

Dale's School Board Meeting Recap

February 4, 2019, Special School Board Work Session

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.

The School Board held a special work session on February 4 for the primary purpose of discussing and planning for the April 9, 2019, special election. In addition to referendum planning, the Board was presented with an administrative recommendation to add two (2) additional flexible learning days to the 2018-2019 school year calendar, and administration presented information regarding the potential application and membership to Intermediate District #288.

2018-2019 School Year Calendar Modification regarding Flexible Learning Days – The Board approved an administrative recommendation to add two (2) additional Flexible Learning Days to the 2018-2019 calendar to be used in the event of school cancellations/closures as determined by the superintendent. The Board's action impacts the 2018-2019 calendar only. The two additional flexible learning days for this year will only apply to future school closure decisions beginning February 5 until the end of the school year. If both days are used, then the District will return to considering options for addressing any future cancellations. The Board did not address the January 30 & 31 school closures and the planned make-up dates of June 3 & 4. The Board may review the planned make-up dates at a future School Board meeting.

Intermediate District #288 Potential Membership Information – Administration presented the Board with an update on its ongoing work in addressing the high needs of some of our students. Since July, the Board has had two presentations by Special Education Director Heather Harms and Assistant Director Deanna Gronseth on options the District was studying in collaboration with three other school districts (Waseca, J-W-P, and W-E-M) that would provide students with more appropriate educational placements and opportunities. All four districts have identified needs in servicing singleton students who we serve but who could benefit from a full spectrum of services. Controlling costs has also been an important objective.

The four districts have been working closely with the Intermediate #288 administrative staff to learn what it would mean if we were to join. It is not automatic as the Intermediate #288 board of directors would need to approve the application. The Board may be asked to consider approving our school district to join the other three districts in making application to the Intermediate #288 at the February 19 School Board meeting.

April 9, 2019, Referendum Planning – Our consultants from ISG presented an update to the Board on progress being made in the communication planning for the April 9 special election. ISG reviewed drafts of a brochure to be mailed to every household in the school district, a potential flyer to be made available throughout our communities, and additional tools to be used in communicating information about the special election. A timeline of events was reviewed including a calendar of informational sessions in all four communities to various governmental, civic and other organizations.