

Date: January 29, 2015
To: School Board
From: Dr. Malone
RE: Meeting Notes, February 2, 2015

The stakeholder input session will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Teaching & Learning Center. Thirty-six employees were randomly selected to participate:

- Teachers - 16
- Local #284 – 16
- Principal - 1
- Transportation – 1
- Food Service – 1
- District Office - 1

Employees will be divided into groups for pizza and conversation with school board members at tables. School board members are asked to lead the discussion and solicit input from the employees on the following topics:

- What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?
- What is your expectation of the Becker School District?
- What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?
- Why do you financially support the Becker School District? Would you consider giving more?

At approximately 6:00 p.m. each table will summarize their conversation for the large group. Then the opportunity for large group discussion will be offered. The district secretary will record the input.

The school board meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m., following the discussion with staff.

2A. Superintendent's Report

- i. TRAK is celebrating its one-year anniversary! TRAK (Together Raising Area Kids) is comprised of Parents, Dylan's Hope Foundation, Mental Health Professionals, CentraCare, Becker Police Dept, Sherburne County Sheriff's Dept, The Faith Community, Sherburne County Probation, Sherburne County Health and Human Services, Students, and Becker School Staff. The TRAK mission statement is to "foster a safe and healthy environment for the Becker Community, by promoting mental health and resiliency." By-laws were approved last month and officers will be

elected this month. Student TRAK members recently attended the MN High School Suicide Prevention Youth Summit.

The Search Institute Developmental Assets survey was administered to almost 1,600 Becker Students in grades 4-12. The Developmental Assets are research based and identify a set of skills, experiences, relationships, and behaviors that enable young people to develop into successful and contributing adults. TRAK is developing a profile of the results, which will be presented to various organizations and groups throughout the Becker area. A presentation to the school board will be scheduled in the near future.

- ii. A District Climate Committee has been established and met last month. The members include the superintendent and a teacher from each school: Cindy Welinski (Primary), Brenda Holthaus (Intermediate), Sue Block (Middle), Jo Svaren (High). The purpose of the committee is to improve school district climate. We discussed a variety of issues. I appreciate these teachers volunteering their time and effort to serve on the committee.
- iii. The Sherburne County Substance Use Prevention Coalition is a coordinated effort among 12 different community sectors (education, business, government, non-profits, parents, students, etc.) to reduce substance use among youth in our communities. This group meets monthly and was recently awarded a Drug Free Community (DFC) grant. This will bring \$125,000 per year towards implementing research-based strategies to curb substance use (this is a five year grant with the option to apply for an additional five years). As part of the grant, the coalition members match these dollars with in-kind contributions. Part of the grant process includes a rigorous evaluation to determine if the efforts are succeeding in reducing the number of youth engaging in chemical use and abuse.

As part of the coalition's efforts, they will be implementing Youth Leadership Councils in all of the high schools in Sherburne County. The coalition will be providing a stipend to hire a school leader to coordinate the efforts in substance use prevention. The SCSUPC flier is attached. The school district is indebted to Mark Kolbinger for serving as the Becker School District representative on the coalition.

- iv. The Primary School students conducted a taste test for Mandarin Chicken. More students chose Mandarin Chicken and more students participated in lunch as a result of this effort. Thanks to Dale Christensen and Renee Arbogast for organizing this initiative. More test testing will be conducted in the future to increase the number of students eating hot lunch (attachment).

3. Consent Agenda

D. I recommend approving the personnel actions as presented.

[Preparing self-directed learners to thrive in a changing global community](#)

E. 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.**

F. **I recommend approving the enclosed resolution** directing the administration to propose the discontinuance of positions and/or programs for the next school year. The school board approves the resolution each February authorizing the administration to review all programs and positions in developing budget recommendations for the next school year.

G. **I recommend approving the resolution to establish a cooperative with the Big Lake School District for girls' lacrosse.** Big Lake has 2 girls that have been playing on club teams in Monticello and Big Lake during last two years. However, Monticello added both boys and girls lacrosse as school-sponsored activities for the 2013-14 school year. With that decision, there are very few club events available for them. The 2 girls from Big Lake that would like to play on a Becker-Big Lake cooperative girls lacrosse team. The coach has stated this will not impact playing time for the Becker participants. The participants from Big Lake will pay the Big Lake activity fee. Becker will bill a pro-rata share of the program costs to Big Lake. There is no additional cost to the Becker School District as a result of this agreement. The resolution is expected to be approved by the Big Lake School Board later this month (enclosed).

4. Tom Watson, of Watson Consulting Group was engaged by the school district last November to conduct a comprehensive analysis of our transportation program. The analysis reviewed our operation for efficiency and effectiveness, opportunities for cost reduction, and increases in state aids. Mr. Watson will present his a report at the meeting. The major findings are:

A. It is unlikely that the school district would reduce cost by subcontracting transportation services at this time for the near term school years. However, the district should monitor labor and operational cost to determine if subcontracting is a viable option in the future.

B. A methodology to maximize our transportation revenue was identified and will be included in the FY 16 general fund revenue budget. Tom assisted us to amend our transportation finance reporting and we will realize an annual revenue increase of \$50,000.

C. The typical non-driver staffing for an operation the size of Becker's would include 1 full-time manager, 2 mechanics, and one school year clerical position. Becker's non-driver staffing is currently 1 full-time manager, 1.2 mechanics, and 1 school year clerical position.

Joe Prom and I will continue to work with Tom over the next few months to determine an optimal non-driving staff configuration, which would be effective July 1.

5. Budget Information

- A. The revised FY 15 General Fund Budget is enclosed. Joe Prom and I will provide additional information at the meeting. The unassigned general fund balance is projected to be 2.4% in comparison to Policy 714 Fund Balance which states that the “district will strive to maintain a minimum unassigned general fund balance of 8% of the annual budget.”
- B. The preliminary FY 16 General Fund Budget is enclosed. Joe Prom and I will provide additional information at the meeting. The unassigned general fund balance is projected to be 1.5% in comparison to Policy 714 Fund Balance which states that the “district will strive to maintain a minimum unassigned general fund balance of 8% of the annual budget.”

Budget information, enrollment and class sizes, and a multi-year enrollment are attached.

6. I will discuss the proposed budget adjustments at the meeting (attached). **I recommend approving the attached resolution and timeline.**
7. Last month, the school board established the 2015 regular meeting date as the first Monday of each month with the following exceptions noted below. However, the meeting time was not specified. Therefore, **the board should determine their preferred meeting time for 2015.**
- February 2nd, board workshop for stakeholder meeting input to begin one hour before the school board meeting.
 - March 9th, (superintendent at National Conference on Education February 25 to March 1) 2:00 p.m. board workshop for stakeholder meeting input from selected high school students, 3:00 p.m. board meeting.
 - April 6th, board workshop for stakeholder meeting input to begin one hour before the school board meeting.