

District Status Report

18 March 2016

2015-16 Report# 32

The purpose for the weekly Status Report is to communicate to members of the School Board important and meaningful information relevant to the business of the school district. The Report is available to the public on the school district's website. Please contact me at 417-2602 if you have any questions regarding information contained in the Status Report. I would also appreciate hearing from you on ways I can improve the Report and make it more meaningful and informative for you.

Dale

Providing students with knowledge, skills, and attitudes which enable them to succeed in a globally competitive society.

Empower, Learn, Succeed

Be Positive, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe

Information – Communication -- Correspondence

1. News From Around the State and Beyond

[Politics: Minnesota House education committee to examine data privacy on Thursday](#)

[Politics: U.S. Senate confirms John King as secretary of education](#)

[Column: What state report on teacher licensing did not address](#)

[Teaching: Use incentives, support to attract teachers](#)

[Teaching: Union calls for more teacher diversity](#)

[Teaching: Minnesota faces teacher shortage](#)

[Politics: Commissioner Cassellius provides update on World's Best Workforce and Every Student Succeeds Act](#)

[Politics: Gov. Dayton covers some of MSBA's priorities in supplemental budget](#)

[Politics: Dayton proposes \\$25 million for prekindergarten, \\$100 million for broadband](#)

2. 3-21-16 School Board Meeting Preview – A few items to bring attention to . . .

- a. [Teaching and Learning Feature](#) – The presentation on Targeted Services is rescheduled for the May meeting. In the interest of time so that the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee can begin on time, a Teaching and Learning Feature will not be highlighted.
- b. [Administrative Reports](#) – Written principal reports are not included for this month due to the focus of their time assisting in preparing Strategic Planning information and data. Reports will be included for April. Mr. Bunn and Mr. Anderson will be available at the School Board meeting for any questions.
- c. [Employee Master Agreements and Assignment Letters & Notices](#) – The Board will be asked to consider approval of the Master Agreement for the teacher group, and individual agreements for our two principals, Mr. Bunn and Mr. Anderson, and for our Nurse Assistant, Barb Morgan. In the Agenda Letter, I summarize the different agreements.
- d. [2016-17 School Year Calendar](#) – I will be recommending the Board approve the 2016-2017 School Calendar. There is a modification to the calendar that was presented in February due to the change in the number of student days for next year. The recommended modification inserts an additional student day on Monday, January 16, which was originally presented as a day of no school, but a potential make-up day. January 16, 2017, is Martin Luther King Day.
- e. [Special Education Assistant Director Position](#) – I will be recommending the Board take action on supporting a proposal to contract for services with the Waseca Public Schools for the position of Assistant Director of Special Education. I was informed that Julie Ladwig is planning to retire effective December 31, 2016. With the likely possibility of Mrs. Ladwig's retirement during the 2016-17 school year, I met with the superintendents of Waseca, JWP, and WEM to discuss possible succession plans. With the possibility of a mid-year change, and to

position us to be able to recruit and attract a highly qualified candidate, we believe it would be appropriate to post an Assistant Director position to begin July 1, 2016. Waseca Public Schools would lead the search and hiring process as the position would be with Waseca, and the other three school districts would contract with Waseca as we do currently. As part of a transition and recruitment plan, the assistant director position would be put in place until Mrs. Ladwig's retirement date. At that time, the potential exists for the assistant director to move into the director position contingent upon a positive performance review. The assistant position may be in place for a minimum of 6 months, but would be offered a one year contract beginning July 1, 2016. We believe this plan best positions us to secure a highly qualified individual for the director position. The maximum cost for NRHEG is estimated at \$17,000 for a 1 year agreement. The cost will be less if the transition to the director position occurs in less than a year. The position has been posted but will not proceed with the selection process until each district has school board approval.

3. Strategic Planning Advisory Committee Meeting #1 – The objectives for our first meeting on March 21 are to:

- Review purpose of the Strategic Planning Advisory Committee
- Review/revise/ develop a school district Mission Statement
- Review/revise/develop a school district Vision Statement
- Review/revise/develop a set of fundamental belief statements

Important dates to keep on your calendar include:

March 21	6:30 pm	1 st Committee Meeting (Board Meeting to start at 5:30 pm) in Ellendale
March 29	6:30 pm	2 nd Committee Meeting in New Richland
April 12	6:30 pm	3 rd Committee Meeting in Ellendale

4. Inclement Weather Make-up Question – Elementary School Principal Doug Anderson forwarded to me a question from a parent about our policy of making up days that are cancelled due to inclement weather. The specific questions along with my responses are below.

Q: Doesn't the school factor in any snow days before the physical school year start? This is MN, you can count on 2 or 3 snow days per year. This year they had 3 snow days and are having students make up each day.

R: It is the current practice of the School District to schedule make-up days for days cancelled due to inclement weather. In the past, there was interest in minimizing the number of days to be added at the end of the scheduled school year. In response, the School District has attempted to include in the calendar potential "make-up days." The School District's current practice does not include "waiving" snow or inclement weather days unless it is determined the number of days is excessive.

Q: Is this the policy and how it will be each year?

R: While there is not a formal School Board policy on scheduling make-up days for students, there is Board Policy (Policy 602) and State Statute (MS 120A.41) on the minimum number of instructional days and the minimum number of instructional hours required annually. As long as a school district meets the minimum number of days and hours, the decision to make-up cancelled days of school is a decision to be made at the local level.

At this time, there are no plans to reexamine the practice of scheduling cancelled student days.

School Board Calendar of Events

March 21, 2016	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Elementary School Media Center Strategic Planning Committee Meeting #1 – Elementary School Media Center
March 29, 2016	6:30 pm	Strategic Planning Committee Meeting #2 – Secondary School Media Center
April 5, 2016	5:00 pm	AFSME Negotiations – Board Room
April 12, 2016	6:30 pm	Strategic Planning Committee Meeting #3 – Elementary School Media Center
April 18, 2016	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center
May 16, 2016	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Elementary School Media Center
June 3, 2016		Last Day of School for Students
June 5, 2016	2:00 pm	Commencement – High School Gymnasium

Dale's Calendar for March 21 - 25 (As of 3-16-16)

Monday	9:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 1:00 pm 1:30 pm 2:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Check in with Doug Check in with Terri Monthly Superintendent Lunch Meeting Check in with Dave Check in with Karla Check in with Sue School Board Meeting Strategic Planning Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 1:00 pm 2:00 pm 3:30 pm	Check in with Doug & Dave Check in with Doug, Dave and Karla Office Meeting Negotiations Prep with Karla Budgeting with Dan and Karla Monthly Check in with Paraprofessional Leadership
Wednesday	1:00 pm 3:00 pm	Budgeting with Terri and Karla Budgeting with Angie and Karla
Thursday	7:15 am 7:30 am 9:30 am	Monthly check in with Robin Board Agenda Planning with Board Chair Budget Planning with Karla
Friday		District Offices and Buildings Closed

Thank you for all you do!