



NORTHEAST METRO | 916
Intermediate School District

partners in education

TO: Northeast Metro 916 Board of Education
FROM: Connie Hayes
DATE: June 23, 2017
RE: June 21 Board of Education Retreat Talking Points

Members present: Tracy Brunnette, Marcia Lindblad, Nancy Livingston, Janet Newberg, Laura Oksnevad, Laura Palmer, Mike Ptacek, Marre Jo Sager, Judy Schwartz, and Gail Theisen.
Members absent: Erin Azer, Marilyn Forsberg, Amy Kelly, and Kathy Timm.

- **Enrollment trends:** The school board examined enrollment trends and its relationship to facilities use in the school district. They explored overall enrollment over time, enrollment by membership status, open enrollment, program capacity, wait lists, disability trends, grade level trends, and more. General conclusions are:
 - **Enrollment is increasing more than we expected** when we approved our facilities plan in 2012. The biggest increases are at the elementary level and among students who have autism or emotional/behavioral disorders.
 - **We cannot continue to do more facilities projects;** the best thing for students is for them to learn in the least restrictive environment, which for many students means staying in their home districts. We need to think differently in order to prevent level IV placement.
 - In addition to preventing level IV placement, we can ease transitions for students who do come to our programs by **equipping member districts with tools to effectively accommodate them** upon their return.
 - We are uniquely equipped to **support member districts' level III programs.**
- **Legislative update:** School district leaders presented preliminary plans for new legislative funding dollars that address students' mental health needs in level IV special education programs. Highlights include:
 - **Improving tier 1 services** with existing district resources, and **expanding tier 2 and 3 services** with legislative dollars. By investing more in students who need tier 2 and 3 services, we can prevent hospitalization or day treatment placement in the future. This will also ensure teachers can focus on teaching, creating a culture of engagement and learning for all students.
 - **Creating a new and innovative day treatment program** for students with the highest needs that fully-integrates education and mental health treatment. This temporary program will get students on track so they can be successful in less restrictive environments.

- **Creating an early childhood program** as a way to intervene early and hopefully prevent level IV placement.
- Creating an advisory group to use technology to measure progress and ensure accountability
- The goal is to have a partnership established and resources available by January 2018, with **new programs launching in fall 2018.**

You can find the full agenda at: <http://www.nemetro.k12.mn.us/Page/2733>.