

# Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting

May 15, 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 April 14, 21, 28 and May 5.**

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

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

- Politics: Progress, but no easy fix for teacher shortage

- Trauma-sensitive model shifts classroom culture

- More schools look to solar power to cut energy costs

- High school adds time for kids to just be kids

- Move Over Millennials; Generation Z Is Here

- Climate: Absence, fitness, atmosphere are new ways to track schools

- New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva: Spanish class finds adventures in Costa Rica

- Every Student Succeeds Act: Minnesota Department of Education releases preliminary decisions for state plan

- Students rank their life satisfaction

- Are you focusing on the wrong things?

- What happens when schools stop giving grades?

- Administration: Demands on principals a constant

- New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva: Let's Smile brings dental care to students

- Editorial: Seeking peace in Minnesota's war over early education

- Politics: U.S. agriculture secretary rolls back healthy school lunch regulations

- Politics: Critics say education budget not enough

- Teaching: St. Paul teacher punished for Trump lesson explains courageous conversations

- Politics: Conferees agree to omnibus education finance proposal that defunds voluntary pre-K

- Politics: Legislative leaders, governor lay out framework for budget negotiations

- **Paraprofessional Negotiations**

- **Teacher Negotiations**

- **MSBA Phase III Board Member Training**

- **Board Member Quarterly Check-ins with Dale**

- **ISG in the District**

- **Knowledge Bowl Coach Resignation/Retirement**

- **Years of Service and Retirement Recognition**

- **Graduation Plans**
- **Elementary School Entrance Repair**
- **Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Position**
- **Facility Use Requests**

## 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 – April 2017 Reflection** - I have provided a brief reflection on a few of the articles from the April publication. I hope you have had an opportunity to read and reflect.

- Should school boards manage? Yes, themselves – The article offers suggestions for boards to help manage itself including:
  - ✓ Agree on written norms/protocols
  - ✓ Restate norms at start of each meeting
  - ✓ Agree on what a successful school district looks like
  - ✓ Rely on the superintendent for day-to-day operations
  - ✓ Hire a board coach
  - ✓ Be prepared to remind board members who deviate from established board norms
- Board norms/protocols help board manage itself – The article offers specific norms/protocols for boards to help manage themselves including:
  - ✓ Respect differences of opinions
  - ✓ Follow best practices in managing superintendent and management of board
  - ✓ Stay on task
  - ✓ Avoid surprising the superintendent or other board members
  - ✓ Read norms at start of each meeting
  - ✓ Self-check

If it has been a while for you since reviewing our Board Policy 209 on the Board's "Code of Ethics," I encourage you to take a look as the policy outlines the norms and protocol the Board has established for individual members as for the board as a whole.

- Advocacy never more important to public schools than today -- The article encourages board members to be advocates for public education including communicating with legislators.
- Participate in new member orientation with these 3 ideas – The article offers three ideas or ways all board members can play a role in the orientation of a new board member including:
  - ✓ Make sure a policy and process is in place requiring new board member orientation
  - ✓ Expectation for ongoing education and development
  - ✓ Treat staff as a valuable resource

5. **MSBA Phase III Board Training** – Dan Schmidt and I attended the MSBA Phase III Training in Rochester on Wednesday, April 19. The agenda for the day included discussion and activities pertaining to:
  - Decision-making
  - Board development
  - Roles and responsibilities
  - Board governance
  - Appropriate responses and actions by board members to various situations
  - Open meeting law
  - Board self-assessment and evaluation
  - Board-superintendent relationship
  - Board norms – “code of ethics”
  
6. **ISG Update** –Four representatives from ISG were at the Elementary School on Monday, May 1, examining the facilities and grounds. Now we wait for ISG to present report to the Board.
  
7. **Paraprofessional Association Negotiations** – The two teams have met a total of three times. Progress has been made in several areas; mostly language-related interests. Thank you to Dan Schmidt, Travis Routh, and Karen Flatness for their service in representing the Board.
  
8. **Teacher Association Negotiations** - The two teams have met a total of three times. Progress has been made in several areas; mostly language-related interests. 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, Superintendent goals, and Board self-evaluation. I will ask the Board about potential dates including:
  
10. **Board Member Check-ins with Dale** – I had the opportunity to check-in with a few Board members during the week of April 24. Items discussed included:
  - Special Education referral process including timelines
  - Staffing plan including update on hiring
  - Licensed Practical Nurse Position and Wage/Benefit Package examination
  - Competition Cheer Program
  - Negotiations
  - Facility Assessment Update
  - Website and device capability
  - Lunch account electronic payment
  - Wednesday night school activities
  
11. **Baccalaureate and Graduation** – Board members are invited to attend both Baccalaureate on Sunday, May 21, beginning at 7:00 pm in the gymnasium, and Graduation on Sunday, June 4, beginning at 2:00 pm in the gymnasium. This is an exciting time for our seniors and their families. Come and celebrate with our students, families, staff, and those throughout the community!

Thank you for all you do!  
Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.  
Superintendent