

# Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting

March 18, 2019

## 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. Principal Reports**

### **2. Weekly District Status Report Summary from February 15 & 22, and March 1 & 8.**

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

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

- Politics: Lawmakers want all high schools to offer civics for juniors, seniors

- Politics: Budget forecast — projected surplus drops by almost \$500 million, still tops \$1 billion

- Politics: Senator proposes allowing schools to count snow days toward total instruction days

- Politics: Gov. Tim Walz seeks additional \$733 million for E-12 education funding

- Politics: Teacher licensure system, overhauled in 2017, may see more changes

- Politics: Snow Day Relief Act advances in Senate

- Politics: U.S. Congress considering lunch shaming legislation

- **MSBA Negotiations Seminar**

- **Referendum Information Sessions Sign-up**

- **Update on Potential Waiver of Cancelled School Days by State**

- **Quarterly Check ins**

- **School Cancellation Policy**

- **Special School Board Meeting set for March 6**

### **3. Board & Administrator for Board Members Monthly Publication – January and February 2019**

**Reflection** - I have provided a brief reflection on a few of the articles from the January and February publication. I hope you have had an opportunity to read and reflect.

#### **January**

- **Use an Aligned System to Increase Student Achievement at Scale Part 4** – The article shares how budget, accountability, and evaluation systems contribute to an overall district-aligned system. Beginning with budget development, it is important that budget requests are linked with the district's strategic plan. Accountability involves a continuous cycle of diagnosing how you are performing; correcting or adjusting focusing on student achievement and success; and renewing by involving monitoring and feedback so that modifications needed

are apparent to all and supported by evidence. Evaluation of staff should be aligned with the priorities of the district and school(s).

- The chain of command is the tie that binds – The article reminds board members to address complaints and concerns through the proper chain of command; and that the role of a board member and/or board is to manage the day-to-day operations including employee-related matters.
- Invest in the board's relationship with the superintendent – The article provides strategies for maintaining a productive relationship between the board and superintendent including:
  1. Provide an annual appraisal of the superintendent
  2. Invest in professional development for superintendent and board
  3. Make time for discussion prior to acting
  4. Understand the limits of a board member's personal power
  5. Praise the superintendent
- Serve ethically with these tips – The article provides suggestions from the Michigan Association of School Boards for board members to serve ethically by:
  - Don't let associations or relationships with businesses, groups or individuals contribute to a bias in decisions
  - Ensure commitments and directives are in the best interest of the entire board and district and not individual board members
  - Create environment that discourages micro-management of the superintendent

## **February**

- Getting an Education From (and about) the Board – The author shares his experience of building a relationship with a school board that had experienced a failed referendum, divisiveness within the board, unhappiness among members, and constant disagreement and lack of support for board decisions. He emphasizes communication as most important in building a relationship of trust.
  - Board responses to member misconduct – The article offers some examples of board member misconduct along with possible board responses.
  - Does your board understand confidentiality – The article reminds board members of the importance for maintaining confidentiality regarding what is discussed in both open and closed session.
  - Role tip: Leave management to your superintendent – The article reminds board members to not get involved in day-to-day operations and management issues, but rather focus on policy making and monitoring results. Suggestions to maintain focus on policy include: 1) develop the board meeting agenda around strategic goals, and 2) build a legacy of being an advocate for students.
- 4. Facility Planning Update** – Thank you for your involvement in the open houses and numerous community presentations about the April 9 election. We are in the process of finalizing a post card designed to remind eligible voters to vote. The card is to be in homes around April 1. A reminder to let me know if there are additional community groups to schedule informational presentations in the next few weeks.

5. **Quarterly Check-ins** – I look forward to meeting with board members this week for quarterly check-ins.
6. **Baccalaureate and Graduation 2019** – Board members are invited to attend both Baccalaureate on Sunday, May 19, beginning at 7:00 pm in the gymnasium, and Graduation on Sunday, June 2, 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.
7. **Years of Service and Retirement Recognition** – Please save the date of Tuesday, June 4, 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.