

ISD 917 School Board Weekly Report

February 20, 2025

Updates from Dr. Favor

Greetings, Board Members! Thank you for continuing to center the students, staff, and families of ISD 917 and your home districts as we seek to understand and address decisions made at the federal and state government levels. Please take a few minutes to read [this letter](#) Dr. Melissa Schaller wrote and shared with ISD 917 families regarding the deep history of special education in Minnesota and how we will continue to embed our core values throughout ISD 917. I look forward to individual conversations with you in the coming days.

In the below photos, you can see:

An amazing performance by Special Education teacher, Darrell Pipo, and Lydia, a DCALS student, who serenaded students and staff as they entered the building this morning

An award I recently received from the Dakota-Scott Counties Workforce Development Board

Photos of our ISD 917 CTE programs in honor of CTE Month



Goal #1: Create and strengthen strategic partnerships to innovate academic programming and increase opportunities for staff and students during and beyond pK-age 22 education.

- **ITRAC Superintendents at the Legislature** - On 2/18/25, the Superintendents from the four ITRAC districts (ISD 917, 916, 288, and 287) [provided updates](#) on our ITRAC Registered Apprenticeship Program to the Senate Education Finance Committee and testified on behalf of Senator Maye Quade's [SF949](#), requesting \$3 million annually for grants for Intermediate School District special education Registered Apprenticeship programs in the next biennium.
- **Employer 101 for Reverse Job Fair** - Thank you to our partners at DEED Vocational Rehabilitation Services for leading an Employer 101 session to prepare industry representatives for the Reverse Job Fair we are co-hosting with DEED, Dakota County, the Dakota County Community Transition Interagency Committee (CTIC), Dakota-Scott County Workforce Development Board, CareerForce, and the Dakota County Perkins Consortium. They shared important information with participants about visible and invisible disabilities, the importance of an inclusive workplace, reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities, the [Employer Reasonable Accommodation Fund](#), and resources to support employers and employees. We currently have 30+ employers registered to participate in the Reverse Job Fair.
 - [Reverse Job Fair Flier](#)
 - Employer 101 Presentation Slides

Goal #2: Lead the ISD 917 district leadership team to collaboratively prioritize staff recruitment, staff retention, core values, and strategic directions, and support a sense of belonging for all students, staff, and families.

- **ISD 917 Graduations** - Graduations at ISD 917 are truly heart-warming, and we look forward to you celebrating our students' achievements with us this spring. We will share Google calendar invites with you as dates and time are booked. Below is what we know so far. We hope you can join us!
 - 6/6/25:
 - 9:00am - Concord Education Center Graduation
 - 11:00am - Lebanon Education Center Graduation
 - 1:00pm - Cedar School Graduation
- **CORE Program** - Our CORE Program is up and running to support member districts. Please remind your Superintendents about the availability for short term and long term placement.
- [District Update](#)

Goal #3: Engage students, staff, families, local communities, organizations, businesses, and governmental agencies to support students' successful transition into resident districts, workforce, and community.

- **Minnesota Humanities Center Cultural and Ethnic Studies Grants** - The Minnesota Humanities Center will award \$500,000 in [Cultural & Ethnic Studies](#) grants to support Cultural and Ethnic Studies materials "that support K-12 students in Minnesota from underrepresented communities without a formal writing system." Please share this opportunity with your district and community.
- **MnACTE Annual Conference** - On 2/17/25, Dr. Marci Levy-Maguire, Jill Kellar-Stewart, and I attended the Minnesota Association for Career and Technical Education (MnACTE) Conference in St. Cloud. The track for administrators provided important and relevant information regarding federal and state legislation relevant to CTE, CTE revenue calculations, work-based learning, and other topics that are helpful for us to consider as we move forward with CTE work at ISD 917 and throughout the Dakota County Perkins Consortium.
- **Dakota County Superintendents Meeting** - On 3/13/25, ISD 917 will host a meeting for Dakota County Superintendents to share updates and work collaboratively to achieve more together.

Equity & Other Resources

- [U.S. Department of Education Letter](#) (aka "Dear Colleague" Letter)
- [AASA Blog - OCR Guidance on Title VI Compliance for Districts](#)
- [EducationCounsel Analysis of 2/14/25 OCR "Dear Colleague" Letter](#)
- [MN Attorney General Opinion on Executive Order 14201](#)
- [AMSD Connections](#)

Upcoming Calendar Events

- 2/24/25 - Licensed Staff Professional Development (No School for Students)
- 3/24/25 -3/28/25 - Spring Break
- 4/3/25 - End of 3rd Quarter
- 4/4/25 - Secondary Licensed Staff Professional Development (No School for Secondary Students)
- 4/11/25 - Special Education Licensed Staff Professional Development (No School for Students Receiving Special Education Services)

Upcoming Board Meetings

- **3/4/25:**
 - 4:30-5:45pm - School Board Work Session
 - 5:45pm-6:15pm- School Board Regular Meeting
- **4/1/25:**
 - 4:30-5:45pm - School Board Work Session
 - 5:45pm-6:15pm- School Board Regular Meeting

Recommendation of the Week: *The Wild Robot* (animated movie)

Thank you for all you do. Be well!

Growing Together: Cultivating Community