

District Status Report

03 March 2017

2016-17 Report# 32

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

Funding: Minnesota budget surplus grows to \$1.65 billion

United South Central: Not everyone happy with flex plan

Waseca and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva: Graduation rates higher in 2016

Politics: Area superintendents see pros and cons of governor's education budget

Caledonia Area: School board discusses flexible learning days

Technology: United South Central completes pilot stage of flexible learning days

Politics: "Innovative approach" proposed for teacher shortage situation

Politics: Task force sought to review "cumbersome" school financing system

Politics: School "snow days" could become "E-learning days"

2. **Policy Committee** – The Policy Committee plans to meet on Monday, March 20 beginning at 5:30 pm in advance of the regular School Board meeting. The tentative agenda will include review of policy revisions for Consent Agenda (203.6) and Public Comment (206).
3. **Paraprofessional Negotiations** – The negotiations meeting originally planned for Monday, March 6, has been rescheduled to Tuesday, March 21.
4. **Community Night Out** -- The annual Community Night Out Live and Silent Auction sponsored by the NRHEG Parent Teacher Organization is scheduled for Saturday, April 1, 2017, to be held at Wedgewood Cove in Albert Lea. The Community Night Out event fundraises for the purpose of contributing to the life of the School District in various ways with a primary focus on students. Participation at the event as well as donations are appreciated.
5. **MSBA Guidance on Transgender Issue** – Below is a February 28, 2017, communication from MSBA.

To Superintendents and School Board Members:

The joint decision by the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education to withdraw last year's guidance for transgender students means those departments will not be independently pursuing enforcement actions against schools and/or threatening the loss of federal funds based on the withdrawn guidance.

The withdrawal brings many decisions for transgender students back to local school board control, which is one of MSBA's long-held positions. Our advice to school districts has not changed since our briefing on the issue last year: Work with parents and students at the local level to ensure a safe and nurturing environment for all students.

MSBA believes its current policies offer protection against discrimination, bullying, and harassment for transgender students. A separate policy for transgender students is likely premature until the issues are settled by the courts. Individual school boards have the authority to adopt policies they believe are necessary for their districts, as long as those policies do not conflict with law and regulation.

The Supreme Court has accepted a case (Gloucester County School Board vs. Gavin Grimm) brought by a transgender student on appeal from the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. A decision by the Supreme Court in this case should give schools a much better picture of what is required to address transgender students' needs. Oral arguments in the case are scheduled for March 28. The Supreme Court could send the case back to the Fourth Circuit for that court to address the issues in light of the federal government's changed position.

MSBA will continue to follow these issues in the courts and will provide additional information when available.

6. Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Grant Received – We recently were informed that our district will receive a total of \$45,000 over two years for the purpose of awarding Pathway II Early Learning Scholarships to eligible students to attend our Pre-Kindergarten program. Thank you to Community Education Coordinator Marilyn Dobberstein for completing and submitting the grant application! We are in our first year of receiving Pathway funds and look forward to using the additional funds to expand early learning opportunities for kids.

School Board Calendar of Events

March 11, 2017	8:30 am	MSBA Negotiations Seminar – St. Peter
March 20, 2017	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Policy Committee Meeting – Elementary School Media Center Regular School Board Meeting – Elementary School Media Center
March 21, 2017	5:30 pm	Paraprofessional Negotiations Meeting – Board Room
April 4, 2017	5:30 pm	Teacher Association Negotiations – Secondary School Media Center
April 17, 2017	6:30 pm	Regular School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center
May 15, 2017	6:30 pm	Regular School Board Meeting – Elementary School Media Center

Dale's Calendar for March 6 - 10 (As of 3-3-17)

Monday	9:30 am 10:00 am 1:30 pm 2:00 pm 2:30 pm 7:00 pm	Check in with Doug Check in with Terri Check in with Dave Check in with Karla Check in with Sue BBB
Tuesday	7:00 am 8:30 am 3:45 pm	Calendar Committee Meeting Administrative Team Meeting Paraprofessional Leadership Monthly Check in
Wednesday	7:00 am 9:00 am	Monthly Check in with Teacher Association Leadership Regional Superintendent Meeting
Thursday	7:30 am 9:30 am 1:00 pm	Health and Safety Committee Meeting Meeting with Corrine regarding Retention Data Administrative Team Meeting – Communication Focus Area Action Plan
Friday	7:30 am 9:30 am	School Board Agenda Planning with Board Chair Meeting with Dave and Doug

Thank you for all you do!