

Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting

August 15, 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 July 15, 22, & 29 publications.

A. Information, Communication, and Correspondence

- **News from Around the State and Beyond**
 - Courts: Teacher tenure law faces hurdle**
 - Funding: How can schools use federal funds for a “well-rounded” education?**
 - Court: School board appeals to U.S. Supreme Court to halt order allowing transgender student to use boys bathroom**
 - Courts: Transgender student sues Wisconsin district**
 - Politics: Wisconsin weighs moving to online public notices**
 - Testing: State test scores remain flat, achievement gap persists**
 - Youth: Perseverance skills could be making their way into classrooms**
- **Building and Grounds Committee Meeting Summary**
- **School Board Member Elections**
- **Bus Driver Advertising**
- **Freezer Updates**
- **World's Best Workforce (WBWF) Workshop**
- **New Staff Orientation Plans**
- **District Breakfast and Inservice Plans**
- **Inquiry Meeting on Dehumidification**
- **Superintendent Evaluation**
- **Secondary School Commons Flooring Update**

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

- Board unprofessionalism will cost the district in an era of competition – The article reminds board members that they are ambassadors for the school district. In an environment where school districts are competing against one

another for students to enroll, the author suggests parents will examine the relationship within the board and with the superintendent as part of their consideration to enroll and/or stay. If it appears there is a level of dysfunction among the board members and/or superintendent, this can have a factor on a parent's decision. "Board members should understand that they are ambassadors for the school district – and that this is an important governance responsibility."

- What's in your governance handbook? – The article suggests a board maintains a "governance handbook" for the purpose of reminding "board members and the superintendent about the agreement that have been created to ensure a smooth operating team." The author suggests a handbook should contain a "set of principles that clearly spell out how the board operates, how board members should interact with each other, and the nature of the board's relationship to the superintendent. " This may be something the Board would be interested in developing.
- Understand board role during negotiations – The article provides guidance for board members involved in negotiation sessions. Primary roles for board members include: "1) communicate financial parameters to the negotiating team; 2) hear an update after each session on progress; and 3) maintain confidentiality throughout the process." I would like to commend Board members on how you have participated in the negotiations process.
- Superintendent's evaluation and staff input – The article discourages staff evaluations of the superintendent. I agree with the article that staff should not be communicating directly through the board with an evaluation; however, I do believe there is value for a superintendent to have staff communicate directly with him or her with feedback on performance.
- The board's 10 important governance tasks – The article provides a list of ten governance tasks for an board. This would be a good list to include in a "governance" workshop and discussion.

3. School Board Member Elections – Three Board seats are up for election in November. Terms for Mike Moen, Michele Moxon, and Lori Routh will be ending. The filing period for candidates is from August 2 – 16. The necessary filing papers can be requested from Sue Kulseth in the School District Office. Please don't hesitate to refer anyone who may be considering filing for candidacy to contact me if they have any questions.

4. World's Best Workforce (WBWF) Workshop – Plans are being made to bring a representative group of more than twenty (20) teachers together on August 17 & 18 to examine data and develop action plans to determine how the District will achieve the goals and objectives within the Strategic Plan Focus Areas of Student Achievement and Student Support. Work will focus specifically on the five performance goal areas of the WBWF.

5. New Staff Orientation Plans – Plans are being made to welcome our new staff on Monday, August 29. The purpose for the orientation is to acquaint new staff with district practices and procedures; introduce new employees to individuals with knowledge of and access to helpful resources; allow an opportunity to become familiar with the district and its facilities. Board members are invited

to attend the breakfast and welcome beginning at 8:00 am in the Secondary School Media Center. The agenda for the day will include:

- Business Office procedures and practices
- Technology Support
- Break-out meetings for paraprofessional staff and teaching staff
- The afternoon will be for teaching staff and activities will include meeting with principal and spending time with mentor

6. District Breakfast and Inservice Plans – Plans are being made to welcome all staff on Tuesday, August 30 at the Secondary Building. The Board has traditionally sponsored the Breakfast and I look forward to assisting the Board in planning for this special event. Board members may want to reserve Monday evening, August 29, for set-up.

Thank you for all you do!

Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.
Superintendent