

# Superintendent Report

School Board Meeting  
March 20, 2017

## 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. Weekly District Status Report Summary from February 17, 24, and March 3 & 10.**

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

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

Red Wing: Rural schools lead Minnesota teacher shortage

Teaching: More than 25 percent of teachers leave the classroom after three years

Teaching: A snapshot of Minnesota's teacher shortage

Politics: Betsy DeVos stokes Minnesota's debate over school choice

Politics: Trump administration signals change in policy for transgender students

Personnel: New Ulm School District, like rest of state, struggles to find teachers

Column: The false promises of school vouchers and tax credits

Politics: School choice debate heats up over K-12 tax credit proposal

Graduation: Minnesota's high school graduation rates inched up last year, as racial gaps narrowed slightly

Politics: Minnesota Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius issues statement about federal guidance and transgender/gender nonconforming students

Politics: Trump administration lifts transgender bathroom guidance

Politics: Lawmakers want to overhaul how teachers get licensed

United South Central: School district tries out flex plan for its snow days

Waseca: Superintendent discusses evaluation of possible homework, grading practice shifts

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva considers parking improvements

4 ways to keep learning during snow days

Funding: Minnesota budget surplus grows to \$1.65 billion

United South Central: Not everyone happy with flex plan

Waseca and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva: Graduation rates higher in 2016

Politics: Area superintendents see pros and cons of governor's education budget

Caledonia Area: School board discusses flexible learning days

Technology: United South Central completes pilot stage of flexible learning days

Politics: "Innovative approach" proposed for teacher shortage situation

Politics: Task force sought to review "cumbersome" school financing system

Politics: School "snow days" could become "E-learning days"

Politics: School officials approach e-learning bill with caution  
Politics: E-12 education policy omnibus bill takes shape  
Politics: U.S. Senate scraps Obama regulations on school accountability  
Politics: State Legislative Auditor releases findings, recommendations for standardized student testing  
Testing: State audit finds standardized school tests costly and inconsistently useful  
Courts: Supreme Court won't hear transgender case  
Weather: Snow days could get WILD

- Building and Grounds Committee
- Finance Committee Meeting
- Policy Committee Meeting
- Community Night Out
- Paraprofessional Negotiations
- MSBA Guidance on Transgender Issue
- Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Grant Received
- Teacher Negotiations
- Facility Assessment Update
- Students volunteering in Geneva

## 2. Building Administrator Reports

3. ***Board & Administrator for Board Members Monthly Publication – February 2017 Reflection - I*** have provided a brief reflection on a few of the articles from the February publication. I hope you have had an opportunity to read and reflect.

- Tour of Gratitude boosts teamwork, commitment to mission – The article shares a testimonial from a school board in Rockford, Washington, from its “Tour of Gratitude,” where the Board and Leadership Team spend a day-long work session taking a tour of the district as they reflected “on past accomplishments, as well as an opportunity to recharge batteries for the coming work.” The Board Chair commented “the day strengthened relationships on the board team and with the leadership team while informing the board’s work.”
- Tamp down on board conflict with these strategies – The article offers board members strategies when the board is having teamwork issues. Strategies included:
  - ✓ Understand conflict is natural
  - ✓ Do not avoid conflicts – resolve them
  - ✓ Achieve consensus by airing complaints and disagreements and by giving all views a fair hearing
  - ✓ Use more “carrot, less stick.”
- Does your superintendent know what the board wants? -- The article recommends the board working closely with the superintendent to “set common goals for the district so that the administrator has no doubt in her mind what the board wants to accomplish.” The article suggests the board reflect on questions to check the clarity of the direction the board gives the superintendent.
- Duties of the Board President – The article provides examples of typical duties for the board chair.

- 4. MSBA Phase III Board Training** – MSBA is offering Phase III Trainings for board members at six different locations on six different dates in April. The objective of the training is to build a high-performing school board with a focus on leadership styles and consensus building. The closest location is Rochester on Wednesday, April 19. All trainings are from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. Please let Sue Kulseth know by April 1 if you are interested in attending. The six locations and dates are:

**Wednesday, April 5, 2017 — FERGUS FALLS**

Lakes Country Service Cooperative, 1001 East Mount Faith Avenue  
Registration deadline: March 29

**Thursday, April 6, 2017 — THIEF RIVER FALLS**

Quality Inn, 1060 Highway 32 South, Thief River Falls  
Registration deadline: March 29

**Friday, April 7, 2017 — MOUNTAIN IRON**

Northeast Service Cooperative, 5525 Emerald Avenue, Mountain Iron  
Registration deadline: March 29

**Tuesday, April 11, 2017 — MARSHALL**

Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative, 1420 East College Drive, Marshall  
Registration deadline: April 4

**Tuesday, April 18, 2017 — MAPLE GROVE** (Note: This workshop was originally scheduled for April 20)

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 11801 Fountains Way North, Maple Grove  
Registration deadline: April 11

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017 — ROCHESTER**

210 Wood Lake Meeting Center, 210 Wood Lake Drive SE, Rochester  
Registration deadline: April 11

- 5. ISG Update** –ISG plans to be in the district on March 30 & 31 assessing our facilities throughout the district.
- 6. Committee Meetings Planned** – The Policy Committee is scheduled to meet at 5:30 pm on March 20 prior to the start of the regular School Board meeting. The agenda includes review and discussion of two policies: Public Comments (206) and Consent Agenda (203.6). The Building and Grounds Committee meeting is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, March 29, beginning at 5:00 pm in the Board Room. The agenda will included a review of proposals received for the potential Ellendale Softball Field Complex parking and field access project.
- 7. Paraprofessional Association Negotiations** – The first negotiations meeting with the Paraprofessional Association is planned for Tuesday, March 21, beginning at 5:30 pm in the Secondary School Media Center.
- 8. Teacher Association Negotiations** - The first negotiations meeting with the Teacher Association is planned for Tuesday, April 4, beginning at 5:30 pm in the Secondary School Media Center.

- 9. Community Night Out** – The annual Community Night Out Live and Silent Auction sponsored by the NRHEG Parent Teacher Organization is scheduled for Saturday, April 1, 2017, to be held at Wedgewood Cove in Albert Lea. The Community Night Out event fundraises for the purpose of contributing to the life of the School District in various ways with a primary focus on students. Participation at the event as well as donations are appreciated.
- 10. Communication and Marketing Ad Hoc Committee** – I encourage the Board to consider appointing a Communication & Marketing Ad Hoc Board Committee to begin addressing the goals and objectives within the District's Communication & Marketing Focus Area. In addition to Board members and administration serving on the committee, I would encourage the Board to invite staff, parent, student, and community member representatives to be on the committee. Perhaps the Communication & Marketing Focus Area would be an appropriate topic for an upcoming Board work session.
- 11. Board Work Session** – In addition to a potential work session on Communication & Marketing, other topics may include reviewing progress being made on the District's Strategic Plan, Board goals, and Superintendent goals. This would be a continuation of the Board's work on January 30.

Thank you for all you do!

Dale N. Carlson, Ph.D.  
Superintendent