

District Status Report

18 December 2015

2015-16 Report# 21

The purpose for the weekly Status Report is to communicate to members of the School Board important and meaningful information relevant to the business of the school district. The Report is available to the public on the school district's website. Please contact me at 417-2602 if you have any questions regarding information contained in the Status Report. I would also appreciate hearing from you on ways I can improve the Report and make it more meaningful and informative for you.

Dale

Providing students with knowledge, skills, and attitudes which enable them to succeed in a globally competitive society.

Empower, Learn, Succeed

Be Positive, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe

Information – Communication -- Correspondence

1. News From Around the State and Beyond

[Graduation: Gap is closing in Minnesota for graduation](#)

[Program: ACT launches dual-enrollment initiative](#)

[Technology: The future of physical education](#)

2. 12-21-15 School Board Meeting Preview – A few items to bring attention to . . .

- a. [Teaching and Learning Feature](#) – The Board can look forward to a presentation by the *Readers Theatre* students!
- b. [World’s Best Workforce \(WBWF\) 2015-16 Plan](#) -- Terri Engel, Doug Anderson, Dave Bunn, and I will present the 2015-16 World’s Best Workforce Plan for Board approval consideration. We will be offering goals within each of the five performance measure areas required as part of the WBWF plan.
- c. [Strategic Planning Update](#) – As part of my report, I will share an update on the strategic planning process including the timeline. I will mention that Board members are asked to attend the listening sessions with the community on February 18 as well as the three committee meetings planned for March 7, March 29, and April 12. I will ask that you begin reaching out to community members and invite them to participate in the listening sessions and possibly serve on the strategic planning committee.
- d. [Community Survey Update](#) – The Board will be presented with a first look at a survey draft. Committee members (Doug Anderson, David Bunn, Karla Christopherson, JoAnn Maloney, Michele Moxon) will be available to respond to questions. The Board will be asked to consider approval of a final survey at the January 4 Special School Board meeting.
- d. [Board member e-mail and mobile devices](#) – Board members will be asked for approval to move forward with District e-mail addresses for Board members. Under a separate recommended motion, Board members will be asked to consider approving the purchase of chrome books to be used by Board members for Board-related business. The cost is approximately \$300 for each chrome book for a total of \$2,100 for the seven Board members.
- f. [Board & Administrator Publication Reflection from November](#) – I have provided a brief reflection on a few of the articles from the November publication. I hope you have had an opportunity to read and reflect.
 - [. . . board’s response to a candidate . . . ?](#) – The article reminds the board to caution a board member who may have a single focus or interest in serving on the board. A board is to “work at professionalism in its approach to school governance.” To achieve this, the article offers suggestions for individual board members.
 - [Don’t let personnel issues create confusion](#) – The article attempts to clarify roles and responsibilities between the board and superintendent especially when it comes to interaction with, and supervision of staff. “The board manages only one employee: the superintendent.” The article offers productive ways in which the board and staff may interact including presentations at a board meeting on the good work of staff with students.

- Serve your board as a general, . . . – The article speaks to the issue of “micro-management” by board members and encourages board members to lead as “generals” focusing on the strategic plan of the school district rather than the “day-to-day” activities often managed and lead by “sergeants” or staff in leadership positions.
- Establish guidelines for communicating with the public – The article offers three tips when working with the media including: 1) focus on facts; 2) do not direct blame; and 3) refer media to superintendent or board chair when unsure.

g. Board Comments – The intent of this agenda item is to provide Board members with an opportunity to share comments without Board discussion. Potential areas may include celebrations and recognitions, current events happening at the local, state, national level, committee work, workshop or conference reports, constituent communication, etc. It is acceptable to pass as well.

- 3. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** – For the past many weeks and months, information has been shared with you regarding proposed legislation marking a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), better known as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). President Obama did sign the ESSA into law on December 10.

The Minnesota School Board Association along with the National School Boards Association (NSBA) has applauded the work done resulting in the ESSA. My brief review of the highlights of the legislation suggest a positive move for public school districts beginning with a greater level of flexibility for states to direct resources to help improve student learning and achievement at the local level.

Attached to this same e-mail is a brief summary document from the NSBA that contains key information in order to provide school boards with a basic command of the new law’s impact on public education moving forward.

- 4. January 4 Special School Board Organizational Meeting**– Please plan to attend the special Board meeting planned for Monday, January 4, 2016, beginning at 6:00 pm. This will serve as the Board organizational meeting. We will also plan to present the final draft of the community survey for the Board to consider approval.

Celebrations & Recognitions

(Taken from School and Department Announcements and Communications)

Junior High Knowledge Bowl: Congratulations to the following ninth grade students who will represent NRHEG at the Regional Junior High Knowledge Bowl competition today (Friday, December 18). The team finished 12th in a field of 53 team competing.

Jager Beck
 Grace Cummings
 Aubrey Johnson
 Dylan Moser
 Jadya Surat
 Michiiah VanSyckel

FFA Ag Sales Team: Congratulations to the FFA Ag Sales team for finishing 2nd at their regional event. The team now advances to the state competition in April. The team was lead by Jessica Nafe who was the top individual in the region. She was joined by Zeke Erickson (7th overall), Tyler Mithun (8th overall) and Tyler Jacobson

School Board Calendar of Events

December 21	6:00 pm	Truth –in-Taxation Hearing – New Richland Media Center
	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – New Richland Media Center
January 4, 2016	6:00 pm	Special Organizational Meeting – New Richland Media Center
	7:00 pm	Expulsion Hearing (TENTATIVE)
January 11, 2016	5:00 pm	EDMN-NRHEG Negotiations – New Richland Media Center
January 19, 2016 (Tuesday)	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Ellendale Media Center
February 16, 2016 (Tuesday)	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – New Richland Media Center
February 18, 2016	TBD	Strategic Planning Community Listening Sessions
March 7, 2016	TBD	Strategic Planning Committee Meeting #1
March 21, 2016	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – New Richland Media Center
March 29, 2016	TBD	Strategic Planning Committee Meeting #2
April 12, 2016	TBD	Strategic Planning Committee Meeting #3
April 18, 2016	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting – Ellendale Media Center

Dale's Calendar for December 21 – December 23 (As of 12-18-15)

Monday	9:00 am	Check in with Doug
	9:30 am	Check in with Terri E.
	11:00 am	Meet with Staff Member
	1:00 pm	Check in with Dave
	1:30 pm	Check in with Karla
	2:00 pm	Check in with Sue
	6:00 pm	Truth in Taxation Hearing
	6:30 pm	School Board Meeting
Tuesday	9:00 am	Transportation Meeting with Drivers
	10:00 am	Phone Conference with School Perceptions
	10:30 am	Check in with Dave, Doug, Karla
	3:30 pm	Check in with Paraprofessional Leadership
Wednesday	7:30 am	Board Meeting Agenda Planning with Board Chair
Thursday		Offices Closed
Friday		Offices Closed

Thank you for all you do!