

Date: September 10, 2015

To: School Board

From: Dr. Malone

RE: Meeting Notes - September 14, 2015

## 2A. Superintendent's Report

- i. The fall staff development program was a success. The general session on Monday included recognition of the many achievements by the school district, an overview of goals, and the system of support and success we are creating for every student. Building-level programs included PLC protocols, The Instructional Framework, Course templates, MTSS, Teacher Eval, Data Review/Student Growth, Anti-Bullying Policy, and Creativity and Critical Thinking.

The district goals for this year in support of high academic achievement for all students are:

- Grades 1-8, 10 and 11 will make one year's worth of growth in reading and math (measured by a positive z score).
  - Classroom instruction will more often foster Creativity and Critical Thinking (measured by the clarity survey).
- ii. 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.
  - iii. 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 will meet bi-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 Superintendent's 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 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.

iv. I will be using video casts again this year for 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.

v. Student test results from last Spring have been finalized and the MN MMR reports have been released.

- As reported last month, every Becker school surpassed the state average in math, reading, and science (attached).
- First and second grades attained a positive z score for reading and mathematics last year.
- Becker students increased their ACT scores from 2014 to 2015 in all areas tested: English, Math, Reading, and Science. Also, Becker scores surpassed the state ACT scores in every subject area.
- The academic goals for grades 1-8, 10 and 11 will make one year's worth of growth in reading and math (measured by a positive z score).

The MMR (Multiple Measurement Rating) for Minnesota Schools was released on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The components include proficiency, student growth, achievement gap reduction, and graduation rate (attached).

### 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 7, 2015 (regular December meeting) as the Public Hearing for the FY 2015 budget and payable 2016 levy.**

**G. Joe Prom and I recommend approving the Superintendent or Director of Business Services to enter into a lease-purchase agreement with Santander Bank, NA via Hoglund Bus & Truck Co.**

- Buses would be leased over five years. Amounts for lease payments are included in the FY16 budget for the transportation department.
- Financing quotes were received from three potential lenders. Amounts quoted below were received from Santander, which quoted the lowest rates.

The lease agreement has been reviewed by administration and is similar to prior bus leases.

#### Bus Lease Estimated Equipment Costs

2 - 2016 International 77 Passenger Buses	\$185,576	
Down Payment	-39,034	
Total Amount Financed	\$146,542	
	-39,034	October 2016 Payment
	-39,034	October 2017 Payment
	-39,034	October 2018 Payment
	-39,034	October 2019 Payment
Total Interest Costs	\$(9,594)	

**H. Joe Prom and I recommend approving a lease agreement for one year with Santandar Leasing, LLC for a 2014 Ford High Top Van with Lift and Two Wheelchair Positions. The lease payment is \$11,447 for one year. The expense is reimbursable through state special education funding. We are leasing rather than purchasing because of the uncertainty of our need for wheelchair vehicles after this year. We have the option to purchase the vehicle from Hoglund at market value with credit from the lease payment applied to the purchase price after this year.**

4. The levy certification documents for Minnesota's public schools was issued by MDE on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Calculations will be completed on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The first "levy run" typically contains errors. Joe Prom will work with MDE to correct the calculations over the next few weeks. He will review the preliminary Payable 2016 levy information at the school board meeting.

Joe and I expect the Pay 16 Levy to be comparable to the Pay 15 Levy. **I recommend approving the maximum preliminary certification.**

A presentation covering the 15-16 budget and the Payable 2016 Levy will be provided by the business manager at the December 7<sup>st</sup> school board meeting. The final levy amount will be approved by the board at that time.

5. The superintendent goals for 2015-16 were modified in accordance with discussion at the August meeting. **I recommend approving them if they are satisfactory to the school board.**
6. The regular November meeting date is November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The referendum election must be canvassed between November 6 and November 13. There are at least two options available:
  - a. Move the regular November meeting to be between November 6<sup>th</sup> and November 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Leave the regular November meeting date on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and schedule a special meeting to canvass the election (5 minutes) between November 6<sup>th</sup> and November 13<sup>th</sup>.
7. **I recommend approving the following policies, which were on the agenda last month as a first reading:**
  - Policy 419 Tobacco-Free Environment: Prohibits the school districts from accepting gifts from or promoting tobacco companies. Updates definitions.
  - Policy 509 Enrollment Of Nonresident Students: Updates definitions. Most of this policy does not apply to Becker because as a member of an integration district we are an Open Enrollment Options school district.
8. The 2015 Legislature established the Long-term Facilities Maintenance Revenue Program for school districts. The new program replaces the current Health and Safety Revenue, Deferred Maintenance Revenue and Alternative Facilities Bonding and Levy programs, beginning in FY 2017. To qualify for Long-term Facilities Maintenance Revenue, school districts, cooperatives and intermediate districts must have a 10-year plan adopted by the school board and approved by the commissioner.

Joe Prom, ICS Consulting, TJ (Becker Director of Buildings and Grounds), and I have analyzed the long-term facilities maintenance needs of the district to develop the 10-year plan. The plan can be revised annually. School board approval of this document qualifies the district for the funding. **Joe Prom and I recommend approving the 10-year plan for Long-term Facilities Maintenance Revenue.**