

District Status Report

29 March 2019

2018-2019 Report #35

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 snow day relief moves at glacial pace

Calendar: Lawmakers approve snow-day relief for schools

Politics: Wisconsin's voucher/choice program found to divert \$193 million from public schools

How can teachers cope with stress?

2. Snow Day Relief Bill Update – The “snow day relief bill” was passed in the Senate and House yesterday (Thursday). As I write this Friday afternoon, I have not heard if the Governor has signed it or not?

I have already received the same question from two different individuals whether or not the Board is going to modify again the 2018-2019 calendar as a result of the “bill?” My response has been that I have had no indication that there would be a change. One of the individuals thought that the “bill” was a mandate and that districts had to forgive or count all cancelled days and then also compensate staff for the cancelled day. I responded that ‘no,’ the bill is not a mandate. The decision is left to a school district. If a district makes the decision to access the language in the bill, then the district must follow all of the provisions of the bill.

A reminder that we cancelled school on January 30, 31, and February 20 & 25 for students and staff. School buildings were also closed and designated as Flexible Learning Days on January 22, 28, 29 and February 7 & 12. On the Flexible Learning Days, the majority of our hourly employees did not work. As reflected in the Paraprofessional Master Agreement, paraprofessionals have the option of “making-up” for those five days as scheduled by the building principal. The first make-up day for paraprofessionals was March 4. Other days are being planned with the principals; however, there are no make-up options for other hourly employees i.e. food service, some clerical, and drivers.

The four cancelled days identified above have been rescheduled as student instruction days on March 25, April 18, and June 3 & 4. The two teacher work days originally planned for March 25 and April 18 which were non-student days originally, have also been rescheduled. We also will have a full student instruction day on March 6 which was originally scheduled as a 2-hour late start.

So with the passage of the “bill,” districts may count cancelled days (non-Flexible Learning Days) as student instructional days for purposes of calculating the number of hours and days in the school year. As I shared at the March 6 Special Board meeting, the District already exceeded the minimum number of required hours by almost two days by rescheduling the four days; however, the rescheduling of days was focused on recapturing as much lost instructional time believed to be appropriate.

If the Board wishes to revisit this issue and consider reducing the number of rescheduled days by accessing the language of this bill, then the following would apply.

- The board of a school district or charter school that canceled school on one or more days during the 2018-2019 school year due to health and safety concerns *may* count those days as instructional days for purposes of calculating the number of hours and days in the school year. This especially applies to school districts who fall under the minimum 165 days of instruction and required hours.
- If a school district *would not* have met the required minimum number of days and hours of instruction for students, it *must report* to the commissioner of education the number of days and hours that the district counted to meet the required days and hours of instruction. A district is also *encouraged* to adopt an e-learning plan.
- *If* a school board resolves to count a day that school was canceled as an instructional day, the school district *must* compensate employees and contract employers by paying them or allowing them to work another day the school designates.

- The minimum number of days of teacher service that a probationary teacher ***must complete equals the difference between 120 days and the number of scheduled instructional days that were canceled*** due to health and safety concerns and that the school board resolved to count as days of instruction.

In the end, this bill may have less impact on us at this point since the Board could cancel the rescheduled days on June 3 and 4, and still meet the minimum number of hours required by the state. Since the District would be above the state required hours, it may not have to access this language and could address the issue of employee compensation as it believes to be appropriate and also meet the requirements of any negotiated master agreement.

Let me know if you have any questions; otherwise, I will leave it to the Board if it is interested in revisiting this issue given the passage of the recent bill.

- 3. April 9 Special Election Update** – We should expect the reminder postcard in households by Wednesday of next week reminding eligible voters to vote. We are planning for a public gathering at the Secondary School around 7:30 pm on the evening of April 9 to learn of the results. Please let me know if you have questions as we move into the final week.
- 4. Teacher Association Negotiations** – Plans are set for the first negotiations meeting with our Teacher Association to be held on Monday, April 1. Board team members include: Rich Mueller, Neil Schlaak, Dan Schmidt, Karla Christopherson and Dale Carlson.
- 5. Paraprofessional Association Negotiations** – Plans are being made to set the first negotiations meeting with our Paraprofessional Association in May. Board team members include: Luke Routh,, Travis Routh, Rick Schultz, Karla Christopherson and Dale Carlson.

School Board Calendar of Events

April 1, 2019	6:00 pm	Teacher Association Negotiations – Secondary School Media Center
April 9, 2019	7:30 pm	SPECIAL ELECTION Social gathering at the Secondary School for Board and public
April 10, 2019	5:00 pm	Building and Grounds Committee Meeting
April 16, 2019 (Tuesday)	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center
April 24, 2019	6:00 pm	Teacher Association Negotiations – Secondary School Media Center
May 19, 2019	7:00 pm	Baccalaureate – High School Gymnasium
May 20, 2019	6:30 pm	School Board meeting – Elementary School Media Center
June 2, 2019	2:00 pm	Graduation – High School Gymnasium
June 4, 2019	2:45 pm	Staff Recognition Program – Secondary School Cafeteria
June 17, 2019	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Secondary School Media Center

Dale's Calendar for April 1 - 5 (As of 3-29-19)

Monday	10:00 am	Check in with Terri
	10:45 am	Check in with Doug
	1:00 pm	Check in with Karla
	1:30 pm	Check in with Dave
	2:00 pm	Check in with Ann
	3:00 pm	Administrative Team Meeting
	6:00 pm	Teacher Negotiations
Tuesday	8:00 am	Check in with Karla
	9:30 am	Check in with Sue
	10:00 am	Meet with Karla and Corrine regarding pay periods
	11:30 am	Superintendent Lunch Meeting in Waseca
	1:00 pm	Elementary Staffing Meeting #4
Wednesday	9:00 am	Check in with Sue
	10:00 am	Meeting with 1 st National in Ellendale
	2:30 pm	Administrative Team Meeting with Terri
Thursday	8:00 am	School Board meeting agenda planning with Board Chair
	9:00 am	Secondary Staffing Meeting #5
Friday		Out of the District

Thank you for all you do!