

# Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting

March 19, 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 February 16 & 23, and March 2 & 9.**

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

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

- Advocacy: MSBA 2018 Legislative Session Preview

- More Minnesota high school students vaping e-cigarettes

- Fewer Americans are majoring in education, but will students pay the price?

- A before-school exercise program may help children thrive

- 5 strategies for addressing school tragedies

- Safety: What would representatives do to stop school shootings?

- How does student fitness affect brain function?

- Addressing adverse childhood experiences in school

- Honors: New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva school social worker recognized for good in community **CONGRATUATIONS BROOKE!**

- Politics: President Trump says arming teachers in schools is "up to states"

- Referendum: Maple River School District to hold referendum on May 8

- Politics: Minnesota projects \$329 million state budget surplus for 2018-2019

- Safety: Experts say how to prevent the next school shooting

- Politics: U.S. House of Representatives to debate bill to reduce violence in schools

- Politics: Gov. Dayton proposes more funding for Minnesota school security, mental health services

- Editorial: Students draw attention to gun violence

- Hundreds of copycat threats against schools since the Parkland shooting

- Eight ways to introduce kids to STEM at an early age

- **Community Night Out**

- **Board Work Session on Facility Planning**

- **Insurance Committee**

- **School Board Recognition Week**

- **Facility Task Force Update**

- **District Van Purchase Follow-up**

- **Vaping Concerns**

- **2018 Battle of the Books Championship Team**

## **2. Elementary and Secondary Principal Reports**

## **3. Curriculum and Instruction Report**

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

- Avoid too much hands-on driving and the ditch – The article offers an analogy when describing the board and superintendent relationship. The author suggests that the superintendent is the one with the “pair of hands” on the steering wheel while being “watched and guided” by the board which will lead to a “better way to drive the car, steer the ship, run the railroad, and govern the school district.”
- A checklist for effective boardsmanship – The article offers a checklist to assist board members in understanding specific issues about their school district as well as the difference between board and superintendent responsibilities. If you have not completed the checklist, I would encourage you to do so.
- Set the policy; then delegate the implementation – The article offers a recap of the board’s key responsibilities including:
  - ✓ Meets the needs of students and the community
  - ✓ Establishes policy
  - ✓ Plans
  - ✓ Monitors finances
  - ✓ Practices teamwork
- A board member’s relationship with constituents is sensitive – The article reminds board members to be cautious about making “promises” to constituents. Examples shared included: obtaining new uniforms for the band, improving school lunches, or firing a coach. The author encourages board members to “listen, thank them for their input, and then tell them how to bring the concern to the proper person in the district to address the matter.” In addition, the board member should follow up on the matter with the superintendent.

## **5. Facility Planning Update** – Board members are asked to communicate with Sue Kulseth names of community members who expressed interest. Once we have the names, then I will meet with Rick Schultz to finalize a list of names. The principals are finalizing a list of parents to serve on the Task Force. Potential dates for the first Task Force meeting include Thursday, April 5, or Thursday, April 12.

## **6. School Safety Planning Meeting** – Doug Anderson, Dave Bunn, and I will be meeting with New Richland Police Chief Martens and Waseca County Sheriff Milbrath this month to review school safety procedures. More information to come!

## **7. Scheduling of School Activities** – I plan to move forward with a recommendation for the Board to adopt a policy on the scheduling of school activities on Sundays, Wednesday evenings, and certain holidays. I will be working with staff to develop a draft policy to share with the Policy Committee at a future meeting. Currently, there is not a policy, but the Board has supported a practice of not scheduling events on Sundays and Wednesday evenings unless the Board grants an exception or the Board Chair approves an exception if time does not allow the full Board to consider the request. I believe it would be better to have the Board approve a policy that

administration can then follow without having to take each request to the Board. My hope that we have something in place for the 2018-2019 school year.

- 8. Insurance Committee** – The District’s Insurance Committee held its second meeting on Wednesday, February 7. The Committee’s purpose is *evaluate insurance benefits for effectiveness, desirability, affordability and competitiveness and make recommendations to the Superintendent and Board of Education*. The committee consists of ten staff members representing different employee groups. The committee plans to meet again on March 28. Representatives from Flexible Benefit Consulting assisted in facilitating the meeting.
- 9. AFSCME Negotiations** – The first negotiations meeting with the AFSCME Association is planned for Tuesday, March 27 beginning at 4:30 pm in the Secondary School Media Center. Thank you to Rick Schultz, Neil Schlaak, Karen Flatness and Karla Christopherson for their service in representing the Board.
- 10. Baccalaureate and Graduation 2018** – Board members are invited to attend both Baccalaureate on Sunday, May 20, beginning at 7:00 pm in the gymnasium, and Graduation on Sunday, June 3, beginning at 2:00 pm in the gymnasium. This is an exciting time for our seniors and their families. Come and celebrate with our students, families, staff, and those throughout the community! The senior planning committee is interested in having two Board members participate in the ceremony. Please let me know if you would be interested.
- 11. Years of Service and Retirement Recognition** – Please save the date of Wednesday, May 30, at 2:30 pm in the Secondary School Commons where all staff will gather to celebrate those achieving significant milestones in their service to the school district and to education. We will also be recognizing staff members who are retiring from the school district.

Thank you for all you do!

Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.