

Date: May 1, 2014  
To: School Board  
From: Dr. Malone  
RE: Meeting Notes - May 5, 2014

## 2A. Superintendent's Report

- i. The employee health insurance committee will meet on May 19 to discuss the district's health insurance program. The Becker School District has been self-insured using Health Partners as the provider since October 1, 2013. The committee consists of employee representatives from Local 284 SEIU, BEA, and the BAA. Laurie Wilkowski from Associated Financial Group (our independent insurance analyst), Joe Prom, Diane Koubsky (payroll coordinator) and I also serve on the committee. The district will make a determination for premiums to be effective October 1<sup>st</sup> in late August.
- ii. The Becker School District has been awarded a solar electric system through a grant, awarded by the Made In Minnesota Solar Program, which is administered by the Minnesota Department of Commerce. The approximate value of the system and installation is \$250,000. There is no cost to the school district and the district should realize an annual energy savings of \$1,250. The life expectancy of the system is 30 years.

The system is a 40 KW solar photovoltaic (PV). The RAIS XT PV System is manufactured by tenKsolar of Bloomington. The system is designed, installed, and serviced by Innovative Power Systems of St Paul. Real time performance data from the solar system will be available to students to provide curricular opportunities for science and technology such as the sun, solar energy, photovoltaics, and weather patterns (attached).

- iii. The 2015-16 academic calendar was submitted to the school board in April for approval. However, the motion to approve the calendar resulted in a tie vote and the item was tabled.

Approving the academic 2015-16 calendar, developed by a committee of stakeholders, is consistent with Policy Governance. The Calendar Committee was established by, and under the authority of, the superintendent. Therefore, the following policies

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would be applicable to the calendar committee: 302 Superintendent, 217 Delegation To The Superintendent, and 221 Macro Governance.

Policy 213 School Board Committees addresses committees comprised of school board members. The standing committees governed by Policy 213 School Board Committees are: Certified Negotiations, Classified Negotiations, Administrative Negotiations, and Individual Contract Negotiations.

The school board also assigns members to serve as members on various committees with other stakeholders: Community Ed, ECFE, Curriculum Advisory, Activities Advisory, Technology Committee, and Construction Committee. I will recommend that the school board appoint a member to serve on the calendar committee at the next organizational meeting (January).

- iv. The School District will present Kendra Buettner with a Certificate of Recognition for her excellent service as the Student School Board Representative during the 2013-14 School Year.

### 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. MS 123C.01 requires individual school boards to authorize membership in the Minnesota State High School League each year. Approving MSHSL membership affirms 1) that the school district delegates control, supervision and regulation of MSHSL activities to MSHSL, 2) that the school district adopts the constitution, bylaws, rules and regulations of the MSHSL, 3) that the administration and responsibility for supervising MSHSL activities are assigned to the superintendent. **I recommend approving membership in the MSHSL for the 2014-15 school year.**

G. **I recommend approving the 2015-16 calendar** (enclosed). The calendar committee met March 20 and developed the 2015-16 calendar. The committee this year included 7 employees, 2 high school students, 4 parents, 4 principals, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and the superintendent. The committee discussed the placement and number of vacation days to surround holidays, spring break, the pros and cons of conducting school the second week of June, and allowing for snow make up days. The committee discussed that a student major trip could still occur without a spring break.

- The 2015-16 calendar is similar to previous calendars with a winter vacation. However, the spring break for students consists of no classes on March 25, 28, and 29.
- Classes for students begin on September 8, 2015 and conclude June 2, 2016.
- The calendar includes 173 student contact days and 9 teacher staff development days to comply with the BEA contract. (Of the 9 staff development days 3 must be designated for parent teacher conferences, open house days, or parent orientation days; three ½ days (1.5) must be designated as grading days at the end of the first, second, and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters.)
- The calendar includes five early dismissal days for staff professional development.
- The 2016 graduation will be Friday, May 27.

I appreciate the good work of the calendar committee to develop a calendar, which meets the needs of various stakeholders throughout the school district.

4. MS 12D.02 School Board Powers; Enrollment and MS 120B.15 Gifted and Talented Students Programs were amended by the 2013 legislature. Accordingly, revisions to District Policy 556 Early Admissions are necessary. A first reading of the policy was conducted last month. I have heard no input regarding the policy. **I recommend adopting the policy.**
5. **I recommend a first reading of the following policy revisions:**
  - A. 710 Extracurricular Transportation: Clarifies that MS 169.011 Subd. 71 excludes Type III Vehicles from the definition of a school bus. Accordingly, employee personal vehicles cannot be used to transport students.
  - B. 610 Student Travel / Field Trips: Clarifies that MS 169.011 Subd. 71 excludes Type III Vehicles from the definition of a school bus. Accordingly, employee personal vehicles cannot be used to transport students.
6. Pursuant to the School Board's Annual Agenda, adopted in January, the discussion of strategic goals and the development of exit outcomes should begin in May.

The input from stakeholders has been combined and grouped by each of the four questions (enclosed). The school board should review the stakeholder input comments for accuracy.

Next month the school board will assign the stakeholder input to the School Board Exit Outcomes (enclosed).

**7. I recommend closing the meeting pursuant to MS 13D.03 to consider strategy for labor negotiations.**

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.