

Date: December 1, 2010

To: School Board

From: Dr. Malone

RE: Meeting Notes, December 6, 2010

## 2A. Superintendent's Report

- i. All School board members are registered for the MSBA Conference Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. The conference theme this year is "History In The Making" as this is the 90<sup>th</sup> annual MSBA Leadership Conference. This is an excellent professional development opportunity for school board members (overview enclosed). I encourage board members to attend.

The Becker School Board will receive the District Award of Distinction at the Awards Luncheon on Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. To achieve this award a majority of the current board members must have received the MSBA President's or Directors' Award.

I will coordinate transportation the week of January 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you cannot attend, please notify me by December 8<sup>th</sup>.

- ii. Preparation of the FY 12 preliminary budget and revisions to the FY 11 budget are underway. Joe Prom and I will submit a budget recommendation to the school board on February 7<sup>th</sup>.
- iii. I am one of 22 Minnesota School Superintendents invited by Apple to an Executive Forum February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The executive forum will provide a setting for the selected superintendents to explore the most innovative education technology and discern a collaborative vision for true 21st century learning. The event will be hosted at the Executive Briefing Center on the Apple Corporate Campus in Cupertino, California. Apple will provide lodging, ground transportation and meals.
- iv. The Becker School District Vision Planning Team recently completed their work. The committee of parents, students, staff members, and community members met several times during the month of November to create the vision and belief statements. The school district is indebted to the vision team for their excellent work and the commitment of their talent and time: Greg Pruszinske, Sue Meyer, Mark Lumley, Nancy Helmer, Jenny Bjorlin, Michelle Peacock, Quinn Heck, Aubrey Lambert, Jen Edling, Bid Heidorf, Luke Molus, Jimmy Walsh, Lynel Johnson, Dale Christensen, Sandy Logrono, Cassie Green, Justin Hegna, and Regan Anderson.

The recommendations from the group are recommended for approval as agenda item 8. The future conditions, predicted by the planning group, are enclosed as an informational item.

- v. Input from parents about strategic goals will begin in January (assuming Policy 218 Agenda Planning is approved, item 3 E III). Parents will be randomly selected to participate. School board members will meet with the parents at 6:00 p.m. on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Input from the parents will be solicited around the following questions:
- a. What should students know and be able to do so they can thrive in our changing global community?
  - b. What do you expect from the Becker School District?
  - c. What should the Becker School District be like in ten years?
  - d. Under what circumstances (if any) would you provide additional financial support to the Becker School District?

### 3. Consent Agenda

#### **D. I recommend approving the following contracts:**

##### I. Paraprofessionals

- a. Janeen Klinkenborg, \$9.53 per hour, 3.5 hours per day until January 21<sup>st</sup>. (This is a temporary position to assist an ELL student).
- b. Joni Starry, Primary School Technology Assistant. \$23.85 per hour, 7.5 hours per day. Ms Starry was the most senior qualified applicant within the department pursuant to Article XI, Section I of the Local 284 Contract.

II. Teacher, Long Term Substitute. Carrie Lynch, 6<sup>th</sup> grade science and classroom teacher, BS, step 4, \$20,223 (prorated salary).

III. Lori Larson, Food Service Director. The board appointed Dawn, Phil, Lynel, Joe Prom and me as the individual contract committee to negotiate individual contracts. The contract includes a salary freeze (0%) for 2010-11 and a salary increase of 1.25% for 2011-12. Health insurance 10-11 \$7,318 S/\$15,290 F, 11-12 \$8,050 S/\$16,819 F. The total package increase over the two years including PERA, FICA, Life Ins, LTD, dental, TSA, and uniform allowance is 3.14%.

#### **E. I recommend approving the following policies, which received first reading last month:**

- I. 302 – Superintendent: This policy describes the overall responsibilities for the superintendent position.
- II. 217 - Delegation To The Superintendent: This policy provides that the school board will direct the superintendent through policies that prescribe strategic goals or prohibit specific actions.
- III. 218 – Agenda Planning: This policy outlines the guidelines for an annual agenda to be adopted by the school board each January. A sample annual agenda is enclosed.

F. Policy 706 Acceptance Of Gifts permits the school board to accept donations or gifts under the terms of the policy. I recommend accepting the gift of \$500 from the Becker Jaycees to purchase clothing for needy students. A letter of appreciation will be sent from the school district.

4. The school district began a decision making process regarding the activities conference membership in September. The process was designed to include all stakeholders and is outlined below:
  1. (Sept-Oct) The school district gathered information to compare the conference options including: enrollment, Becker's historical standing in the M8 by activity, activities offered, mileage, and maps. The information was posted on the district's website.
  2. (Nov 1 & 2) The Becker coaches and directors were surveyed. Nineteen of the twenty-seven coaches/directors prefer to move to the newly formed Granite Ridge Conference.
  3. (Nov 3) The Activity Advisory Council (comprised of parents, coaches, advisors, and students) studied the issue to make a recommendation. The committee recommended that Becker join the newly formed Granite Ridge Conference. The Activity Advisory Council's recommendation was posted on the District website along with the other conference information.
  4. (Nov 29) A public forum was conducted for parents, community members, and students to express their ideas and opinions. The school board was present to listen.
  5. (Dec 6) The school board should make a decision regarding the activities conference.

**I recommend the school board consider the information gathered by the school district, the recommendations of the activities advisory committee and the coaches, along with the public input from the forum.** The options available to the school board are:

- a. Remain in the Mississippi 8 Conference.
  - b. Join the newly formed Granite Ridge Conference
5. Joe Prom and I met with SchoolsMedia.com representatives last month. The company provides revenue for the school district in exchange for using 15-20% of the schools' advertising space.
    - Every advertisement is pre-approved by the school district.
    - SchoolsMedia.com is committed to strict advertising principles that protect children. Only ethical marketing is permitted, which is limited to health, wellness, and nutrition.
    - Graphics are applied after hours to lockers, benches, and floors.
    - Ads run for a quarter, semester, or year depending on the advertising contract.

- Advertising is offered to local companies that may want to promote health, wellness, and nutrition.

Given the financial crisis facing Minnesota's public schools, it is important to seek creative solutions to maintain student programs. Pictures of sample advertisements are enclosed.

The annual revenue estimate from SchoolMedia.com for advertising in the district is \$130,000. The program would begin with the second semester and yield about \$65,000 for this year.

**I recommend approving the contract with schoolsmedia.com as presented.**

The proposed advertisements will be approved by the school district using an e-mail committee of 4 parent representatives (one from each school), the student school board representative, a principal and teacher from each school, the superintendent, and a school board member.

6. Joe Prom, Director of Business Services, will present the corrected audit analysis. The FY 10 audit, described last month, has not changed. **Joe Prom and I recommend approving the FY 10 Financial Audit (enclosed).**
7. Joe Prom, Director of Business Services, will describe the Truth and Taxation data. He will also explain the Payable 2011 increase of 2.11%. **Joe Prom and I recommend approving the Payable 2011 Levy in the amount of \$7,402,253.**
8. **I recommend approving the following vision statement, supporting statements, and belief statements as developed by the district vision planning committee:**

**The Becker School District Vision is to prepare self-directed learners to thrive in a changing global community.**

### **Supporting Statements**

**Staff Members** will provide more digital learning opportunities and less traditional classroom instruction.

**Students** will have an education more focused on problem-solving skills rather than knowledge-based skills, more options and control with their own education, be more immersed in technology, and have increased collaboration with their peers.

**Parents** will need to accept and support the realities of the changing learning environment, instill core values, prepare children for change, and be motivated to pursue their own growth and education.

**Community Members** will obtain factual information to become informed about the changing needs and dissolving boundaries of traditional schooling, be asked to financially support the school district, and become more involved through volunteerism in a variety of ways.

### **Belief Statements**

**Community Members** should understand the changing landscape of education to engage with, participate in, and support the educational system.

**Staff Members** should be adaptable to learn new information and skills, which facilitate learning so students are prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world.

**Students** should become self-directed learners, self-disciplined, and autonomous workers, while being creative thinkers with a drive for innovation.

**Parents** should collaborate and understand the new realities of today's learning environment to model and teach self directed behavior and life-long learning in an environment that fosters these expectations.

The district vision and statements express the overall purpose of the school district. It sets direction and creates meaning for stakeholders. The vision will also serve as a basis for strategic planning and goal setting.

9. Policies – First Readings: (The following policies complete the minimum governance structure necessary to begin the Policy Governance process in January. Additional policies may be added as necessary).
  - A. First Reading 201 - Legal Status Of The School Board: Deletes the language, which assigns the school board as responsible for “administrative functions” and “to superintend and manage the schools”. **I recommend first reading.** School board action is not required.
  - B. First Reading 307 - Compensation and Benefits: Restricts the superintendent’s authority to jeopardize the fiscal integrity of the school district or change his/her own compensation. **I recommend first reading.** School board action is not required.
  - C. First Reading 727 - Asset Protection: Requires the superintendent to protect the school district’s assets, insure against loss, limit liability, and maintain other safeguards. **I recommend first reading.** School board action is not required.
10. **I recommend setting January 3<sup>rd</sup> as the next school board meeting to begin at 7:00 p.m. in the high school media center.** The meeting with parents will begin at 6:00 p.m. To facilitate the strategic planning process we will need several tables for the parents. Board members will be divided among the tables to facilitate the conversation and record the input. We will record the board meeting, beginning at 7:00 p.m., for broadcast.