School Board Meeting: **November 9, 2009**

Subject: Student Support Services

Presenter: **Joy Kieffer**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

None – report only

DESCRIPTION:

Student Support Services: School Social Workers, Counselors

School Social Workers (K-12): School Social Workers work with eligible students who receive services based on an Individual Education Plan. School Social Workers hold licenses through the Minnesota Department of Education as licensed teachers. Federal regulations implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act define social work services in schools as a related service in special education. These services include:

- Preparing social or developmental histories on children with disabilities
- Providing group and individual counseling to children and their families
- Working with problems in children's living situation that affect their adjustment in school
- Mobilizing school and community resources to optimize student's potential to learn in their educational programs
- Designing and implementing behavior management plans

School Counselors (6-12): School Counselors work with all students, school staff, families, and members of the community as an integral part of the education program. School counselors are licensed through the Minnesota Department of Education. School counseling programs promote school success through a focus on:

- Academic development/support
- Career development
- Personal and social development

School Psychologists (birth- 21): School psychologists are trained in both psychology and education. They collaborate with educators, parents and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments. They are certified and hold teaching licenses through the Minnesota Department of Education. The domains of practice of school psychology are:

- Data-based decision-making and accountability
- Consultation and collaboration
- Effective instruction and development of cognitive/academic skills
- Socialization and development of life skills
- Student diversity in development and learning
- School and systems organization, policy development and climate
- Prevention, crisis intervention, and mental health
- Home/school/community collaboration
- Research and program evaluation
- School psychology practice and development
- Information Technology