

Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting

October 15, 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 September 14, 21, 28, and October 5.

A. Information, Communication, and Correspondence

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

- U.S. superintendents challenged to find, keep good teachers

- Shortage of Minnesota school bus drivers means surplus of late students

- Study: Minnesota ranked third-best state for teachers

- Security: Ohio school district approves allowing trained staffers to carry guns

- Study: Girls outperform boys academically, even in STEM subjects

- A third of students were bullied last year, study shows

- How parents and schools work to stop the cycle of childhood trauma

- **Costa Rica Invite**

- **World's Best Workforce 2017-2018 Summary Report and Public Meeting**

- **Facility Community Survey Update**

- **Ellendale Community Action Group (ECAG) Sign Update**

- **Handicap Street Parking in front of Secondary School**

- **Elementary School Donation**

- **Elementary Minnesota Reading Core Tutor**

- **School Board Candidate Forum**

- **Extended Field Trip Request**

- **2019 MSBA Leadership Conference**

- **Special School Board Meeting October 10**

- **School Safety Grants**

2. Board & Administrator for Board Members Monthly Publication – September 2018 Reflection - I

have provided a brief reflection on a few of the articles from the September publication. I hope you have had an opportunity to read and reflect.

- Communication protocol helps resolve constituent queries – The author, a former school superintendent, offers protocol for a board to provide excellent service to stakeholders who has questions or concerns including:

- Ensure administration took responsibility for helping citizens receive the services that the board intended the district to provide the public

- Follow processes designed to facilitate the administration’s ability to resolve problems effectively
 - Identify opportunities for systems improvement
 - Commit through policy to avoid involvement in management activities or giving direction to staff
 - Work with superintendent to develop a system for constituent services
- These strategies keep meetings under control – The article offers strategies and tips intended to assist a board in maintaining control of a board meeting including:
 - Get board factions to reach a compromise by removing the discussion from the regular meeting and scheduling a special work session. A facilitator may be helpful in assisting the board in reaching a compromise.
 - Recess the meeting for a few minutes to allow board members to step away from a tense conversation that has become unproductive and even personal.
 - Commit to short, well-organized meetings.
 - Test your team qualities – A short list of questions is offered for board members to reflect on being a “team-builder” including:
 - Listen to board members
 - Explain by position
 - Know board members on personal/social basis
 - Let board colleagues your agreement or disagreement
 - Keep disagreements about an issue from impacting other agenda items
 - Respect other board members
 - Work for consensus
 - Support the decision of the board
 - Leave disagreements at the board table

3. Facility Planning Update and Community Survey– The Board will be presented with a recommendation by the Facility Planning Task Force at tonight’s meeting. Next steps for the Board will include scheduling a Board work session to further examine the Task Force recommendation along with other information and data.

4. School Board Candidate Forum – Our Teacher Association is planning to host a School Board candidate forum on **Monday, October 29, beginning at 6:30 pm** in the Secondary School Media Center. A “meet-and-greet” opportunity will start at 6:30 pm with the moderated question portion of the evening beginning at 7:00 pm.

5. MDE School Safety Grant – We were notified by MDE last week that our two grant applications were not accepted. According to MDE, there were a total of 1166 applications in which 137 grants were randomly selected for non-metro schools. Our two applications were assigned the random numbers of 249 for the Secondary School and 684 for the Elementary School.

6. 2019 MSBA Leadership Conference – SAVE THE DATE! – Be sure to place on your calendars the 2019 MSBA Leadership Conference to be held **January 17-18, 2019**, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Board to join board members from across the state to learn and network together.

7. Legion Field –The baseball complex is in need of attention to ensure our student-athletes and spectators have a quality and safe facility to play and watch baseball. Replacement of the baseball dugout destroyed in a wind storm last spring, replacement/maintenance of bleachers, replacement of fencing, and repair of concrete around the concession/bathroom building are priorities we have

identified. The Building and Grounds Committee will be asked to consider next steps in working with the City of New Richland to address the priorities.

8. Building and Grounds Committee Meeting to be Scheduled – The Building and Grounds Committee should meet in the coming weeks to address several items including, but not limited to:

- Legion Field improvements
- Property Purchase development plans
- Solar Garden update
- Other

9. MASA Conference Report – Thank you for allowing me to attend the fall MASA conference on October 1-2 in Brainerd. I had the opportunity to attend several interesting sessions including:

- Early learning and brain development (ages 0-5) focusing on reading
- Increasing employee engagement
- Communicating with stakeholders

Thank you for all you do!

Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.