

Dale's School Board Meeting Recap

January 22, 2019 School Board Meeting

Our Mission Together

**Empowering students with
knowledge and skills to succeed.**

Our Vision

**To be the school district of choice, inspiring
excellence in academics, arts, and activities.**

NOTE: This review is authored by the Superintendent, intended as information for the District employees, to keep them informed of the important decisions made by the School Board. This review includes selected items as determined by the Superintendent, and does not include all items of business conducted by the Board. This review is not intended to replace the official minutes of the School Board. Additional information can always be obtained from the official Board minutes or by contacting Dale.

Student Achievement and Student Support

Teaching and Learning Feature: Staff and students were prepared to present on the 5th grade Kindness Retreat but unable to due to the cancellation of school. This will be rescheduled at a later date.

Finance

Donations -- We are fortunate to have community members, organizations, and businesses who make donations to the school district. Often the donations are designated toward specific programs or activities. The Board approved the following donations.

The Gym LLC	Comm Ed Competitive Cheer Mats	\$25.00
Geneva Lumber	Comm Ed Competitive Cheer Mats	\$100.00
Julie Haroldson	Conference Night Supper for Teachers	\$65.95
Dustin Wayne	School Lunch Accounts	\$200.00
AW Ag LLC—Alex Wayne	School Lunch Accounts	\$200.00
NRHEG PTO	Artist in Residence	\$1,050.00
Jill Demmer	Percussion bell set, practice pad, drum <u>sticks & mallets</u>	
	Total	\$1,640.95
	Total to Date	\$25,625.80

Workforce

2019 Spring Coaching Contracts: The Board approved the following contracts. Thank you coaches!

- Duey Ferber – Head Track & Field Coach
- Corrine Schuller – Junior High Track & Field Coach
- Brad Root – Head Golf Coach
- Drew Paukert – Head Baseball Coach
- Wendy Schultz – Head Softball Coach

Resignations/Retirements – The Board approved the following retirement resignations. Congratulations and thank you to Terri and Peggy for their many years of service to the school district. They have made a positive difference in the lives of so many students!

- Terri Engel – Director of Curriculum and Instruction (34 years in NRHEG)
- Peggy Talamantes – 5th Grade Teacher (32 years in NRHEG)

Facilities

Solar Garden: Representatives from Nokomis Partners presented information that was previously shared with the Building and Grounds Committee at a December 3, 2018 Committee meeting. The Board approved moving forward in preparing a contract with Nokomis Partners contingent upon final review and approval of the contract by the Board. The Board also directed administration to research additional proposals to compare with the Nokomis proposal.

Board Governance

1st Reading of Board Policy 503 Student Attendance: Mr. Anderson and Mr. Bunn presented a recommended revision to Board Policy 503 (Student Attendance) to reflect desired changes in student attendance procedures. The recommendation also includes removing the procedural language from the policy and insert it into student handbooks. As a result, the Board will also consider revisions to the student handbooks reflecting changes in the attendance procedures. The Board approved a 1st reading of the policy revisions as presented. The Board will consider approving the policy revisions at the February 19 School Board meeting through a 2nd reading of the policy. Also at the February 19 meeting, the Board will consider approval of the student attendance procedure revisions in both student handbooks. I have included below the narrative summaries from Mr. Bunn and Mr. Anderson regarding proposed changes in the student attendance procedures as currently outlined in Board Policy 503.

From Mr. Bunn

We made the switch to our secondary handbook over the summer to follow the MSBA model. With that change, we missed including some of our long-standing attendance procedures associated with the policy, which include those that pertain to student athletics and activities. Therefore, we are requesting to revise the secondary handbook to reflect those long-standing procedures that will again be included in the handbook. Some of the procedures contained in the handbook were not included in the policy and vice versa.

Additionally, with the change we have simplified the attendance policy and added the procedures to our respective handbooks which can be amended as administration needs to throughout the year without it having to go to the board for approval. With that said, the board will always have a chance to review said policy and procedures once a year as handbooks will be updated, reviewed and approved each fall.

Notable Changes:

- Family Vacation and College Visits were moved from Unexcused to Excused Absences.
- Medical documentation (note or appointment card) is required for participation in sports or activities that day and also for those absences to be excused from the semester attendance essay.

Changes made are in red in both the revised board policy and the student handbook. We are asking the board to approve the revised handbook at this time because we consider the changes to be significant enough to ask for approval.

From Mr. Anderson

Below is the updated revisions to the Elementary Student Handbook regarding student attendance.

The success of your child depends on regular school attendance. Seven or more unexcused absences from school are considered truant by Minnesota Law and will be reported to local county offices. The elementary office contacts families, via a letter, when a child reaches three unexcused absences. This letter reiterates the school's policy and expectations regarding student attendance.

When it is necessary for your child to be absent due to illness, or for other reasons, please call the school office between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. or call the attendance line at 507-416-2160 to let us know that your child will not be attending school, or if your child will be late in arriving at school. If the school does not receive a call, your child will be marked as "unexcused" for that day.

For medical, dental, orthodontic or counseling appointments, we request that an appointment card or written excuse from the doctor, dentist, counselor, etc. be provided to the school for the period of time that your child was absent from school. Please be certain that the appointment card includes the time of the appointment.

Current language

~~The success of your child depends on regular attendance. Seven or more unexcused absences from school is considered truant by Minnesota Law and reported to county offices. When it is necessary for your child to be absent due to illness or other reasons, please call the school between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. to let us know that your child will not be attending school or if your child will be late in arriving at school. Please call the attendance line at 507-416-2160.~~

~~Please try to avoid taking your child out of school early. If it is absolutely essential to do so because of a medical appointment or other urgent matter, please be certain to contact the school offices. It is recommended that doctor and dentist appointments are made outside of school hours whenever possible. When these situations are known about in advance, we ask that you send a note or contact the office. We will call your child to the office when you arrive.~~

~~*The complete policy is on file at the district office and available upon request.~~

2019-2020 School Year Calendar: The Board approved the 2019-2020 school year calendar as presented at the December 12, 2018, School Board meeting.