

Date: March 6, 2015
To: School Board
From: Dr. Malone
RE: Meeting Notes, March 9, 2015

The stakeholder input session will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Teaching and Learning Center. Twenty-eight high school students were randomly selected to participate:

- 9th grade – 7
- 10th grade – 7
- 11th grade – 7
- 12th grade - 7

Students will be divided into groups for conversation with school board members at each table. School board members are asked to lead the discussion and solicit input from the students on the following topics:

- What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?
- What is your expectation of the Becker School District?
- What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?
- Why do [your parents] financially support the Becker School District? [Do you think your parents] would consider giving more?

At approximately 2:30 p.m. each table will summarize their conversation for the large group. Then the opportunity for large group discussion will be offered. The district secretary will record the input.

The school board meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m., following the discussion with the students.

1D. Maggie Maine will showcase an excerpt from her Digital Citizenship class and Judi Klosterman will showcase an excerpt from her FACS program.

2A. Superintendent's Report

- i. The 2016-17 calendar committee will meet March 24th. The committee includes parents, teachers, a Local 284 representative, a transportation representative, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, the principals, students, and a school board representative. The calendar, developed by the committee, is recommended to the superintendent. The superintendent's recommendation will be submitted to the school board at the April 6th meeting.

- ii. MDE recently announced that the statewide graduation rate for 2014 improved to 81%. The graduation rate for Becker was 94.4% last year.
- iii. Website showcase items:
 - a. Instructional Technology Examples:
<https://sites.google.com/a/isd726.org/becker-tech-department/>
 - b. Online Art Gallery
<http://beckerartgallery.weebly.com/>
 - c. Curriculum Resources
<https://sites.google.com/a/isd726.org/curriculum/>
- iv. A report from Tom Watson will be presented at the April 2nd school board meeting. The report will examine the recent increase in contracted repairs and recommend a staffing configuration for non-bus drivers.
- v. We are planning a presentation to the school board next month to highlight the personal finance and independent living skills, which are a part of the curriculum.
- vi. The Becker School District was awarded a solar electric system through a grant, awarded by the Made In Minnesota Solar Program, which is administered by the Minnesota Department of Commerce. The approximate value of the system and installation is \$250,000. There is no cost to the school district and the district should realize an annual energy savings of \$1,250. The life expectancy of the system is 30 years.

The system is a 40 KW solar photovoltaic (PV). The RAIS XT PV System is manufactured by tenKsolar of Bloomington. The system was designed, installed, and will be serviced by Innovative Power Systems of St Paul. Real time performance data from the solar system is now available to staff and students for curricular opportunities in science and technology such as the sun, solar energy, photovoltaics, and weather patterns. The system is installed on the Aquatic Center (our newest roof). A public interface will be available on our website soon.

3. Consent Agenda

D. I recommend approving the personnel items as presented.

E. MDE rules require school boards to approve the integration revenue worksheet. The revenue is used to pay for the program expenses (Coordinator, Data Specialist, staff development, and teaching FTEs related to Integration collaborative). The

program is cost neutral as the revenues match the expenses. Becker is mandated to participate under federal desegregation rules. **I recommend approving the Integration Revenue Budget Worksheet FY 16.**

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 gifts as described on the enclosure.**

4. I recommend approving the FY 16 General Fund adjustment of \$280,400 as presented.

A. Pursuant to school board direction, the superintendent presented expense reductions of \$235,400 and revenue increases of \$60,000 for a total budget reduction of \$295,400 at the February 2, 2015 meeting.

B. The budget proposal was posted on the website. Informational/input meetings were conducted with the teachers, and an informational/input meeting with for the community was conducted.

C. The February 2, 2015 proposal was modified so that instructional time, staffing, buildings and grounds, administrative budgets, and custodial accounting total expense reductions of \$210,400 while revenue increases including transportation, activities, and Federal Special Education monies in the amount of \$70,000 result in a total budget adjustment of \$280,400.

D. Changes to the final proposal from the February 2, 2015 include

- i. The teacher FTE reduction was changed from 3.4 to 2.3.
- ii. A classroom teacher was added back reducing the average first grade class size from 26 to 23.
- iii. Middle school music lessons were added back.
- iv. 8th grade health will be offered in lieu of 8th world languages/cultures to increase wellness education.
- v. \$20,000 of administrative budget adjustments were added.
- vi. \$10,000 of custodian salaries will be charged to community ed for custodial time which pertains to community ed activities.
- vii. The unreserved general fund balance will increase by \$65,000 instead of \$80,000.

E. A list of items considered for the budget adjustment, but not included is also attached.

5. An analysis of our food service program opting out of NSLP was completed by Renee Arbogast, Director of Food Service. The paper was her capstone project to complete her MBA degree. The document is attached. Renee will be at the meeting to review the report.

6. A school board workshop should be scheduled to discuss scenarios for the fall operating referendum. I suggest choosing from the following dates. March: 16, 17, 19, 23, 24.

