

Date: September 4, 2014

To: School Board

From: Dr. Malone

RE: Meeting Notes - September 8, 2014

2A. Superintendent's Report

- i. The fall staff development program was a success. The general session on Monday included an overview of the district goals, PLCs, the Becker Instructional Model, the new Becker Teacher Evaluation Model and update of the construction projects. Building-level programs included the updated Anti-Bullying Policy, utilizing technology to maximize student learning, Google docs training, and time in PLCs. The district goals for this year in support of high academic achievement for all students are:
 - 1st grade students: exceed the national mean growth target for NWEA reading and math by 5 RIT points from Fall to Spring.
 - 2nd grade students: exceed the national mean growth target for NWEA reading and math by 3 RIT points from Fall to Spring.
 - Students in grades 3-8, 10 & 11 increase MCA Math and Reading by 4% this year.
 - An additional 10 ELOs per school (40 total) will be supported by technology at the "modification" or "redefinition" level on the SAMR Scale.
- ii. The annual orientation for site-based team members was conducted August 19. An overview included the rationale for involving stakeholders in decision-making, membership configurations, statutory authority, and the decision-making matrix approved by the school board. Most SBT members were in attendance. Each SBT conducted their first meeting of the year after the general overview.
- iii. Stakeholder involvement is critical to the success of our school district. It is essential that staff members, parents, community members, and students have a voice in the operation of our schools. To that end, along with the site-based teams, the following venues will continue again this year:
 - I will meet bi-monthly with Local #284 and BEA representatives to foster communication. I appreciate the cooperation of the union leadership to engage in regular discussions, maintain open communication, and resolve issues.
 - The BEA President is invited to all Superintendent's Cabinet meetings. This group, comprised of all the department and program supervisors in the district, coordinates and resolves operational issues across the district.

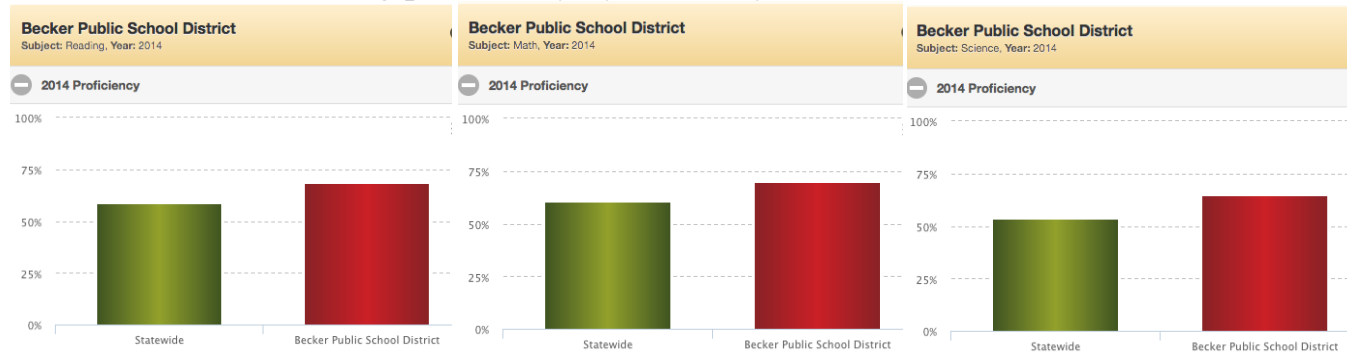
- Ten “District discussions” will be conducted on Thursday mornings before school. These forums, scheduled at each school on a rotating basis, provide an opportunity for staff members to communicate with the superintendent. Those in attendance determine the discussion topics.
- The Nutrition Committee is comprised of staff members, parents, students, and a school board representative. The group meets regularly and provides input to the food service director regarding lunch menus, nutrition, and other issues relative to the food service operation.
- The Technology Steering Committee is comprised of staff members, parents, and a school board representative. This committee advises the technology director on matters pertinent to the district technology programs.
- The Calendar Committee provides staff members, parents, and students a voice in creating the annual academic calendar. The committee will convene again this year to develop a calendar recommendation.
- The Activity Advisory Committee is comprised of coaches, parents, students, and a school board representative. This committee meets regularly to advise the activities director about policies, issues, and decisions regarding the districts’ activity programs.
- The school boards’ strategic planning process will again invite parents, students, staff members, and community members to meetings beginning in January. These discussions provide stakeholders an opportunity to collaborate with the school board to develop goals pertaining to the future of the district.
- This year the superintendent will conduct at least 40 classroom visits. The purpose is for the superintendent to be more visible, observe classroom activities, and provide another avenue for communication with staff members.

iv. I will be using video casts again this year for monthly superintendent updates. The monthly “super talk” is linked from the home page and the superintendent’s page on the district website. This communication provides timely information regarding school district initiatives, events, and other school-related items of interest to the public.

v. The Becker School District aggregate MCA results are shown below. MCAs are administered to students in grades 3-8, 10 (reading), and 11 (math). The MCA science is administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 10.

- Every Becker School surpassed the state average in reading, math, and science with the exception of high school math.
- MCA reading scores increased in comparison to last year for 6 of the 7 grade levels tested. MCA math scores increased in comparison to last year for 4 of the 7 grade levels tested. MCA science scores increased in comparison to last year for 3 of the 4 grade levels tested.
- I commend the improvement and success achieved by many of our grade levels and academic areas. I expect that Becker Student test scores will further improve.

- The Intermediate, Middle, and High School building goals are to increase MCA Math and Reading proficiency by 4% this year.



Proficiency is one component of the MMR (Multiple Measurement Rating) upon which schools are measured for accountability. The other components are student growth, achievement gap reduction, and graduation rate. The MMR scores will be released by MDE on October 1st.

- vi. The June consent agenda included a lease purchase agreement with Sovereign Bank via Hoglund Bus & Truck Co. to lease 2 busses over 5 years. The expense is included in the FY 15 budget for the transportation department. Hoglund Bus & Truck Co. is no longer affiliated with Sovereign Bank. The June minutes were amended to delete Sovereign Bank from the lease approval last month. Subsequently, Hoglund Bus & Truck requested that we add SunTrust Equipment Finance & Leasing Corporation and delete Hoglund from the lease. The June minutes are amended accordingly under consent agenda item 3A.

3. Consent Agenda

D. I recommend approving the personnel items as presented.

E. I recommend designating December 1, 2014 as the public hearing for the Becker FY 2015 budget and payable 2015 levy.

F. I recommend approving the Student Extended Trip for the high school choir and band, March 26-31, 2015, as presented. The proposal was developed in accordance with Policy 566 Student Extended Trip Policy. The proposal complies with the requirements of the policy.

G. 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.

4. The levy certification documents for Minnesota's public schools will be issued by MDE on Monday, September 8th. Information will be forwarded to school board members when it is available.

The first “levy run” typically contains errors. Joe Prom will work with MDE to correct the calculations over the next few weeks. He will review what we have of the Payable 2015 Levy at the school board meeting.

Joe and I expect the Pay 15 Levy to be comparable to the Pay 14 Levy within a few percentage points. **I recommend approving the maximum preliminary certification.**

A presentation covering the 14-15 budget and the Payable 2015 Levy will be provided by the business manager at the December 1st school board meeting. The final levy amount will be approved by the board at that time.

5. I recommend first reading of the following policies:

A. Policy 902 Use Of School District Facilities, Addendum 1 (changes approved by the Community Education Advisory Committee): Clarifications regarding concession stand use and pool lifeguards.

B. Policy 902 Use Of School District Facilities, Addendum 2 (this is a new policy and has been approved by the Community Education Advisory Committee).

6. I have received no input on Policy 521 Disability Nondiscrimination and Policy 709 Transportation Safety and recommend they be adopted.

7. The school board approved the 2014-15 district goals last December. Included with the information was a statement that “the superintendent will report the number of ELOs supported at the “modification” or “redefinition” level on the SAMR Scale to the school board no later than August of 2014 and again at the end of the 2014-15 school year.”

Last month I reported that 96 of 1,317 ELOs were identified at the “modification” or “redefinition” level. So, an additional 10% would be 10. Since the administration set a goal of adding 40 ELOs (10 per school) at the “modification” or “redefinition” level, **I recommend changing the board goal from 10 to 40** as shown on the enclosure.

8. The board should begin to develop strategic goals for 2014-15. The input from stakeholders is enclosed. A blank template for drafting goals is also enclosed.

The input from stakeholders (enclosed) should be used to develop strategic goals. The board should complete this process during the September, October, and November meetings. The goals should be adopted at the December meeting. The goals should:

- Support an exit outcome (listed on the template)
- Not exceed three (two recommended)

SMART Goals are:

S = Specific

M = Measurable

A = Attainable

R = Realistic

T = Timely

A list of potential goals or goal areas would be an excellent outcome for this agenda item.