

Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting

December 17, 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 November 16, 21, 30, and December 7

A. Information, Communication, and Correspondence

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

- Referendum: Bond referendum requests fare better in 2018, but rural-urban divide persists

- Study: Bias-based bullying may be more detrimental to youths

- Education reformers reconsider role of testing

- Is spending on school security effective

- The future includes good (human) teachers

- Learning: The future of learning? Well, it's personal

- **2019 MSBA Leadership Conference**

- **Building and Grounds Committee Meeting Planned**

- **Quarterly Check-ins with Dale**

- **April 25, 2019 School Board Meeting Date Change**

- **Building and Grounds Committee Meeting Recap and Next Meeting Planned**

- **New Board Member Orientation**

- **District Website Change**

- **Facility Planning Update**

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

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

- Vision, mission, and theory of action should be aligned – The author shares the importance of vision and mission; why you exist as a school district and what is your purpose. The author suggests that in a highly effective and performing school district, the district's vision and mission is aligned with the personal visions and missions throughout the organization.

Creating a "theory of action" by aligning vision and mission throughout the district is critical to the success of the district.

- Expensive judgment against district, members of the board avoidable – The article brings attention to the importance for the board to define the board's role in specific areas including hiring. In the article, consultant Rick Maloney suggests boards and board members should not be involved in the selection of employees, but rather, ensure the 'process' is legal and

ethical. He suggests board members level of participation in the selection process should be limited to “review and approval,” but not be involved at the administrative level of interviewing and selecting.

- Board represent the community connection – The article reminds us of a boards critical role in connecting the school district with the larger community; in our case, four communities! The article offers some reminders including:
 1. All board members realize the purpose of the district
 2. All board members are familiar with the history of the district and know its mission and vision
 3. Board members know the difference between the roles of management (superintendent) and governance (board)
 4. We recognize the board is the vital link to the community the district serves
 5. All members realize their commitment of time, effort, and leadership on the board is key to the district’s success

3. Facility Planning Update – If the Board approves the facility bond referendum resolution and MDE’s Review and Comment document at the December 17 School Board meeting, then an important next step will be for the Board to hold a work session in January to review communication plans important to educating our communities about the project needs identified as part of the election question. Our consultant, ISG, is already working on a communication framework. Internally, I am working with principals to put in place systems and opportunities for staff to understand the project plans. It is important for the Board to continue leading the conversation throughout our communities about our facility and programming needs. I will work with the Board chair to identify potential dates to hold a work session sometime in January.

4. 2019 MSBA Leadership Conference – We believe everyone is set for the conference. I will be joining newly elected members Rich Mueller and Luke Routh on Wednesday, January 16, as they will be attending the Phase II training facilitated by MSBA. The training begins at 8:45 am and continues until 4:00 pm. I will be available later in the afternoon and evening on Wednesday to assist board members as you check in at the hotel. You should have a room reservation in your name when you arrive at the hotel. Mr. Mueller and Mr. Routh are planning to attend additional “Early Bird” sessions Wednesday evening. There may be interest for Board members to gather informally Wednesday evening and even discuss plans for Thursday including sessions to attend. We traditionally have met for breakfast Thursday morning around 7 am which may also provide an opportunity to review plans for the day. In the past, we have sat together for the opening session Thursday morning. Following the opening session, members have divided up and attended sessions according to personal interest and/or perhaps a general interest expressed by the Board.

Lunch plans on Thursday do not include the MSBA recognition lunch this year. However, meeting for lunch can be another opportunity for members to come together and share what they have already learned as well as discuss plans for the afternoon. As the afternoon comes to a close, it has been our tradition to enjoy a meal together Thursday evening.

Friday morning typically starts once again with breakfast around 7:00 am and then includes additional sessions as well as the closing session where we once again have sat together. The conference ends by noon on Friday. You may want to consider checking out of your room early Friday morning before heading to the Convention Center.

A reminder that when the Board members attend the conference, there will often be times a “quorum” of the Board will be present. While the conference is a wonderful opportunity to learn together which at times involves discussing school board best practices, the Board will not conduct

any school district business. Please let me know how I can assist you as you navigate the many opportunities at the conference. I look forward to spending quality learning time with you.

5. **District Website Update** – I hope you have had an opportunity to experiment with the updated website. Sue Kulseth and I plan to share some highlights at the December 17 Board meeting.
6. **January 7, 2019 Organizational Meeting** – The School Board will also be holding a special School Board meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2019, beginning at 5:30 pm in the Board Room at the Secondary School for the purpose of conducting the annual organizational meeting of the School Board. Oath of Office for our newly elected board members along with election of officers must take place at the beginning of the meeting. The oath and election of officers will be conducted by the Board Clerk.

The meeting agenda will also include:

- Committee appointments
- Set Depositories for 2019
- Authorization of Investments/Electronic Funds Transfers for 2019
- Set official newspaper for 2019
- Set regular School Board meeting dates for 2019
- Set School Board member compensation

There may be additional agenda items as needed specifically those timely items that need to be addressed by the Board prior to the January 22, 2019 regular School Board meeting.

Thank you for all you do!

Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.