

Date: September 8, 2016
To: School Board
From: Dr. Malone
RE: Meeting Notes - September 12, 2016

2A. Superintendent's Report

- i. The fall staff development program was a success. The general session was on Thursday, September 1 and included recognition of the many achievements by the school district, an overview of goals, in introduction to Becker Innovates, and the system of support and success we are creating for every student. Building-level programs included PLCs, the instructional framework, course templates, MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Success), the teacher evaluation process, data review, and high yield instructional strategies. The high school staff toured SCTCC as part of the their staff development program.
- ii. The district goals for this year are:
 - Grades 1-8, 10 and 11 will increase achievement by a positive Z Score in reading and math comparing the actual to expected growth as determined by testing in the Fall of 2016 for NWEA to the Spring of 2017 and Spring of 2016 to Spring of 2017 for MCA.
 - Examine the viability of providing school district support for unfunded school activities (girls lacrosse, dance, marching band, robotics, hockey)
 - Provide additional financial planning instruction for high school students.
- iii. The annual orientation for site-based team members was conducted in August. An overview included the rationale for involving stakeholders in decision-making, membership configurations, statutory authority, and the decision-making matrix approved by the school board. The orientation was combined with the first SBT meeting of the year at each school.
- iv. Stakeholder involvement is critical to the success of our school district. It is essential that staff members, parents, community members, and students have a voice in the operation of our schools. To that end, along with the site-based teams, the following venues will continue again this year:
 - I meet bi-monthly with Local #284 and BEA representatives to foster communication. I appreciate the cooperation of the union leadership to engage in regular discussions, maintain open communication, and resolve issues.
 - The BEA President is invited to all Superintendents' Cabinet meetings. This group, comprised of all the department and program supervisors in the district, coordinates and resolves operational issues across the district.

- Ten “District discussions” will be conducted on Thursday mornings before school. These forums, scheduled at each school on a rotating basis, provide an opportunity for staff members to communicate with the superintendent. Those in attendance determine the discussion topics.
 - The Nutrition Committee is comprised of staff members, parents, students, and a school board representative. The group meets regularly and provides input to the food service director regarding lunch menus, nutrition, and other issues relative to the food service operation.
 - The Technology Steering Committee is comprised of staff members, parents, and a school board representative. This committee advises the technology director on matters pertinent to the district technology programs.
 - The Calendar Committee provides staff members, parents, and students a voice in creating the annual academic calendar. A school board representative is appointed to the calendar committee. The committee will convene again this year to develop a calendar recommendation.
 - The Activity Advisory Committee is comprised of coaches, parents, students, and a school board representative. This committee meets regularly to advise the activities director about policies, issues, and decisions regarding the districts’ activity programs.
 - The school boards’ strategic planning process will again involve parents, students, staff members, and community members with the school board to develop goals pertaining to the future of the district.
 - The superintendent conducts many classroom visits each year. The purpose is for the superintendent to be visible, observe classroom activities, and provide another avenue for communication with staff members.
- v. I will generate videos again this year, which provide monthly superintendent updates. The monthly “super talk” is linked from the home page on the district website and the BPS Facebook page. This communication provides timely information regarding school district initiatives, events, and other school-related items of interest to the public.
- vi. Final student test results from last Spring have been released:
- As reported last month, every Becker school surpassed the state average in math, reading, and science proficiency (attached). Furthermore, 12 of the 17 areas tested increased their proficiency score in comparison to the prior year.
 - One year’s worth of growth (positive z score), as measured by NWEA and MCA testing was attained by 7 of 16 (44%) of the grade levels/subject areas tested (attached).
 - The MMR (Multiple Measurement Rating) for Minnesota Schools was released on September 1st. The components include proficiency, student growth, achievement gap reduction, and graduation rate. Becker’s ranking in comparison to other schools in the state is attached.

vii. A school board workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14th at 6:30 p.m.

3. Consent Agenda

D. I recommend approving the personnel items as presented.

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. **I recommend designating December 5, 2016 (regular December meeting) as the Public Hearing for the FY 2016 budget and payable 2017 levy.**

4. The levy certification documents for Minnesota's public schools were issued by MDE on September 7th. Calculations will be completed on September 30th

The first "levy run" typically contains errors. Joe Prom will work with MDE to correct the calculations over the next few weeks. He will review the preliminary Payable 2017 levy information at the school board meeting.

Joe and I expect the Pay 17 Levy to be comparable to the Pay 16 Levy. **I recommend approving the maximum preliminary certification.**

A presentation covering the 16-17 budget and the Payable 2017 Levy will be provided by the business manager at the December 5th school board meeting. The final levy amount will be approved by the board at that time.

5. Proposed superintendent goals for the 2016-17 school year are attached. The format follows the goal-based Superintendent Evaluation Process developed by MSBA and MASA. The goals reflect school district goals and initiatives. **I recommend a discussion of the goals and school board approval of them if they are agreeable.**

6. **I recommend approving the following policies, which were on the agenda last month as a first reading:**

- 416 Drug And Alcohol Testing: Additional language to reflect medical cannabis legislation (MS 152.23 and MS152.24) enacted in 2014.
- 417 Chemical Use And Abuse: Additional language to reflect medical cannabis legislation (MS 152.23 and MS152.24) enacted in 2014.
- 418 Drug Free Workplace Drug Free Schools: Additional language to reflect medical cannabis legislation (MS 152.23 and MS152.24) enacted in 2014.
- 506 Student Discipline: Additional language to reflect medical cannabis legislation (MS 152.23 and MS152.24) enacted in 2014. Other changes reflect policy updates based on legislation and case law since 2008.

- 516 Student Medication Additional language to reflect medical cannabis legislation (MS 152.23 and MS152.24) enacted in 2014.
7. The school board should continue refining goals for the 2017-18 school year. The goals, tentatively agreed upon last month, are attached and aligned with the appropriate exit outcome. The school board should discuss the progress indicators **noted in yellow**. I included some suggestions.
 8. **I recommend closing the meeting under MS 13D.05 subd. 3a to evaluate the job performance of the superintendent.**

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.