

# *Dale's School Board Meeting Recap*

*May 15, 2017 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

Teaching and Learning Feature – Elementary teacher Jessica Williams and students Ethan Thompson, Gracie Williams, Emilie Dalbec, Zander Nolan, Andrew Nolan were in attendance to share highlights from their experiences participating in the Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre.

Foundation Grants – Representatives of the New Richland Foundation were in attendance to announce grant recipients. Four awards were presented including:

- Elementary Guided Reading Program for \$5,000 – Brenda Dobberstein was present to receive the award.
- Elementary Library Media – Osmo I-pad accessory for \$1,785 – Kathy Meyer was present to receive the award.
- Secondary Marching Band Wagon for \$500 – Jacob Bender was present to receive the award.
- Secondary Mobile Internet “hotspots” for \$3,150 -- David Bunn was present to receive the award.

The Foundation encourages teachers to apply for grants each year and submit no later than March 31.

Summer Workout Program – Activities Director Dan Stork presented a proposal on behalf of the head coaches and athletic department to offer a summer workout program for students who will be in grades 7-12 next school year. Students participating in the program will be charged a \$50 participation fee. For those participants who will eventually be participating in a school activity for the 2017-2018 school year, their \$50 fee will be applied to their required activity fee. For participants in the summer program who do not participate in a school activity in which an activity fee is required, the \$50 fee will go towards fitness room and equipment maintenance and upgrades. The Board approved the request.

Graduation Class of 2017 – The Board approved the 52 names presented by Principal Dave Bunn for graduation.

## Student Support

Board Policy 533: Wellness First Reading – The Board approved the first reading of a revised Wellness policy. The Wellness Policy Committee has been working for the past several months to revise the policy to reflect mandated requirement changes to take effect July 1, 2017. Waseca and Steele County Public Health has provided guidance for us in combination with MSBA. Thank you to those staff members serving on the Wellness Policy Committee.

## 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.

NRHEG PTO	\$198.00 for the Smoke Free T-shirts
JAK Enterprise – Yellow Mushroom Restaurant	\$50.00 to the Clay Target Team
Randy Cirksena – State Farm at the Barn	\$100.00 to the Clay Target Team
Mark Kath – Nordaas American Homes	\$200.00 to the Clay Target Team
Modern Metal Products	\$100.00 to the Clay Target Team
Pheasants Forever	\$1,986.00 to the Clay Target Team

2017-2018 Health Insurance Plan –At the April 17 School Board meeting, the Board approved to renew the South Central Service Cooperative (SCSC) 2017-2018 Health Insurance Plan. Since April 17, the District received additional information from Blue Cross Blue Shield that included lower rates for plans with minimal changes. Representatives of the Teacher Association attended a presentation on the updated plans and quotes. The Board approved the revised 2017-2018 Health Insurance Plan.

Preliminary 2017-2018 Budget – The Board was presented information pertaining to a preliminary budget for 2017-2018 that included a deficit budget of approximately \$73,000 due in part to expenses we believe are critical to our efforts in achieving goals and objectives in our Strategic Plan. Our fund balance is favorable, which should allow the Board to invest in one-time expenses that are not recurring on an annual basis. Examples include investing in curriculum resources that are past due as well as our ongoing commitment as a district to instructional technology. We will continue to work towards a balanced budget for the June Board meeting, but the potential exists that the adopted budget recommendation will include a planned deficit budget. As we approach the 2017-2018 school year, we will be monitoring key variables such as our projected student enrollment which is a significant resource for revenue.

School Finances and Financial Planning Model – Within the Finance focus area of the District’s Strategic Plan, the Board developed a goal to “preserve the district’s strong financial standing while maintaining programs, services, and facilities at maximum efficiency.” To achieve this goal, the Board identified four objectives including an objective that states: “By July 1, 2018, develop, adopt, and annually update a three-year budget projection plan that takes into account: enrollment projections; anticipated state and federal funding increases; and assumptions on expenditure increases. The Board also set a goal for the Superintendent that “by June 1, 2017, share preliminary draft and/or update on progress made to develop and recommend for adoption a three-year school district budget forecast taking into account: projected revenues, expenditures, and student enrollment for all funds.

The Board was presented with a recommendation for the District to purchase the Financial Planning Model and services from School Finances. Benefits of the Financial Planning model:

1. Brings together all components of financial planning (budget, staffing, audit info) in one system
2. Allows the analysis of future implications of current decisions – referendum changes, budget reductions, state funding changes, etc
3. Annual updates to insure compliance with legislative funding changes
4. Includes a 5 year enrollment and revenue projection
5. Currently used by 82 districts in the state from enrollments of 500-37,000+

The annual cost is \$3,349 over three years for the program and services. The Board will be asked to take action on this recommendation at the June 19 Board meeting.

Optional Student Insurance Plan – The Board approved Student Assurance Services for the optional student insurance program for 2017-2018.

Waste Management Agreement – The Board approved renewing our trash removal and recycling services with Waste Management for the next three years.

## **Workforce**

Resignations – The Board approved resignations as presented. We wish Secondary paraprofessional Grace Nelson and Elementary teacher Megan Wimer much success in the future as they pursue other opportunities. Thank you to Grace and Megan for their service to students.

New Hires – The Board approved three teachers to join us next year. They include:

- Miles Otstot, Band Director
- Katie Just, MS Science Teacher
- Susan Schaub, 7-12 Grade Math Teacher

Tenure and Non-tenure Contracts – The Board approved the tenure and non-tenure contracts as presented by the principals. Tenure contracts include: Megan White, Theresa Buendorf, Jillian Freeman, Samantha Klukow, and Drew Paukert. Third year contracts include Kirsten Shappell and Jessica Williams. Second year contracts include: Carrie Petsinger, Ashley Young, Katie Waters, Dena Summer, Renee Moravec, and Amy Kitzer.

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Wage and Benefits – The Board approved a recommendation to make an adjustment in the current LPN Letter of Agreement to include a District contribution to the employee's health insurance premium cost, and to allow the Superintendent to negotiate a wage of no more than \$17.50 per hour. The recommended changes were due to the District's commitment to employ a 1.0 FTE LPN and the ability to attract and retain qualified LPN candidates.

2017-2018 Staffing Plan – The Board approved the 2017-2018 staffing plan that included changes from the April 17 preliminary plan. Even though the Board approved a final plan, we will continue to closely monitor student enrollment and other needs over the summer and after the start of the 2017-2018 school year as we have in the past.