

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 196

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools

Educating our students to reach their full potential

Legislative Advisory Council Meeting

MINUTES

6–7:30 p.m., November 16, 2016

District Office

Present: Members Craig Angrimson, Derek Appleyard, Nicole Arness, Valerie Dosland, Mark Engdahl, Cindy Ford, Carita Green, Catherine Hunter, Gary Krueger, Chas McCready, Jason Nord and Retno Saridewi-Wong; ex-officio School Board member Gary Huusko, staff members Kim Craven and Tony Taschner

I. Review of State Legislative Election Results

Of the five Senate seats that represent portions of District 196, incumbents Jim Carlson, Dan Hall and Greg Clausen were re-elected in the November 8 General Election; Matt Klein was elected to fill the seat vacated by James Metzen, and Matt Little was elected to fill the seat vacated by Dave Thompson. Of the nine House of Representatives seats that represent portions of District 196, incumbents Sandra Masin, Laurie Halverson, Drew Christensen, Roz Peterson, Anna Wills, Jon Koznick and Pat Garofalo were re-elected; Regina Barr was selected to fill the seat vacated by Joe Atkins, and Erin Maye Quade was elected to fill the seat vacated by Tara Mack. Statewide, republicans won control of the Senate and retained control of the House of Representatives.

II. Review of 2017 Legislative Priorities

Draft priorities were developed from input received during a joint meeting of the LAC and Budget Advisory Council in September. All three proposed priorities are related to funding:

1. Stabilize education funding by indexing the general education formula to inflation and reduce the special education cross-subsidy. (Increases to the general education formula have lagged inflation for more than a decade, leading to program cuts, property tax increases and a growing disparity in educational opportunities from one district to the next. Last year, the state and federal governments provided funding for just 59 percent of what it actually cost District 196 to provide special education services; the other 41 percent (\$25.8 million) came from the district's general fund.)
2. Increase equalization aid to reduce taxpayer and funding disparities. (Equalization aid does not provide additional dollars to school districts; it provides property tax relief to residents in districts like District 196 that do not have high commercial/industrial property wealth. Taschner said the SEE organization will attempt to move the equalization issue to the tax committees this session, instead of the education committees, because it is a taxpayer issue.)
3. Make supplemental compensatory funding permanent for more districts. (The Compensatory Revenue Pilot Project was started in 2005 to provide supplemental compensatory funding to districts with a high number but not necessarily a high concentration of students living in poverty. Only seven districts are part of the pilot and District 196 is not one of them, despite having a higher number of students living in poverty than six of the seven districts. The ask of the legislature is to make the funding permanent based on a new formula.)

Some members cautioned against asking for the general education formula to be tied to inflation this session. Instead, it was suggested that we ask for an increase to the general education formula allowance due to increasing costs in specific spending categories. Revisions will be made and shared with members via email prior to being presented to the School Board for approval on December 12.

III. Upcoming Events

- School Board Meeting to Present Legislative Priorities – Monday, December 12, 6 p.m.
- AMSD Legislative Preview – Friday, January 6, 7:30-10 a.m., TIES Grand Hall, St. Paul
- Capitol Visit – Tuesday, February 7, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Chas McCready and Cindy Ford expressed interest in helping present the proposed priorities to the School Board December 12. A sign-up sheet was passed around for the AMSD Legislative Preview and the Capitol visit to determine who is planning to attend these events; more details will be shared later.

IV. Bond Projects Update

Construction of elementary school 19 is on schedule and under budget by more than \$2 million. The school is scheduled to open next fall for the start of the 2017-18 school year. The School Board approved an attendance area for the new school, a principal will be named on November 23 and the board is expected to select a name for the school at its December 12 meeting.

Contracts have been awarded and construction is starting on additions at Echo Park and Oak Ridge elementary schools. The first phase of safety and security improvements has begun. By the end of the year, a new visitor management system will be installed at all schools, requiring visitors during the school day to show a government-issued ID before gaining entrance to the school. Entrance modifications are scheduled to be complete by next fall at eight schools; all other schools will be completed in phase two, between fall 2017 and fall 2018. Office areas will be moved to the entrance of all schools in order to direct visitors into the office area before gaining access to other areas of the school.

Increased access to technology is the third major area of the bond referendum. This fall, each student in grades 7, 8 and 9 was issued an iPad mini to use in their learning at school and at home. Grades 10, 11 and 12 will be added next school year and grades 4, 5 and 6 will be added in fall 2018. Students in preschool through grade 3 will receive increased access to classroom-based learning technology, phased in over the next four years.

V. Student Discipline Task Force

Cindy Ford asked to give an update on the state's Student Discipline Task Force. She has attended two task force meetings. Thus far, she said the group has not involved key stakeholders, students and parents.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING
6-7:30 p.m., January 18, 2017
District Office**