

Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting

July 16, 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 June 22 & 29.

A. Information, Communication, and Correspondence

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

Colo. district may pay some teachers a stipend

Helicopter parenting may harm children

Court: Maryland transgender student reaches settlement granting permanent access to boys locker room

Supreme Court Bans Mandatory Union Fees for Public-Sector Workers

Court: U.S. Supreme Court deals big setback to labor unions

Court: Minnesota leaders praise and decry ruling on union fees

Can music classes help language skills?

Wisconsin school district add breaks in response to flu study

Report: 4-year degrees not necessary for many open jobs

- **Facility Task Force Update**

- **Transportation Committee Met**

- **Board Work Session**

- **Board Committees to Meet**

- **Special Education Setting IV Elementary Program Interagency Agreement**

2. Board & Administrator for Board Members Monthly Publication – June 2018 Reflection - I have provided a brief reflection on a few of the articles from the June publication. I hope you have had an opportunity to read and reflect.

- Balance pressure and support – Former Superintendent Dr. Robert Avossa reflects on the discord that sometimes exists between staff and administration. He suggests that to some degree employees are unsure of what others do. Teachers question what administrators do all day and suggests that administrators are out of touch in what challenges teachers face each day. At the same time, administrators sometime question how efficiently and effectively teachers use their time at work.

Dr. Avossa shares his experience in having his leadership team devote an entire day being assigned to shadow a teacher. He believes the experience was invaluable for him as well as

for his team, as it provided him an opportunity to see what a teacher experiences throughout the course of a day.

While Dr. Avossa's former school district was one of the largest in the United States, the same can be said about our small school district. We need to pay attention to the challenges staff are facing each day. Public education is perhaps the most challenging profession, but also the most rewarding and fulfilling. For me, it is important to continually be reminded what our teachers, support staff, and principals experience each day, so that I can support their work and improve working conditions and the work environment. Even though I was a classroom teacher and coach and have observed teachers for more than 23 years as an administrator, I find myself at times focused so much on non-classroom and non-teaching issues that I become somewhat distanced from what our staff are experiencing. Dr. Avossa reminds me that my relationship with staff is most important to my work, and it begins with understanding and appreciating what we all do in order to *empower students with knowledge and skills to succeed*.

- 3. Facility Planning Update** – Meeting #4 of the Task Force was held on Monday, June 25. The Task Force examined the physical facility needs and the educational programming needs that have been presented at the previous meetings and then prioritized categories. The prioritization will assist in the formation of categories or “buckets” to be included in the community survey.

Meeting #5 is planned for Monday, August 13, at 6:30 pm at the Secondary School that will focus 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. Following the August 20 Board meeting, the survey will be finalized and administered to the residents of our communities.

A sixth and final meeting will be held in later September or early October to examine the survey results and to develop a recommendation for the Board.

- 4. School Safety Center Assessment** – We have made arrangements for the Minnesota School Safety Center to conduct a safe school assessment at our two school buildings. Representatives will be in our School District on Thursday, July 19. We will begin at the Secondary School in the morning and then move to the Elementary School.

The Center describes a safe school assessment as a “tool used to identify and evaluate potential hazards and risks in a school’s physical environment. The process of doing a safe school assessment creates opportunities to reduce or eliminate potential hazards and develop recommendations for improvement. Schools use data gathered from safe school assessments to address areas of greatest risk or vulnerability in their emergency plans.”

- 6. Policy Committee to Meet** – The Policy Committee plans to meet on Monday, August 6, beginning at 5:00 pm in the Board Room. Agenda items at this time include:

- Review Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records) and consider recommendation to forward to the School Board for 1st Reading
- Review MSBA policy revisions and consider recommendation to forward to School Board for 1st Reading

- 7. Building and Grounds Committee to Meet** – The Building and Grounds Committee plans to meet on August 20, beginning at 5:30 pm in the Board Room. Agenda items at this time include:

- City of Ellendale sign on school property
- Potential future property purchases in the school district
- Facility Planning Task Force update

8. Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) Annual Conference – Board members are invited to attend MREA’s annual conference to be held at Cragun’s on Gull Lake in Brainerd November 11-13. I attended for the first time last year and found it worthwhile. I plan to attend. There is an “early bird” and team registration where we would save \$45 per person when registering teams of at least three people before August 10. Please let me know by August 1 if you are interested in attending.

Thank you for all you do!

Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.