



NORTHEAST METRO | **916**
Intermediate School District
partners in education

TO: Northeast Metro 916 Board of Education

FROM: Connie Hayes

DATE: December 3, 2015

RE: December 1 Board of Education Meeting Talking Points

Members present: Auge'-622, Brunnette-833, Edstrom-623, Forsberg-16, Lindblad-14, Lodico-12, Newberg-624, Palmer-13, Ptacek-834, Sager-621, Schwartz-832 and Theisen-831. Members absent: None.

Among a number of topics discussed at the December 1, 2015 meeting of the Northeast Metro 916 School Board, the following agenda items were addressed:

1. **Acceptance of St. Francis as New Member:** The School Board approved the resolution to authorize St. Francis School District #15 to become a member of Northeast Metro 916. St. Francis has frequently utilized services as a nonmember and by using Northeast Metro 916 as the primary service for Level IV special education in the future will help them to be more cost effective. The St. Francis School Board voted on November 9 to become a member and with this resolution, St. Francis is now an official member district. Superintendent Troy Ferguson, Director of Special Education Tim Finn, and School Board Members Suzanne Erkel and David Roberts were present at the meeting to let the board know of their interest in becoming a member of Northeast Metro 916.
2. **Pankalo Education Center Update:** John Huenink, Kraus-Anderson, and Steve Erickson, BWBR, along with Kristine Carr, director of administrative services provided the School Board with an update of the design progress for Pankalo Education Center in Lake Elmo. Using Karner Blue Education Center as a basis for the design, the school will be similar in size (72,000 square feet) and be designed to have the possibility for future additions. Using learnings from Karner Blue, the new building will also make some modifications including:
 - Natural light will be visible in all classrooms, as well as the common areas
 - The intervention area will be designed with softer walls and colors to provide a more calming environment to help students regulate their behavior
 - The small windows in the classrooms at elementary student height (pictured right) have been popular. In



the new design, these windows will be deeper and include a bench-like bottom to better enhance the student use of that area.

In addition, the School Board accepted the project bid awards presented by Kraus-Anderson. The costs are only slightly above the projected construction budget by approximately \$23,800. However, with a 4% contingency budget, those additional costs will be accommodated.

3. **Fiscal Year 2015 Audit:** Jim Eichten, MMKR, provided the School Board with an overview of the fiscal year 2015 audit and noted that it was a clean audit and praised the hard work of the business office.
4. **Fiscal Year 2016 Revised Budget:** The School Board approved the fiscal year 2016 budget revisions made in accordance with recommended guidelines from the district auditor. The revisions include modifications reflecting changes in revenue (i.e., grants, revised tuition) and in expenditures (i.e., salary contract projections and settlements, grants) which have occurred after the preliminary budget approval in June.
5. **VEBA Change of Trustee Approval:** The School Board approved the recommendation appointing Trustpoint as the new trustee of the Northeast Metro 916 VEBA Trust effective January 1, 2016. This follows the move in benefit administration for VEBA, Section 125 and COBRA benefits to Corporate Health Services.
6. **School Board Policy 201 Discussion:** A concern from one of the School Board members regarding the recently adopted Policy 201, Legal Status of the School Board, was brought forward. The School Board discussed the pros and cons of having school board alternates and will have additional discussion about the policy in the future.

School Board Members Theresa Auge' and Lisa Edstrom noted that this was their last meeting as members of the school board. Northeast Metro 916 thanks each of them for their four years of service to the district.

You can find the full December 1 board agenda at: <http://www.nemetro.k12.mn.us/Page/2733>