

# Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting

August 20, 2018

## 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 6, 13, 20, 27 and August 10.**

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

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

- [Free handheld metal detectors available for all Indiana schools](#)

- [Is personalized learning the key to education?](#)

- [10 education lessons from the business world](#)

- [Study: Screen time may increase risk of ADHD symptoms](#)

- [Study considers effects of summer slide](#)

- [Facial-recognition tech for school security raises questions](#)

- [Congratulations to our Clay Target Team competing at the National Championship.](#)

- <https://www.kaaltv.com/sports/local-clay-target-shooting-team-wows-at-nationals/4999385/?cat=10151>

- [Ag2School Credit Overview from MREA 7-22-18](#)

- <http://www.mreavoice.org/ag2school-gives-farmers-significant-tax-relief/>

- [Is facial recognition the new trend in education tech?](#)

- [Teachers must budget for hundreds of dollars in school supplies](#)

- [Interview: Family engagement key to improvement](#)

- **School Safety Center Assessment**

- **Board Work Session**

- **Facility Planning Task Force Update**

- **Transportation Committee to Meet**

- **Policy Committee to Meet**

- **Building and Grounds Committee to Meet**

- **Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) Annual Conference**

- **MDE School Safety Grant**

- **7-16-18 School Board Meeting Follow-up**

- **Transportation Committee Meeting Follow-up**

- **Quarterly Check-ins with Dale**

- **District Breakfast and Keynote Speaker**

- **New Staff Orientation**

- **Panther Power-up Celebration**

- **First Day of School with Students**

2. **Board & Administrator for Board Members Monthly Publication – July 2018 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.

- Retreat key to relationship's fast start – The article encourages a board and a new superintendent to commit to a “retreat” where it provides both the board and superintendent an opportunity to discuss and identify communication plans between the board and superintendent. While the article focuses on holding a retreat for a new superintendent, an annual retreat is often recommended as well. To some degree, the board’s annual self-evaluation along with developing board and superintendent goals can incorporate many of the same objectives often included in a board retreat.
- Board-superintendent communications integral to everyone’s success – The article shares the reflections and suggestions by a former superintendent who currently assists superintendents through executive coaching and support. In the article, the superintendent emphasizes communication between the board and superintendent as the key to developing and sustaining a healthy and productive working relationship. A weekly written update to the board, communications with individual board members (although sharing any substance from conversations with whole board), open invitation for phone calls, and board communication with staff are some of the communication recommendations. My experience with our Board has been much of the same. I do have some varied thoughts when it comes to individual board members initiating communication with staff members. While a board member should feel that he or she can reach out to a staff member, it is preferred the board member first communicate the issue with the superintendent. This is a specific example where having an agreed upon board-superintendent communication plan in place is best. Thank you to board members for your commitment to regular, transparent, and proactive communication with me.

3. **Facility Planning Task Force Update** – Meeting #5 was held on Monday, August 13, and focused on reviewing a draft of the community survey prior to it being presented to the Board of Education at the August 20 School Board meeting. A great deal of good input was given that resulted in revisions to the survey. Following the August 20 Board meeting, the survey will be finalized and administered to the residents of our communities.

We are working to meet the following timelines:

- Present survey draft to Task Force on August 13
- Present revised draft to Board on August 20 for approval to move forward contingent upon revisions from Board
- Final survey goes to print and mailing by August 29
- Survey administered to communities by mid-September
- Survey closes by October 1
- Survey results presented to Task Force on **October 10** and Task Force develops recommendation to present to Board of Education. **THIS WILL BE A SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING AS BOARD MEMBERS WILL ATTEND TO HEAR SURVEY RESULTS REPORTED OUT BY SCHOOL PERCEPTIONS.** No action will be taken by the Board at this meeting as the primary purpose will be for the Task Force to develop a recommendation for the Board.
- Board reviews Task Force recommendation at October 15 School Board meeting
- Board makes decision on next steps by mid-November

**4. School Safety Center Assessment** –The School Safety Center spent July 19 in our district assessing both buildings regarding our safety and security plans and procedures. There will be more information to come on how we can improve our safety procedures and systems in both buildings. We are in the process of completing the Minnesota Department of Education’s School Safety Grant (see #5 below) and hope we are successful in receiving funding to enhance our security systems at both sites.

**5. MDE School Safety Grant** – As mentioned in item #4 above, we are in the process of completing the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) school safety grant. Pursuant to [Minnesota Session Laws 2018, Chapter 214, Article 1, Section 4, Subdivision 3](#), MDE makes this funding available to all Minnesota school districts. Grants may be used to predesign, design, construct, furnish, and equip school facilities for improvements related to violence prevention and facility security for a qualifying school building. This includes renovating and expanding existing buildings and facilities. The grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis as delineated in the grant instructions. Applications will be accepted starting on August 29, 2018.

Community Education Director Macy Whiteside is assisting in the writing of our grant. Our ISG consultants are also working with us to complete the grant as there is some overlap between the grant and the facility planning work beginning with the secure entrance at the Elementary School. We are planning to submit a grant application for each building where we could be awarded up to \$500,000 of requested funding for qualifying safety projects.

For the Elementary School, we are focusing on the secure entrance project which comes close to fulfilling the \$500,000 maximum allowed per building. In the event the Elementary School grant would be awarded, then the secure entrance portion of our facility planning would be addressed.

The Secondary School application reflects many of the recommendations provided by the School Safety Center as well as ISG’s assessment. If the Secondary grant is awarded, then we acknowledge there will be a disparity between the two schools when it comes to enhanced security systems, which is something the District may have to address. However, presently, there is a level of disparity between our two buildings given the difference in the secure entrances.

**6. District Breakfast and Keynote Speaker** – The Board will be hosting the staff breakfast on Monday, August 27, at the Methodist Church in Ellendale. We are finalizing the caterer for the breakfast. We will want to be ready to serve starting by 7:45 am. Following the breakfast, Board members are invited to remain for our keynote speaker, Willow Sweeney. Please let me know how I may assist the Board with set-up. In the past, Board members have gathered the night before to set-up and decorate. I will need some advance notice in order to make arrangements with the church.

**7. 2019 MSBA Leadership Conference – [SAVE THE DATE!](#)** – Be sure to place on your calendars the 2019 MSBA Leadership Conference to be held **January 17-18, 2019**, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Board to join board members from across the state to learn and network together.

Thank you for all you do!

Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.