

Date: August 3, 2018  
To: School Board  
From: Dr. Malone  
RE: Meeting Notes, August 6, 2018

## 2A. Superintendent's Report

- i. We are preparing for the upcoming school year and excited to welcome students on September 4th. New teachers and those new to the school district will begin our teacher induction and mentorship program on August 20th. Teachers will report on August 27th and all staff members on August 30th. The fall staff development schedule will focus on ensuring the use of effective instructional practices in all classrooms. This will include the instructional framework, course templates, MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Success), the teacher evaluation process, data review, and student growth. We will also focus on supporting PLCs to ensure they effectively support student learning.
- ii. The schedule is nearly finalized and will be distributed to staff and school board members on August 14th.
- iii. The September school board meeting is scheduled for September 10th (September 3rd is Labor Day). This was approved by the school board at the organizational meeting in January.
- iv. Kevin Januszewski and I have been in contact with numerous school districts and our school district auditors BerganKDV. Policies requiring a minimum of 8% of the unassigned general fund balance is very common for public school district policies across Minnesota. The current language in our Policy 714 Fund Balances: "The school district will strive to maintain a minimum unassigned general fund balance of eight (8) percent of the annual budget." I am recommending no change to our Fund Balance policy at this time.

## 3. Consent Agenda

- D. **I recommend approving the personnel items as presented** (enclosed).
- E. Policy 706 Acceptance Of Gifts permits the school board to accept donations or gifts under the terms of the policy. **I recommend accepting the gifts as described on the enclosure.**
- F. MDE requires annual school board action designating a district official to authorize user access to secure MDE websites. These are websites routinely used by school staff to submit and access information. Examples include: Accountability Reports,

Assessment Reports, Early Education Reports, and Finance Reports. **I recommend designating the superintendent as the Identified Official With Authority (IOWA) to authorize user access to MDE secure websites.**

**G. I recommend approving the lease for technology equipment as shown below.**

Purchasing 1,020 iPads now for grades 5-8 will utilize the FY 19 and FY 20 technology equipment budgets. The FY 20 technology equipment budget is larger than FY 19 due to two previous leases being paid off. Leasing to purchase now has advantages for our students in comparison to acquiring the iPads over two fiscal years:

- This will abbreviate the number of days needed for MCA testing thereby creating additional days for instruction. Our current devices for grades 5-8 do not support MCA testing.
- Four additional grade levels will have access to augmented reality instructional opportunities. Currently only the high school iPads support AR technology.

Financing quotes were received from two potential lenders. Amounts quoted below were received from Apple Finance, which quoted the lowest rate. The lease agreement has been reviewed by administration and is similar to prior agreements. We have a \$1 purchase option at termination of the lease for all equipment.

**i-Pad Lease**

**Summary of Estimated Costs**

**Estimated Equipment Costs**

1,020 - iPad WI-FI 32GB with Cases	\$325,329	
Sale of older ipads	(40,000)	10-31-2018 August 2018
Down Payment	(75,000)	Payment
Total Amount Financed	\$210,329	
	(212,322)	July 2018 Payment
<b>Total Interest Costs</b>	<b>\$(1,993)</b>	

**Lease Interest Rate** **0.99%**

**H. I recommend approving the resolution Relating To The Election Of School Board Members and Calling The School District General Election to be held on November 6, 2018.**

I. Negotiators for the Local 284 Multi-Unit and the School District reached a tentative contract agreement on July 9th. The term is July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020. The total package cost increase averages 3.1% for each year of the contract. The ratification document prepared by the union showing the changes to the contract is attached. The tentative agreement was approved by the Local 284 Multi-Unit Union on July 26th. **The Classified Negotiations Committee (Aaron, Bryan, Jason) and I recommend that the school board approve the agreement.**

4. **I have received no input on the following policies and recommend they be adopted.**
  - A. 102 Equal Educational Opportunity: Definition of “sexual orientation” in the MN Human Rights Act now includes “gender identity and expression.”
  - B. 205 Open Meetings and Closed Meetings: Provision added for Interactive Technology.
  
5. **I recommend a first reading for the following policies:**
  - A. 401 Equal Employment Opportunity: Definition of “sexual orientation” in the MN Human Rights Act now includes “gender identity and expression.” The list of protected categories is changed to match this definition.
  - B. 413 Harassment and Violence: Definition of “sexual orientation” in the MN Human Rights Act now includes “gender identity and expression.” The list of protected categories is changed to match this definition.
  - C. 419 Tobacco-Free Environment: Language updated to address e-cigarettes and related paraphernalia.
  
6. This resolution converts \$300 of the \$731 per pupil unit operating referendum approved in 2009 to Board Approved Referendum Authority. The option for school boards to approve \$300 of referendum authority was approved by the 2013 legislature. Most schools approved the conversion in the fall of 2013.

Becker’s operating referendum, in the amount of \$731 per pupil unit (and a \$400,000 net tax capacity referendum), was approved in 2009. The operating and the net tax capacity referenda are 10 years in duration and would need to be renewed in the fall of 2019.

Legislative action converted \$424 of Becker’s \$731 referendum authority from 2009 (this was done for all schools) to Local Optional Revenue in 2013. So, that resulted in Becker having \$307 per pupil of referendum authority remaining.

Enacting the \$300 Board Approved Referendum Authority will eliminate the need to renew the \$307 per pupil referendum in the fall of 2019. This will simplify the referendum campaign to focus on the net tax capacity renewal and eliminate the risk of losing general fund revenue.

Converting the \$300 will not increase or decrease school taxes. Also, it will not significantly change the total amount of operating referendum revenue that we receive.

The Becker School District currently has \$767 ppu of Approved Operating Referendum and a Capital Projects Referendum of \$420,000.

Description	PPU				
Operating Referendum Approved in 2009	\$731	Would have been renewable, Fall 2019			
Converted to Local Optional Revenue by 2013 Legislature*	-\$424				
Sub Total	\$307				
Conversion to Board Approved Referendum Authority	\$300	Renewable 2023 (every 5 years) by school board			
Operating Referendum Approved in 2015	\$460	Renewable, Fall 2025			
Sub Total	\$760	Net Operating Referendum			
Net Tax Capacity Referendum Approved in 2009	\$420,000	Renewable Fall, 2019			
<i>*Revenue received as part of the general funding formula</i>					

**Kevin Januszewski and I recommend approving the Resolution Converting Voter Approved Referendum Authority To A Board Approved Referendum Authority.**

7. Attached is a draft of “Board Goals FY 20” based upon the school boards’ discussion last month. Also attached are “Stakeholder Input by EO,” “All Input 2018,” and “Board Goals History and Results.” **I recommend the school board review the draft “Board Goals FY 20” and discuss if any changes would be desired.**
8. Per school board discussion at the June meeting, an overview of our district’s mental health resources and staff will be provided. This is the annual school board governance education. Dr. Jean Duffy (Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction) will be at the meeting to provide this information.
9. I recommend closing the meeting under the authority of MS 13D.03 to discuss labor negotiations strategy.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.