

Date: February 1, 2018
To: School Board
From: Dr. Malone
RE: Meeting Notes, February 5, 2018

2A. Superintendent's Report

1. The Becker School District continues to be a regional leader in protecting our environment. We demonstrate responsible global citizenship that sets a good example for students and other organizations. In addition to recycling and creating solar power, our school district now utilizes a waste-to-energy program and organic recycling.

Blue recycling containers were placed in classrooms and other spaces throughout the school district last month to make recycling readily available to all staff and students. By changing to a different service provider, we are able to organically recycle our wood shop dust waste. Furthermore, all trash from our schools is now processed at the Energy from Waste Station in Elk River, where it is utilized to generate electricity.

In addition to the solar panels on the roof of the Aquatic Center (<https://sites.google.com/a/isd726.org/beckerschools/home/solar-power>), the Becker School District is involved with two solar garden locations. Solar power reduces carbon emissions and cuts utility costs, making more money available for student programs.

2. The Becker School District was recently awarded a Competitive Federal National School Lunch Program Equipment Grant. MDE received over 70 grants totaling \$1,059,170 for the \$325,000 available. The maximum grant amount is \$25,000 per school. We were awarded \$21,655 to purchase a Rational Combi Oven. Congratulations and thanks to Renee Arbogast, Director of Food Services, and Joe Prom, Director of Business Services, for submitting the grant application.
3. As we complete the first half of the 2017-18 school year, I congratulate administrators and staff members for the success our students have experienced thus far. The commitment of our administrators and staff makes our schools amazing.

Our academic goal for this year is for students to achieve one year of growth in reading and math. Of the 16 grade levels tested by NWEA and MCA, 10 achieved our goal last year.

Mid-year math and reading testing for students was conducted last month. A review of data, academic standards, and instructional differentiation is underway. I am confident that we can achieve our goal for every grade level to attain one year of growth in reading and math this year.

3. Consent Agenda

D. I recommend approving the personnel actions as presented.

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.

4. Larry Farr (HS Custodian) and SEIU Local 284 SEIU filed a grievance with the school district concerning a document dated October 16, 2017 in Mr. Farr's personnel file. The grievance was denied at Level I (Director of Building and Grounds) on November 8. The grievance was denied at Level II (Superintendent and Director of Business Services) on January 4. The SEIU Local 284 Contract provides the employee the right to appeal the grievance to the school board, which is Level III. **I recommend denying the grievance.**

5. The 2018 stakeholder input for strategic planning will again be conducted digitally using crowdsourcing technology facilitated by Optum. An outline of the process, pending approval by the school board, is below. I will discuss this in more detail at the meeting.

Stakeholder group invitations:

- Staff 380: (200 support, 180 teacher) – Invite all
- High School Students 900 – Invite all
- Parents about 3,090* – Invite all
- Community Members: not parents, not employees. Last year we advertised on the website, placed an ad in the Citizen Tribune, and advertised on the electronic sign. This year we are planning to include a flier in the Becker City water bills.

*We have 3,053 parent e-mail addresses. Some are not valid. Maintaining accurate parent e-mail addresses is an ongoing process.

Timeline:

- February 20 - March 2: Idea submission from the stakeholder groups.
- March 5 - 9: Pairwise.
- March 12 - 16: Data processing by Optum.
- March 22 - April 4: School board members assign the top 5 ideas from each of the stakeholder groups to an exit outcome area.
- April 9: School Board discusses placement of ideas into exit outcome areas.
- May 7: School Board begins discussing 2018-19 goals, based on the data.

The following questions were used last year:

1. What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?
2. What is your expectation of the Becker School District?
3. 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? - deleted 2017*~~
4. *What are we doing well at Becker Schools?- added 2017*
5. *What could Becker Schools do better? - added 2017*

School board discussion following the 2017 stakeholder input process indicated a desire for the questions to evoke answers that are succinct, specific actions. Also, I suggest we reduce the number of questions, which should also reduce the amount of data to process and analyze. Much of the data has been redundant in previous years.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.