



TO: Northeast Metro 916 Board of Education
FROM: Connie Hayes
DATE: December 3, 2014
RE: December 2 Board of Education Meeting Talking Points

Members present: Forsberg-16, Lodico-12, Newberg-624, Palmer-13, Schwartz-832, Ptacek-834, Sager-621, and Theisen-831.

Members absent: Auge'-622, Brunnette-833, Edstrom-623 and Lindblad-14.

Among a number of topics discussed at the December 2, 2014, meeting of the Northeast Metro 916 School Board, the following agenda items were addressed:

1. **Jim Eichten, MMKR, presented the audit.** Jim presented the audit for Northeast Metro 916 and Valley Crossing to the school board. He offered a clean opinion. One finding (the first in about five years) was identification of lack of internal controls to ensure compliance with procurement, suspension and debarment compliance requirements in the career and technical education federal program. He noted that the district had not procured inappropriately, only that the internal control had not yet been established. Jim reported that the district is in good financial position regarding cash and investments and has an 8.2% unassigned fund balance which is very close to the board's goal of 10%.
2. **LSE Architect updated the board on the study in progress at Capitol View Center.** LSE is conducting a study on our high school facility in Little Canada. The purpose is to determine options for the board to consider regarding upgrading the building, replacing it, or a combination of both that would be staged over time so as not to displace the students in the building. LSE has extensive experience in schools and in particular in environments with special needs students. They just completed a big project with the Washburn Center for Children and will be able to utilize some of their applications to that environment to this facility. LSE will be updating the board several more times this winter and spring.
3. **Alyssa Diamond, communications coordinator, presented the workplace culture survey results.** The report, representing a 71% completion rate by employees, shows us there is significant agreement across the district that we have a positive district and school culture, and in fact that positivity is growing. The overall percentage of staff that report the highest satisfaction and engagement grew from 67% last year to 73% this year. Out of the 15 dimensions, where a score of 4 is considered to be a strength, 8 were over 4 and for the remaining 7, all of them were close to 4, the lowest being 3.86. One of the important things we learned from our consultant is that no matter what the score is, it is important to keep working on it. Our district goal set a high vision of reaching 90% with the overall satisfaction/engagement. Last Year each program requested a report

specifically for their own work group. Planning at that level as well as at the district level, will result in specific action plans for this next year to see if we can get closer to our district goal.

4. **The board discussed the resolution in progress for the MSBA Delegate Assembly:** A resolution was presented to MSBA for the delegate assembly that would expand the uses of the already funded lease levy for the intermediates so that if the board decides to renovate Capitol View rather than replace it, those funds could be used. However, some opposition from greater Minnesota collaboratives who do not have this same lease levy authority developed. The board decided to pursue withdrawing the resolution at the delegate assembly this weekend to avoid the possibility of it going down on the floor. If this happened, the MSBA lobbyist would have to report a lack of support to our legislative request in committee hearings.