

# *District Status Report*

*27 January 2017*

*2016-17 Report# 27*

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

## **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.**

## Information – Communication -- Correspondence

### 1. News From Around the State and Beyond

**Politics:** School choice, tax breaks for private school tuition debated

**Politics:** MSBA reacts to Gov. Dayton's education budget proposals

**Politics:** Sales tax exemption sought on tickets for Minnesota State High School League activities

**Politics:** Scholarship approach seen as option to promoting school choice

**Does class rank matter?**

**Funding:** GOP cool to Dayton's \$75 million plan to expand preschool

**Research:** Young girls are less apt to think that women are really smart

**Politics:** Proposed education tax adjustments create concerns

**Calendar:** Snow days have district considering how to make up for lost time

2. **January 17 School Board Meeting Follow-up** – In reading the Star Eagle's article on the January 17 School Board Meeting, I felt it was unfortunate that the headline read: "School board looks to new referendum." Based on what was presented, I'm not sure the word "referendum" was even mentioned with the exception of an acknowledgement of the failed June 2015 referendum which has led the Board to conduct a community survey as well as moving forward with a facility assessment. Moving forward, it will be important to not get too far out in front of the process including making the assumption we will be going to referendum as a result of the facility assessment.

I have also gone back and listened to the audio tape of the meeting and at no time, did I say "I'm sorry to push this on you so suddenly, but our Strategic Plan has us having a Facilities Improvement Plan in place by September." The audio tape does reflect Chair Rick Schultz reminding the Board of the September 2017 deadline.

Finally, I did make an error in reporting out on the bill payment to Northland Securities. Thank you to Karla Christopherson for clarifying that this specific bond payment for \$83,532.50 to Northland Securities is a principal and interest payment on the Facilities Bonds Series 2013A. These bonds were sold to pay for the renovation of the Secondary Building in 2013 which included a secure entrance and a commons and kitchen renovation. I made the incorrect assumption that this payment was toward the bond that was involved in the refunding with Northland Securities pertaining to the energy improvements.

3. **School Board Work Session** – The School Board will hold a work session on Monday, January 30, to review progress being made in achieving the goals and objectives identified in the Strategic Plan. The work session would begin at 5:30 pm in the Board Room at the Secondary School. A light dinner would be provided. The action plan has been shared with you as a google doc.
4. **MSBA Officer Workshop** – MSBA is offering a workshop for new school board officers. The closest workshop is on Friday, February 17, in Rochester from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. You can find out more information at [www.mnmsba.org](http://www.mnmsba.org). Let Sue Kulseth or me know if you are interested in attending.
5. **MSBA Negotiation Seminars** – MSBA will be offering member districts full-day Negotiations Seminars to help boards prepare for the negotiations process. Below are three locations I saw that are the closest to us. Notice that there is only one seminar offered on a Saturday. Please let me know if you are interested in attending a seminar. You can read more at [www.mnmsba.org/NegotiationsSeminars](http://www.mnmsba.org/NegotiationsSeminars).

At this time, JoAnn Maloney, Karen Flatness, Neil Schlaak, and Mark Tollefson are registered to attend the February 9 seminar in Mankato. Dan Schmidt is registered to attend the March 11 seminar in St. Peter. I plan to attend the February 9 seminar as well.

- February 9 (Thursday) — Mankato | Country Inn & Suites, 1900 Premier Drive  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE – FEBRUARY 1
- February 10 (Friday) — Rochester | Wood Lake Meeting Center, 210 Woodlake Drive  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE – FEBRUARY 1
- March 11 (Saturday) — St. Peter | Minnesota School Boards Association, 1900 West Jefferson Ave.  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE – MARCH 7

**6. Board Member Quarterly Check-ins with Dale** – For those of you who have not met with me, thank you for rescheduling due to the cancelled school day on Wednesday. If she has not already done so, Sue Kulseth will be in touch with you to reschedule.

**7. Meet and Confer Session** – The administrative team will be participating in a Meet and Confer session with representatives of the Teacher Association on Tuesday, January 31. Talking points to discuss include:

- 30 minute duty free lunch
- Classroom temperature
- Summer access to classrooms – communication
- Special Education teacher schedules and assignments inc. planning time
- Evacuation plan for closing of one building

**8. Finance Committee Meeting** – I will be contacting Mrs. Flatness, Mrs. Maloney, and Mr. Routh to schedule a meeting in the coming weeks. The tentative agenda will include review of policy revisions for Fund Balance (714), Budget Adoption (701), and Uniform Grant Guidance (721). Ms. Christopherson and I will also plan to share a working draft of a budget development calendar to be recommended for adoption by the Board.

**9. Policy Committee** – I will be contacting Mrs. Maloney, Mr. Schmidt, and Mr. Schultz to schedule a meeting in the coming weeks. The tentative agenda will include review of policy revisions for Consent Agenda (203.6), Public Comment (206), Fund Balance (714), Budget Adoption (701), and Uniform Grant Guidance (721). It is likely the Policy Committee will meet after the Finance Committee has met given that a few of the policies to review should be reviewed by the Finance Committee first.

## School Board Calendar of Events

January 30, 2017	5:30 pm	School Board Work Session – Board Room
February 9, 2017	8:30 am	MSBA Negotiations Seminar – Mankato
February 10, 2017	8:30 am	MSBA Negotiations Seminar – Rochester
February 17, 2017	8:30 am	MSBA Board Officer Workshop – Rochester
February 20, 2017		NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF
February 21, 2017	<b>Tuesday</b> 6:30 pm	Regular School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center
March 11, 2017	8:30 am	MSBA Negotiations Seminar – St. Peter

## Dale's Calendar for January 30 – February 3 (As of 1-27-17)

Monday	9:30 am	Check in with Terri
	10:00 am	Check in with Doug
	1:00 pm	Check in with Dan
	1:30 pm	Check in with Dave
	2:00 pm	Check in with Karla
	2:30 pm	Check in with Sue
	5:30 pm	School Board Work Session
Tuesday	3:30 pm	Meet and Confer
	7:00 pm	GBB
Wednesday	6:00 pm	Board Member Check-in
Thursday		In the District
Friday		Out of the District

**Thank you for all you do!**