

TO: Northeast Metro 916 Board of Education
FROM: Connie Hayes
DATE: Nov. 2, 2017
RE: Nov. 1 Board of Education Meeting Talking Points

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

Members absent: Marcia Lindblad.

- **SRO program:** Jean Jordan, director of educational services; and Principals Ann Peterson and Liz Shopbell presented information to the board about how four school resource officers (SROs) make a positive difference in the lives of our students, staff and programs.
- **Summer institute pilot:** Theresa Wallace, teacher, gave an overview of a pilot program in St. Francis that Northeast Metro 916 conducted in order to train teachers and paraprofessionals on ways to enhance communication, instruction, and do more proactive interventions in level III special education programs. The goal is to reduce the number of referrals to Northeast Metro 916.
- **Construction update:** Jamin Wood, buildings and grounds supervisor, updated the school board on the construction progress of Quora Education Center, a 6-12 school that is due to open in fall 2018 in Little Canada. Construction progress so far is within anticipated timelines and budgets.
- **Quora logo:** Syreeta Wilkins, director of communications, unveiled a logo for Quora Education Center, which was designed by LSE Architects over several weeks of design planning.
- **Supporting immigrant staff:** Marian Meyer, human resources supervisor; and Megan McAllister, staffing coordinator; shared with the school board a story of how a teacher for the blind overcame immigration challenges so she could serve the students in our school district.
- **School lunch procedure:** Syreeta Wilkins updated the board on changes to the school district's procedure for managing unpaid lunch balances and ensuring no student goes hungry during the school day.
- **Annual report:** Syreeta Wilkins presented the [2016-17 annual report](#), summarizing enrollment data, budget information, services to member districts and other highlights from last school year.
- **Make it OK campaign:** Syreeta Wilkins gave the school board a summary of the Make it OK campaign, which is being promoted at Northeast Metro 916 through Dec. 6. Make It OK is an

anti-stigma campaign that encourages individuals to talk more openly about mental health. By breaking the silence, we can help our friends, neighbors, loved ones, and colleagues feel understood and supported. Learn more at MakeItOK.org.

- **Board policies:** The school board did a first review of changes to policies related to veteran's preference (405), waste and recycling (805), and budget adoption (701). The board also voted to approve revisions to policies related to staff development (425 and 619), curriculum and instruction goals (601) and system accountability (616).
- **Quora construction changes:** The school board voted to approve a change order to construction plans for Quora Education Center which includes soil corrections, elevator work, and additional drain tile.
- **MDE designated authority:** The school board voted to authorize Superintendent Hayes and Julie Lavell to be designated authorities for the Minnesota Department of Education's (MDE) External User Access Recertification System.
- **Site visits:** School board members and their district administrators were invited to visit programs that are in the same or similar geographic regions of the district. The next visit will be to South Campus and Bellaire Education Center on Nov. 29, and visitors are asked to RSVP to Linda Zahradka at lzahradk@916schools.org.

You can find the full agenda at <https://www.916schools.org/Page/3197>.