

TO: Northeast Metro 916 Board of Education
FROM: Connie Hayes
DATE: Dec. 7, 2017
RE: Dec. 6 Board of Education Meeting Talking Points

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

Members absent: Nancy Livingston and Judy Schwartz

- **Career options for students:** Dana Piper, teacher, and Jill Stewart-Kellar, principal, from the Career & Technical Center shared how a new approach to career counseling is increasing academic engagement and future planning in younger generations.
- **Audit report:** The school board received a report that an auditor prepared for Northeast Metro 916's budget during the 2016-17 school year. The auditor found:
 - Zero deficiencies in the school district's internal control over financial reporting that they considered to be material weaknesses.
 - Zero instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.
 - There was one instance in which the district did not properly post a request for proposal (RFP) in the newspaper, which was out of compliance with state law. The district will work to correct this oversight in the future.
- **Meeting schedule:** The school board agreed to a meeting schedule for the 2018 calendar year. The schedule calls for all meetings to occur the first Wednesday of each month, with the exception of January, which would occur on the second Wednesday.
- **Board policies:** The school board voted to approve changes to policies related to veteran's preference (405), waste and recycling (805), and budget adoption (701).
- **Collective bargaining agreements:** The school board voted to approve new employment contracts for the manager/assistant manager bargaining group, and the classified confidential bargaining group. The effective dates of both contracts are July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019.
- **Board officer election:** There will be a transition in board leadership as longtime board chair, Tracy Brunnette, will not be returning to the board. Members voted to approve a new process for selecting board officers in January. Moving forward, members will be able to self-nominate themselves for officer candidacy, rather than requiring officer candidates to be nominated by a

colleague. This process is aligned with Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) guidelines.

- **Benefits administration:** The benefit administration for VEBA, Section 125 and COBRA benefits will be moving to 121 Benefits effective January 1, 2018, due to continued service issues with the current administrator. The school board voted to approve changing the VEBA trustee to accommodate this change.
- **School board resolution:** The school board voted to approve two resolutions that call on the state and federal government to fully-fund special education services.
- **Site visits:** School board members and their superintendents are invited to visit programs that are in the same or similar geographic regions of the member district. The next visit will be to the Career & Technical Center on Jan. 9, and visitors were asked to RSVP to Linda Zahradka at lzahradk@916schools.org.