

Date: September 7, 2018

To: School Board

From: Dr. Malone

RE: Meeting Notes - September 10, 2018

1D. Ryan Obermoller will address the school board concerning the Dylan's Hope Foundation.

2A. Superintendent's Report

- i. The fall staff development program was a success. The general session was on Thursday, August 30 and included recognition of the many achievements by the school district departments and schools, an overview of goals, a preview of the 3rd annual Big Dog Challenge, and a review of our ongoing work to meet the needs of every student. New staff members were also introduced at the general session. The building-level programs included improving PLCs, supporting student mental health, MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Success), PBIS, school climate, staff goal setting, the teacher evaluation process, data review, high yield instructional strategies, ALICE Training, and procedures specific to each building. B-Fest, funded by the district supervisors, was enjoyed by all.
- ii. The district goals for this year are attached.
- iii. The third annual Big Dog Challenge will kick off later this month. The dates and previous projects are attached. The purpose of Becker Innovates is to foster a culture of innovation throughout the school district.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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 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 and the bus garage 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.

vi. I will produce 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.

vii. Final student test results from last Spring have been released by MDE (attached):

- The MCA proficiency results show that, once again, Becker surpassed the state average in every grade level for every test.
- One year's worth of growth (positive Z Score), as measured by NWEA and MCA testing was attained by about half of the grade levels/subject areas tested. The combined District Z Score for math and reading is positive, showing that in aggregate the district achieved one year's worth of growth. This continues to be the academic priority for our school district.

viii. Attached is some of the “Good News” I shared with the staff last week.

ix. The October school board meeting is scheduled for October 8th (October 1st is the fall MASA Conference.) This was approved by the school board at the organizational meeting in January.

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 3, 2018 (regular December meeting) as the Public Hearing for the FY 2019 budget and payable 2019 levy.**

G. Negotiators for the Becker Administrators’ Association and the School District have reached a tentative agreement on a contract for the term of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021. The language and financial information is attached. The School Board Administrative Negotiations Committee (Aaron, Connie) and I recommend approving the contract.

4. The levy certification documents for Minnesota’s public schools will be issued by MDE on September 7th. Calculations will be completed on September 28th.

The first “levy run” typically contains errors. Kevin Januszewski will work with MDE to correct the calculations over the next few weeks. He will review the preliminary Payable 2019 levy information at the school board meeting.

Kevin and I expect the Pay 19 Levy to be comparable to the Pay 18 Levy. **I recommend approving the maximum preliminary certification.**

A presentation covering the 18-19 budget and the Payable 2019 Levy will be provided at the December 3rd school board meeting. The final levy amount will be approved by the board at that time.

5. MS 126C.17 subd. 9a Board Approved Referendum Allowance was enacted in 2013 and authorizes the option for school boards to convert \$300 of referendum authority to Board Approved Referendum Authority. The Becker School Board approved this last month.

Our financial advisor (Baird), Kevin Januszewski, and I were not aware that MDE changed the “order of operation” to calculate the conversion in 2014. Please see the attached calculations.

The result of the MDE interpretation would reduce our total referendum authority from \$1,271 ppu to \$964 ppu, a reduction of \$307 if we leave the resolution adopted last month in place. Therefore, we and MDE are **recommending that the school board rescind the resolution Converting Voter Approved Referendum Authority To Board Approved Referendum Authority**, which was adopted last month.

6. **I have received no input on the following policies and recommend they be adopted.**
 - 401 Equal Employment Opportunity: Definition of “sexual orientation” in the MN Human Rights Act now includes “gender identity and expression.” The list of protected categories is changed to match this definition.
 - 413 Harassment and Violence: Definition of “sexual orientation” in the MN Human Rights Act now includes “gender identity and expression.” The list of protected categories is changed to match this definition.
 - 419 Tobacco-Free Environment: Language updated to address e-cigarettes and related paraphernalia.
7. Based on discussion from last month’s meeting, I recommend first reading of Policy 223 Strategic Goals.
8. Proposed superintendent goals for the 2018-19 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.**
9. **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.