-Tournament Teams". Also, congrats to Oakley Baker for getting his 2,000th point.

2. Elementary and Secondary Principal Reports

- 3. Curriculum and Instruction Report** - New to the Superintendent's Report is an update on progress being made in the area of Curriculum and Instruction including professional development initiatives and focuses. Terri Engel will be providing a writing update each month, and be present to highlight parts of her report as well as respond to questions.

- 4. Board & Administrator for Board Members Monthly Publication – March 2017 Reflection - I** have provided a brief reflection on a few of the articles from the March publication. I hope you have had an opportunity to read and reflect.

- Board should emphasize 'team' in its work – The article offers questions for board members to reflect on regarding to the “teamwork” of the board. Focusing on all students, reaching consensus, supporting the board's decision, and communicating with board members and the superintendent are most important.
- Separate parent hat from board member hat – The article offers suggestions on how to navigate the challenging dual role of being a board member and parent. There are times when you will have your board hat on, but also times when you have your parent hat on. It is important you are able to only wear one hat at a time.

- Encourage board service in your community -- The article offers tips for “recruiting” others in the community to serve on the board including:
 - ✓ Encouraging potential board members to attend meetings, visit with the superintendent, and spend time with current members
 - ✓ Network with business and civic club members and promote board service
 - ✓ Engage students on what it means to serve on the board
 - ✓ Approach those you believe have shown to be productive members on board committees
 - ✓ Share information with prospective board members including policies, agendas, etc.

- Set parameters before talking compensation with the superintendent – The article encourages boards to set parameters on what it will offer a superintendent before entering into negotiations.

- Create trust for the board in your community – The article provides a few key thoughts on how a board can work to build trust with the community including:
 - ✓ Ensure all board members work to create trust and confidence in the district
 - ✓ Be consistent in the communication to stakeholders
 - ✓ Make good decisions together

5. **MSBA Phase III Board Training** – MSBA is offering Phase III Trainings for board members at six different locations on six different dates in April. The objective of the training is to build a high-performing school board with a focus on leadership styles and consensus building. Dan Schmidt and I are attending the session in Rochester on Wednesday, April 19 from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm.

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 — ROCHESTER

210 Wood Lake Meeting Center, 210 Wood Lake Drive SE, Rochester

Registration deadline: April 11

6. **ISG Update** –Five representatives from ISG spent all day Thursday and Friday morning on March 30 and 31 examining facilities and grounds in New Richland. The original plan was to spend Thursday in New Richland and Friday in Ellendale. They are tentatively planning to be at Ellendale on May 1.

We are also finalizing plans for ISG to be in the District to meet with staff specific to programs on April 18 and 19. The purpose will be to determine how, or if, the facility is limiting the curriculum and programmatic instruction of the school district. Principals Bunn and Anderson are coordinating opportunities for program leaders to meet with ISG.

7. **Paraprofessional Association Negotiations** – The first negotiations meeting with the Paraprofessional Association was held on April 10. The next meeting is planned for April 24. Thank you to Dan Schmidt, Travis Routh, and Karen Flatness for their service in representing the Board.
8. **Teacher Association Negotiations** - The first negotiations meeting with the Teacher Association was held on April 4. The next meeting is planned for April 19. Thank you to Mark Tollefson, Neil Schlaak, and Dan Schmidt for their service in representing the Board.

9. Board Work Session – In addition to a potential work session on Communication & Marketing, other topics may include reviewing progress being made on the District’s Strategic Plan, Board goals, and Superintendent goals. This would be a continuation of the Board’s work on January 30. I will work with Mr. Schultz to schedule the next work session.

10. Board Member Check-ins with Dale – Sue Kulseth is in the process of contacting you to set a time to meet with me during the week of April 24. 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, April 25, between 7:00 am and 2:00 pm

Wednesday, April 26, between 7:00 am and 8:00 pm

Thursday, April 27, between 9:00 am and 8:00 pm

Thank you for all you do!

Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.
Superintendent