



TO: Northeast Metro 916 Board of Education
FROM: Dr. Val Rae Boe
DATE: February 10, 2025
RE: February 7 Board of Education Meeting Talking Points

Members present: Knisely-12, Palmer-13, Jones- 14, Forsberg-16, Oksnevad-282, Bock-621, Nitardy-622, Clark-623, Daniels- 624, Rebelein-831, Dols-833 and Thelander-834. Members absent: Stout-832.

Calendar Dates: 916 will be providing program/site visits to Member District Leaders over the next few months. A link to sign up was sent to Superintendents, Board Members and Special Education Directors and Coordinators.

- Thursday, February 27, 2025- Building Tour: Bellaire Education Center at 12:00 p.m. and School Board Orientation at 12:30 p.m., Bellaire Board Room
- Wednesday, March 26, 2025 - Building Tours: Pankalo Education Center at 8:30 a.m., Auditory Oral Program at 10:00 a.m, and 916 Mahtomedi Academy at 11:30.
- Wednesday, April 16, 2025 - Building Tours: Metro Heights Academy at 8:00 a.m. and Karner Blue Education Center at 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 14, 2025 - Building Tours: South Campus Education Center at 8:30 a.m. and Quora Education Center (Quora Secondary School and Eastview Academy) at 10:00 a.m.

Legislative Update: Valerie Dosland, lobbyist, shared an update on the House and Senate, budget recommendations, and 2025 Intermediate priorities as this 2025 legislative session begins. The MN Senate has been proceeding with daily business while the House has been in flux and must reorganize and officially begin the session. For K-12 education, the Governor has proposed minimal increases in key areas and some budget reductions in other areas. More details will become available in early March when the budget recommendations are introduced as legislation. Lastly, Valerie shared the three key priorities the Intermediates are hoping to advance this session: additional funding for the ITRAC teacher apprenticeship program, allow the Intermediates to hold in reserve student support aid, and tie the extended time revenue formula to increases in the general education per-pupil formula.

Presentation: Career and Technical Education: Michelle Baland, principal of 916 Career & Tech, shared the benefits of 916's career and technical programs for both students and member districts. There are currently over 1100 students enrolled in the 20 programs offered. Students enrolled work on their professional skills, portfolios and networking while earning college credit and industry certifications. Michelle was joined by a student from Stillwater High School who is enrolled in the Dental Careers program. He shared his positive experience attending Career and

Tech as a high school student and how it has helped him secure one of the six slots reserved for 916 students in the highly competitive Century College Dental Assistant program next year.

Presentation: Project AWARE:

Cara McGlynn, lead 916 social worker, shared an update on the Project AWARE grant. She stated the driving area of work is to develop Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems, which is an effective and broad multi-tiered system of supports approach to caring for the needs of all students. She provided an overview of the core features of a CSMHS and highlighted the well-trained educators and specialized instructional support personnel. Cara ended by sharing data that has been collected within 916 and staff trainings and resources that have been offered to member districts.

Calendars:

- The School Board approved the 2025 Summer Programming calendars for the ALC programs and ESY for the Sped Programs.
- A first reading of three calendars for the 2025-26 School Calendars were presented. The first calendar covers staff and students in the majority of the 916 programs and is very similar to current and past years. The second calendar is a stretch calendar for Mahtomedi Academy that is very similar to their current calendar. The third calendar is a stretch calendar and was an idea that formed during the Future Solution Work Group and will be trialed at Bellaire Education Center. This calendar will have the same number of staff and student days as the other 916 calendar presented, but will have more breaks throughout the year instead of a long summer break. These calendars will be brought to the March 5 meeting for approval.

Approval of Policies:

The School Board approved minor changes to Policies 512 and 519.

Approval of Letter of Intent for Leased Space to support Metro Heights Academy ALC:

The School Board approved a Letter of Intent for a leased space in Fridley which would house Metro Heights Academy. 916 has been exploring alternative sites for Metro Heights Academy ALC and has identified a location within our target geographical area that better supports programming. This location includes additional classrooms, breakout spaces, a larger commons area, private spaces for student support services, a dedicated entrance, parking and sufficient room and convenience for transportation needs.