

MEMO

To: Duluth School Board
William Gronseth, Superintendent

Cc: David Spooner

From: Douglas A. Hasler, CFO *DH*

Date: April 12, 2018

Re: School Forest Designation

Following up on concerns raised by School Board members during the most recent Business Committee meeting, Dave Spooner and I had a phone conference with Karen Harrison, School Forest Specialist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. In this phone conference, Mr. Spooner and I requested clarification as to the extent to which a school district is subject to DNR restriction in the event that there is a future need to expand a school building, and/or make property improvements that infringe upon a School Forest boundary.

Ms. Harrison clarified that a school district maintains ownership and control over school property which falls within a designated School Forest. Further, she confirmed that a school district could make future improvements affecting land within a designated School Forest without restriction, or approval from DNR.

Ms. Harrison followed up our phone conversation with a letter to document our understanding of the absence of restrictions on school district ownership and control over school property which is part of a designated School Forest. A copy of that letter is included in the Board packet.

I hope that this information is helpful to you.