

District Status Report

03 February 2017

2016-17 Report# 28

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

[Caledonia Area: District to pilot digital learning days on February 20](#)

[Rushford-Peterson: School board addresses feedback concerning blended learning days](#)

[Stress: Taking on a toxic challenge — stress affects students' ability to learn](#)

[19 tips to improve school recess](#)

[When does optimal learning occur?](#)

2. Board Member Quarterly Check-ins with Dale – Thank you for taking time to check in with me the past two weeks on a number of items important to the School District. I hope I was able to respond to questions you shared with me as well. A general summary of items discussed at the check-ins includes:

- a. Electronic lunch deposit
- b. School website and device compatibility
- c. Posting of grades on JMC
- d. Board representation across district
- e. Coaching positions and contract approval timeline
- f. Star Eagle reporting and article from 1-26-17
- g. Attracting quality substitutes
- h. Officials' pay
- i. School calendar development – scheduling fewer, but longer school days
- j. Flexible Learning update
- k. Expanding preschool
- l. Firearms in school
- m. Board development including book study
- n. Make-up recommendation for January 25 and future cancellations
- o. Board Meeting Reflections
- p. Building and Grounds items including Facility Assessment, Lease Agreement with City of NR, Elementary gym scoreboards, MS athletic practice/competition facilities in NR
- q. January 30 Board Work Session reflection
- r. School Board Meeting reflections
- s. Teacher association Meet & Confer Update
- t. Negotiations including scheduling first meetings and MSBA Seminar
- u. Workshop topics including, Board Self Evaluation, Board Governance, Student Discipline, Poverty, Mental Health, and Academic Recognition
- v. Initiatives previously shared and being worked on including: Scheduling board member “learning walks,” Board meeting agenda format revisions, video recording Board meetings

Please contact me if you have specific questions about any of the topics.

3. MSBA Negotiation Seminars – 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
- February 10 (Friday) — Rochester | Wood Lake Meeting Center, 210 Woodlake Drive
- March 11 (Saturday) — St. Peter | Minnesota School Boards Association, 1900 West Jefferson Ave.

4. Meet and Confer Session – The administrative team met with representatives of the Teachers' Association on January 31 in a Meet and Confer session. Talking points discussed included:

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

The teams will be meeting again in the coming few weeks.

- 5. Finance Committee Meeting** – I sent an e-mail to Committee members on February 2 asking to let me know if the following dates would work to meet. If you have not already done so, please let me know ASAP.

Tuesday, February 21 prior to the School Board Meeting starting at 5 or 5:30 pm
 Monday, February 27 at 5:30 pm
 Tuesday, February 28 at 5:30 pm
 Thursday, March 2 at 5:30 pm

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. We will also plan to review the Strategic Plan Finance objectives.

- 6. Policy Committee** – I sent an e-mail to Committee members on February 2 asking to let me know if the following dates would work to meet. If you have not already done so, please let me know ASAP.

Tuesday, February 21 prior to the School Board Meeting starting at 5 or 5:30 pm
 Monday, February 27 at 5:30 pm
 Tuesday, February 28 at 5:30 pm
 Thursday, March 2 at 5:30 pm

The tentative agenda will include review of policy revisions for Consent Agenda (203.6) and Public Comment (206).

- 7. Building and Grounds Committee** -- Plans are being made for the Building and Grounds Committee to meet with the City of New Richland City Council on Monday, February 13 6:00 pm at City Hall to review a draft of a Lease Agreement between the City and District pertaining to the use and maintenance of the Legion ball fields. As part of the lease agreement, a change being proposed by the District would be for the District to take responsibility for all maintenance of the playing surfaces (inside the fenced areas) from March 1 to June 1.

- 8. Rural Kids Count Report** -- From MREA

MREA Releases Rural Kids Count Report

There's significant interest among rural legislators to look at making the formula more equitable for Greater Minnesota schools. MREA was tasked with finding options to accomplish this.

MREA released today a report outlining the various inequities and a series of proposed solutions to benefit all students in Minnesota. Check out [Rural Kids Count Report](#) for a deep dive into these issues and the impact they will have on school districts across Minnesota.

Instead of hitting replay on old fights, MREA recommends an update to a current model. Small Schools Revenue (SSR) is an existing nod in the direction of rural equity, albeit an imperfect one. If the state took the SSR concept and made it more viable for more school districts, the state could reduce the current operating inequity. Sen. Minority Leader Tom Bakk introduced [SF 87](#) to do just that. Sen. Majority Leader Paul Gazelka has since signed onto this bill, known as Enhanced Small Schools Revenue.

Another option building off of ESSR is to create a Basic Education Guarantee (BEG) by front loading the first 750 kids in the door of every school district by \$275 per pupil. This option costs more, but it extends these funds to all school districts and still has the effect of reducing the overall operating funding inequity. In addition to closing inequities in operating dollars, there's still plenty of work to do to create a fairer state share of facility funding. Ag2Schools and improving Debt Service Equalization (DSE) are high priorities as well for any tax cut package that emerges this session.

[View more details](#) of the report, the proposed solutions and the interactive maps showing the impact of each.

- 9. Buddy Bench Project** -- Below is an update on the Elementary School's Buddy Bench Project including an e-mail to Principal Anderson from Habitat for Humanity of Steele-Waseca Area that it has agreed to partner with the school.

What is a Buddy Bench? The buddy bench is a simple idea to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground. Let's spread the message of inclusion and kindness! The buddy bench is a signal, that if a child is sitting on it alone, it is a signal to the other kids to ask him or her to play. It is common for children to go off by themselves when they're feeling sad, and what they really need is for someone to notice. The benches give children a safe, nonjudgmental place to retreat. Once a child is asked off the bench to come play, the hope is that they'll have the confidence to go play with their new friends again the next day. NRHEG has a very strong anti-bully program. These buddy benches have been an idea in the school and we are seeking to host a DIY Night for the families in the community by building

Good Morning Doug!

I am so excited to share that we will be moving forward with the Buddy Bench Project with you. Our construction manager will be starting with us next week and we are going to talk with suppliers about donation and then be able to share more information on that side. I have attached a copy of what we will be sharing with our donors and let me tell you, our board is so excited for this project. Please let me know what questions you have and I hope to have more information in the coming weeks as our Construction Manager settles in.

Thank you so much for presenting this idea and meeting with me. I am very excited to see the outcome!

Ellen Heydon

Community Engagement Coordinator, Habitat for Humanity of Steele-Waseca Area

School Board Calendar of Events

February 9, 2017	8:30 am	MSBA Negotiations Seminar – Mankato
February 13, 2017	5:00 pm 6:00 pm	Building & Grounds Committee Meeting – Board Room Building & Grounds Committee joint meeting with City of NR City Council at City Hall
February 20, 2017		NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF
February 21, 2017	Tuesday 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 February 6 – 10 (As of 2-3-17)

Monday	8:30 am	Administrative Team Meeting
	2:00 pm	Check in with Karla
	2:30 pm	Lease Agreement with Karla and Dan
	3:00 pm	Check in with Sue
Tuesday	9:00 am	WCCF Meeting in Waseca (All AM)
	1:30 pm	Meeting with Principals
	3:30 pm	Continuing Education Committee Meeting
	7:00 pm	GBB
Wednesday	8:00 am	School Board Meeting Agenda Planning with Board Chair and Vice-Chair
	10:00 am	Meeting with Wayne B at City Hall
	2:00 pm	Administrative Team Meeting
	5:00 pm	Meeting to develop RFP
Thursday	8:00 am	MSBA Negotiations Seminar (All day)
Friday		Out of the District

Thank you for all you do!