

**TO:** Northeast Metro 916 Board of Education  
**FROM:** Connie Hayes  
**DATE:** Oct. 4, 2018  
**RE:** Oct. 3 Board of Education Meeting Talking Points

Members present: Timm, Palmer, Delvo, Kelly, Forsberg, Oksnevad, Livingston, Azer, Chapman, Olson, J. Schwartz, K. Schwartz, and Ptacek; Members absent: Sager.

- **Event:** The school board was formally invited to the Career & Tech Advisory Committee Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 2.
- **Onboarding course:** Jean Jordan, director of educational services; Elam Noor, director of technology; and Emily Thomas, technology trainer; gave the board an overview of a new online course for staff at Northeast Metro 916 aimed at increasing teacher retention, decreasing training costs, and ultimately improving outcomes for students.
- **NSBA Annual Conference:** The school board discussed which board members would travel to Philadelphia for the National School Boards Association Conference in spring 2019.
- **Board policy review:** The school board conducted a first reading of policies related to equal opportunity (102), open and closed meetings (205), public participation in school board meetings (206), gifts to employees (421), and public data requests (722).
- **Board policy approval:** The school board voted to approve policies related to equal employment opportunity (401), harassment and violence (413 and 413F), tobacco-free environment (419), student dress and appearance (504), student discipline (506) and immunization requirements (530). In response to board member feedback, the student dress and appearance policy had been modified using an equity lens to remove language that disproportionately affected young women and girls.
- **Health insurance proposal:** The school board voted to approve changes in health insurance plans with HealthPartners that eliminate the underutilized \$1,000 deductible plan and add the Achieve Network option, which has a lower deductible and premium, and a smaller network of care options. The Open Access plan also continues to be an option for staff. These changes result in approximately 12 percent lower premiums for the district.
- **Dental insurance proposal:** The school board voted to approve a renewal of our dental insurance policy with HealthPartners, resulting in a cost savings of 7 percent for the

district.

- **School board norms and evaluation:** The school board voted to approve revisions to school board norms and the accompanying self-evaluation procedure, with the aim of completing the evaluation in November and receiving the results in December.