

Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting

May 20, 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 and Curriculum & Instruction Director Reports

2. Weekly District Status Report Summary from April 12, 19, 26 and May 3 & 10.

A. Information, Communication, and Correspondence

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

- Referendum: New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva voters pass referendum for upgrades

- Referendum: New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva voters pass referendum for building improvements

- Funding: Comparing the DFL, GOP and Walz education budgets

- Budgets, teacher morale among top issues for principals

- Politics: As legislative leaders meet to hash out spending targets, House and Senate remain miles apart on budget bills

- What will it take to reform K-12 education?

- Shred Hate: Bullying prevention program from ESPN, MLB, X Games, visits NRHEG

- <https://www.keyc.com/clip/14818212/espn-personality-comes-to-nrheg-for-anti-bullying-campaign> - NRHEG Shred Hate Assembly Coverage by KEYC

- Should schools adopt a dress code for parents?

- Data show major shift in degrees over past 4 decades

- Funding: School officials plead with lawmakers to fix special education cross-subsidy

- **Teacher Association Negotiations**

- **Paraprofessional Association Negotiations**

- **Building and Grounds Committee Meeting Rescheduled**

- **Preliminary 2019-2020 Staffing Plan and Budget**

- **Baccalaureate and Graduation 2019**

- **Years of Service and Retirement Recognition**

- **Staffing and Cancelled Courses**

- **SW Metro Intermediate District Associate Membership**

- **State Budget Update**

- **School Age Care (SAC)**

3. **Board & Administrator for Board Members Monthly Publication – March and April 2019 Reflection** - I have provided a brief reflection on a few of the articles from the March and April publication. I hope you have had an opportunity to read and reflect.

March

- Insight into the superintendent search process (part 1) – The author shares his experience in applying and interviewing for a superintendent position.
- Role issue: child of board member asks for job – The article offers advice on the correct way for a board member to respond to a child who has asked if the parent (board member) can help in getting a job in the school. The correct way is to respond that it would be a “conflict of interest” to personally get involved, but the parent can direct the child to get information about a job and the application process.
- Who should be in charge of decisions? – The article encourages the board and superintendent to continually work together in determining “who is responsible” for certain decisions which at times can unclear. In general, the Board establishes policy and then holds the superintendent accountable for carrying out policy.
- Trust-building activities for the board and superintendent – The article provides a few ideas on how to build/sustain the trust relationship between board and superintendent including:
 - Hold an annual retreat away from the regular meeting room.
 - “Break bread” together occasionally.
 - Evaluate the board annually.
 - Evaluate the superintendent annually.

April

- Insights into the superintendent search process (part 2) – The author shares his experience in applying and interviewing for a superintendent position.
 - Etiquette reminder emphasizes respect – The article highlights the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators reminder about board etiquette that is included in operating agreements. It states: “Board members will remind one another in a respectful manner when a member is violating one of these agreements.”
 - What went wrong here? – The article provides a scenario in which a board member takes on investigating a rumor on his own. The specific scenario involved a rumor that the superintendent was dismissing a principal. In the end, the superintendent also resigned due to the action of the board member and the board stating that it is the superintendent’s responsibility to manage staff; not the board.
 - Don’t overlook advocacy – The article encourages board members and boards to be active in advocating at the legislative level. The article specifically discusses “lobbying” and provides helpful points to keep in mind. I have shared in the past that I am ready to work with the board if it would want to consider a “legislative board committee.”
4. **Budget work session** – At the Board meeting, I will mention a recommendation for the Board to hold a budget work session in July at a time when all board members are able to attend. There are potentially significant decisions to be made on the direction the Board wants to go with the finances of the school district and the impact on student learning.

5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **School Age Care (SAC)** – In response to our School Readiness Goal within our World’s Best Workforce Plan specific to increasing participation in our preschool program, Community Education Director Macy Whiteside has been engaging our communities by surveying interest in having the District provide a SAC program where parents would be able to bring their child before school and/or leave after school in an attempt to accommodate parent work and personal schedules. The primary focus would start with children enrolled in our preschool program, but it is conceivable that we would expand the program for other grades. Ms. Whiteside is planning to present an update at the June 17 School Board meeting.
8. **Southwest Metro Intermediate District 288 Associate Membership Update** – In my May 3 Status Report, I provided an update on the Associate Membership status with Intermediate District 288. As part of the update, I shared that it was suggested by District 288 to not have School Board members serve on the Board of Directors at this time; rather, the four superintendents would be representing the districts. This is a change from the original plan, but I am comfortable with representing our District.

I have shared below parts of an update from Special Education Director Heather Harms that was shared recently with principals and business managers in the four school districts.

On May 1, all superintendents from our area schools (JWP, NRHEG, Waseca, and WEM) and special education administration met with the Superintendent Kermes and Director of Special Education Krav of Southwest Metro Intermediate District 288 to discuss our new associate membership.

Only the current setting IV therapeutic programs will become Southwest Metro programs (July 1, 2019) and will remain located in Waseca. Our therapeutic teachers and support staff will remain Waseca staff. No other programs or staff will be affected by this membership with Southwest Metro.

Program Names

MDE Site Name: Waseca Central

Southwest Metro - Waseca Stepping Stones (K-6 program)

Southwest Metro - Waseca Passages (7-12)

School Calendar

Waseca’s therapeutic setting IV staff will work off of the Waseca school calendar.

Supervision

The special education director and assistant special education director of the Associate Districts will be the administrator of the Level 4 programs with responsibility for supervision of staff and student discipline.

Zero Reject/ No Wait List

Students from SWMetro Associate Districts will begin receiving services typically within one school week of placement in a SWMetro program. Placement requires the mutual consent of parent/guardian, resident district special education director, and SWMetro special education director.

Access to Existing SWMetro Programs

Students from SWMetro Associate Districts may be placed in any appropriate SWMetro program with no additional charge beyond tuition billing rates and a share of lease levy and long term facilities maintenance rates for the selected site.

Referral Process

The Associate District Special Education Administration (H.Harms and D. Gronseth) determines a Level 4 placement is necessary and appropriate for a student currently enrolled in an Associate District. The Associate District Special Education Director then contacts the SWMetro Special Education Director to refer the student for a possible placement or additional idea for continued intervention.

If placement is agreed upon by the special education directors, an IEP team meeting is scheduled and parental consent is sought. Placement will take place immediately (typically no later than one week from parental consent).

State-Wide Testing

SWMetro will be responsible for any state-wide testing requirements.

Inclement Weather/School Closings

Programs located in Waseca will follow the late start, early release, and school closure decisions of Waseca. SWMetro staff should be added to the Waseca notification system.

Emergency Planning Responsibility

Given that the current Level 4 programs are located within Waseca Public Schools building(s), the planning, training, and emergency drills will be conducted by Waseca in line with Waseca protocol.

Deanna and I will be working with Southwest Metro's Communications Department to develop promotional materials for our sites.

All staff from our 4 districts are able to access

- Professional development including relicensing for free or a minimal fee. Most PD opportunities will be located in Chaska, Jordan, and Shakopee. We can ask for some PD to be offered at our sites including topics of our choosing.
 - Week of August 12-16 is a full week of PD for a charge of \$30 per session.
 - August 14 is the Save Your License day for \$60
 - We will share the document when it becomes available.
- Setting IV Therapeutic Staff will have the opportunity to participate in Southwest Metro activities (Kick-Off Day on August 26, 2019).

Additional Information

Our setting IV therapeutic staff is responsible for all attendance, grading, and MARSS through Southwest Metro. Staff from Southwest Metro will be creating our classes, etc. in their student system of Synergy.

Paras may have an opportunity to receive some high-level training called Registered Behavior Technician (RBT). This may include more than just the setting IV paras.

Another training for paras and supervising teachers may also be available. This training's focus is supporting the team of para/teacher in learning how to more effectively direct the work of the paraprofessional.

Thank you for all you do!

Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.