

TO: Northeast Metro 916 Board of Education
FROM: Connie Hayes
DATE: March 8, 2018
RE: March 7 Board of Education Meeting Talking Points

Members present: Erin Azer, Kim Chapman, Mary Kay Delvo, Marilyn Forsberg, Amy Kelly, Laura Oksnevad, Jill Olson, Laura Palmer, Mike Ptacek, Marre Jo Sager, Judy Schwartz, Katie Schwartz, and Kathy Timm. Members absent: Nancy Livingston.

- **Joint purchasing:** Pat Harris, purchasing manager for districts 916 and 287, presented a report on joint purchasing activities for the 2017 calendar year. Joint purchasing contracts are available for other school districts to purchase from; this practice increases the buying power of the contract, which in turn lowers prices for our member and non-member districts. We currently have joint purchasing agreements with 88 public entities, and in 2017 the combined total purchases made under these contracts was \$7,069,760.
- **Innovation grants:** Dan Naidicz, director of special education, outlined plans for the school district to use mental health innovation grants to fund:
 - **Educational Mental Health Elementary Classrooms (EMHCs)**, where we will have a therapist and a life skills worker working alongside teachers and EAs at Pankalo and Karner Blue.
 - **Early Childhood Intervention and Treatment Programs**, designed as an early intervention to hopefully prevent placement in level IV programs during elementary school (location TBD).
 - **Chemical Health Services** for middle and high school students that include two hours of treatment per day (location TBD).
- **Workers' compensation:** Ilissa Ramm, director of human resources, updated the school board on workers' compensation claims to date this school year, as well as some of our efforts to prevent staff injuries. Northeast Metro 916 teachers and staff work under extraordinary circumstances, and their experiences are drastically different than those in traditional school districts. Despite our best efforts, injuries happen daily.
- **2018-19 calendar:** Dan Naidicz presented a first draft of the 2018-19 calendars. The calendars are similar to calendars the school district has seen in the past few years, and incorporate needs and preferences of member districts. There are five additional staff

development days in August, during which staff will learn key strategies related to structured teaching, Professional Crisis Management (PCM) and more.

- **Retirements:** The school board recognized staff members with more than 10 years of service to Northeast Metro 916 who have retired recently or plan to at the end of this school year. Congratulations to **Sharon Feehan**, teacher (28 years); **Marian Meyer**, human resources supervisor (20 years); and **Brigid Shea**, support staff facilitator (37 years).
- **Telecommunications cooperative:** The school board voted to approve a resolution authorizing Northeast Metro 916 to establish a telecommunications cooperative, which allows member districts that do not work with TIES or will discontinue working with TIES to leverage equity aid. Equity aid provides financial assistance to schools to help with costs of maintaining internet access, video connectivity and related telecommunication services.
- **Teachers contract:** The school board voted to approve a tentative settlement with the 916 Federation of Teachers. The settlement included schedule improvements, step movement, longevity pay, and increased health insurance contributions. The contract also included extra compensation to teach after-school credit recovery classes and for teaching in a colleague's classroom when no substitute is available. Excluding a market adjustment, the MSBA settlement percentage is 6.5%.
- **Contract with community experts and Tier 1 educators:** The school board voted to approve a tentative settlement with 13 educators who have community expert licenses or Tier 1 licenses. State statute does not define individuals with these licenses as teachers so a separate employment agreement was necessary. The terms of this agreement are consistent with the tentative agreement with the teachers' union.
- **New finance director:** The school board voted to approve a new employment contract with Kim Eisenschenk, who has accepted the position of director of finance.
- **Board forum:** Several members shared updates on legislative advocacy efforts and other policy topics of interest. Several board members spoke highly of [a video produced by the Association of Metropolitan School Districts \(AMSD\)](#) that explains the unintended consequences of the special education cross-subsidy.