



Intermediate
School
District 917

Intermediate School District 917

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Rosemount, MN 55068

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ISD 917 BOARD NOTES

February 4, 2020

Regular Board Meeting

School Boards are Essential to School Success!

Celebrating School Board Recognition Week February 17-21, 2020

The Intermediate School District 917 School Board members serving our district and their years of service are as follows:

Chair – Jill Lewis – Board Member since 1995 - 25 years (Officer for 22 years) – Representing Inver Grove Heights

Vice-Chair – Russ Rohloff – Board Member since 2017 – three years - Representing Hastings

Treasurer – Kathy Lewis - Board member since 2019 – (Officer for six months)-representing Lakeville (Kathy was a previous 917 Board member from 2007-2013 and also Treasurer for one year)

Clerk - Vanda Pressnall – Board Member since 2001 - 19 years (Officer for 14 years) – Representing Randolph

Melissa Sauser – Board Member since 2013 – seven years (Officer for two years) – Representing Farmington

Dr. DeeDee Currier – Board Member since 2017 – three years - Representing Burnsville

Tom Bennett – New Board Member as of January 2020 – Representing Bloomington

Byron Schwab – Board Member since 2017 - three years – Representing West St. Paul/ Eagan/ Mendota Heights

Wendy Felton – Board Member since 2016 – four years – Representing South St. Paul

School Board members play a vital role in establishing policies to ensure an efficient, effective school system and represent our local education interests to state and federal government, ensuring compliance with state and federal law.

School Board members are strong advocates for public education and are responsible for communicating the needs of the school district to the public. All School Board members recognize the importance of public education in our community.

Thank you to all our School Board members for their year-round commitment to 917!

PERSONNEL:

Personnel: *New Hires:* Todd Alexander, Classroom Assistant, effective January 28, 2020. Edward Carter, Classroom Assistant, effective January 7, 2020. Ebony Harris, Classroom Assistant, effective January 13, 2020. Destiny Hobson, Classroom Assistant, effective January 13, 2020. Tammi Holter, Classroom Assistant, effective January 22, 2020. Alysha Kandel, Classroom Assistant, effective January 31, 2020. Kannon O'Brien, Classroom Assistant, effective January 13, 2020. Tiffany Pennington, Classroom Assistant, effective January 14, 2020. Whitney Swaner, Classroom Assistant, effective January 27, 2020. *Change in Status:* Kennedy Pelzel, Student Assistant to Classroom Assistant, effective January 6, 2020. Michelle Vincent, Student Assistant to Classroom Assistant, effective January 13, 2020. *Leaves of Absence:* Paula Olson, Program Assistant, effective January 3-15, 2020. *Resignations and Terminations:* Amber Belter, Classroom Assistant, effective January 31, 2020. Olivia Brown, Sign Language Speech, effective December 20, 2019. Rachel Doffing, Classroom Assistant, effective January 16, 2020. Kerry Goetz, Classroom Assistant, effective January 15, 2020. Michelle Stromme, Classroom Assistant, effective January 27, 2020. *Retirements:* Mary Callister, Special Education Teacher, effective June 30, 2020. Linda Lacher-Goddard, Speech Language Pathologist, effective June 5, 2020. Mary Weiland, Physical Therapist, effective June 4, 2020.

Calendar Information

February 17, 2020—No School for staff or students—Presidents' Day



March 3, 2020—4:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, 917 Board Room

March 23-27, 2020—917 Spring Break

April 7, 2020—5:00 PM, School Board Meeting, Bloomington, 2575 W. 88th Street

April 21, 2020—4:30 PM, School Board Work Session, 917 Board Room

April 29, 2020—3:45 PM, Staff Recognition, DCTC Dakota Room

May 5, 2020—5:00 PM, School Board Meeting, 917 Board Room, DCTC



DONATIONS:

Donation of \$925 to the student activities across all district programs from Marathon Petroleum Corporation in St. Paul Park.

GOOD NEWS—DCALS

- **Chef Patty LaBeau and Kari McElveen, FACS teacher** from Kennedy HS in Bloomington, brought their classes together two times in January, 2020. On January 10th, Chef Patty went to present and cook for the Basic Foods class (35 students) at their school. She prepared Penne Pasta Alfredo and talked about general work skills/soft skills and described the CTE program options at ISD # 917. On January 16th, the Advanced Foods class (25 students) came to the Fundamental Chef Training kitchen and prepared Pork Normandy (sauteed pork loin with bacon & apples in a demi-glaze sauce). The Bloomington students were excited to work in a commercial kitchen and learn about the CTE program options at ISD # 917. This is an annual exchange that the students look forward to and talk about when asked about the classes.
- Mechatronics classes Friday, Jan 24, completed the first step in making concrete to test strength - using hydraulic tester. Students met with DCTC Civil Engineering instructor, **Professor Alan Hancock**, to make concrete. Students also learned the graduates from the 2-year Civil Engineering Technical program are the highest paid graduates from DCTC as well as most employable with an average of 3 - 5 job offers per student in their last year of the program.



- This is a field trip to Hoffman and McNamara Nursery and Landscape company in Hastings, MN. Students learned about a variety of careers in landscape, horticulture, and plant biology. **Adam Rachuy and Patti Mattos-DCALS** teachers took the students.

GOOD NEWS– DCALS

- **Quinn Peterson** and the CTE class went to the DCTC Transportation Career fair down the hall a couple of weeks ago during my CTE class. We bumped into **Mr. Paul Thomas, former DCALS and CTE student, manning** a booth for his employer, DSI/LSI in Lakeville, MN. **Paul Thomas** is working as a mechanic at Dicks/Lakeville Sanitation. He shared some personal wisdom with our Construction Trades (Paul Landwehr - instructor) student. Both students have been lucky enough to have been in **Mr. Landwehr's** class learning some awesome life and job skills. Congrats Paul Thomas on your fulfilling your goal as a mechanic! And we look forward to hearing from Quinn in his future endeavors. Your future looks bright!



Motions and Reports

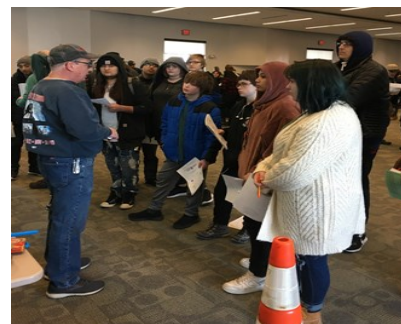
- Resolution passed recognizing Paraprofessional Week—January 27-31, 2020.
- Lobbyist Valerie Dosland reported to the Board on the legislative initiatives for 2020.
- Motion passed approving the maintenance payments to member districts.
- Resolution passed Directing Administration to Make Recommendations for Reductions in Programs and Positions and Reasons Therefore.
- Motion passed approving the following contracts for 2019-2021: Assistant Directors; Technology Coordinator; and Secondary Principal
- Motion passed approving the Cedar Sun overnight field trip with Wilderness Inquiry at Fort Snelling State Park from Thursday, May 14 to Friday, May 15.
- Motion passed approving the change in time of the March 3, 2020, School Board meeting to begin at 4 PM in order to be done by 6 PM due to the presidential preliminaries.
- Motion passed approving the Revised Budget for 2019-2020.
- Motion passed approving the Joint Powers Agreement between Dakota County and ISD 917.

GOOD NEWS—DCALS

- DCALS North Students have volunteered a combined 65 hours so far this year with local non-profits including Neighbor's Inc., Feed My Starving Children and Sharing and Caring Hands. Our opportunity to serve with Neighbor's every 3 weeks has us labeling and sorting food or preparing other items for food shelf distribution. Students learn about the many resources available to them through Neighbor's as well, including access to a discount clothing store, food shelf, Holiday Gift Program, financial assistance and of course, an outlet for giving back through volunteering!



- On Thursday, January 16th students and staff from our DCALS Main and North campus attended the Construct Tomorrow event in Blaine. Our students have been attending these events for the past 6 years and our program was involved in the first Construct Tomorrow event at St. Paul Harding HS. **Adam Rachuy, Cherry Cramer, and Norm Smith** attended with our students.

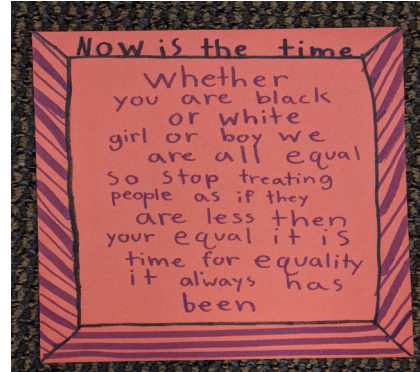


GOOD NEWS—Special Education

- The Options program spent the past week studying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in both Social Studies and English. The students read and reviewed his speeches. Then students wrote poetry focusing on the issues Dr. King addressed in his speeches. In social studies, students learned about Dr. King's life. The class ended the week with the students making posters about issues that are important to them.

Untitled Poem by Anonymous Author

Come down from your throne,
Come down from your horse,
Take off your crown,
Let go of yourself,
And come meet the man,
Wherever he may lay,
Go shake his hand,
And go say,
How are you doing today.



- On December 11th, four students who are blind/visually impaired from member districts took part in a Metro ESCU Bowling Field Trip for high school students. Students were able to bowl and socialize with peers from across the metro. It was a fun experience for all students. The seniors from across the metro, including the student in the middle of the picture, were honored with a small gift card to acknowledge them in their last year.
- On December 20th, **Lori Klein, Teacher of Blind/Visually Impaired** went into a Lifetime Activities class at Lakeville North High School to teach students about goalball. A student in the class is visually impaired and wanted to share a lifetime activity that was different and unique. Goalball is a team sport designed specifically for athletes with a vision impairment. Participants compete in teams of three and try to throw a ball that has bells embedded in it into the opponents' goal. Players must use the sound of the bell to judge the position and movement of the ball. The students were surprised at how difficult it was to hear the ball and remain orientated while playing. All members of the class enjoyed learning something new and noted the skills their visually impaired peer had in planning compared to what they were experiencing.



GOOD NEWS—Special Education

- On December 11, 2019, **Emily Pfisterer and Lori Klein** provided in-service training to Early Childhood Teachers on Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Blind/Visually impaired criteria. This was to update the process and help them in identifying students who should be referred to ISD 917. Information was shared about the need to have screenings prior to beginning an evaluation and what is needed for students who are Birth-3.
- The assistive technology team was awarded a grant of \$1,200 to provide our staff with increased knowledge of current assistive technology tools that can help their students make progress in the curriculum and on their IEP goals and objectives. The grant will allow the AT team to purchase AT tools to add to the AT lending library in the areas of greatest need for tools - reading, communication, and self-regulation.
- The AT team will purchase wearable technology including Revibe (a self-monitoring watch for students to help them focus on the current task), TouchPoints (a set of two vibrating watches that students can choose to activate when stressed to disrupt the fight/flight response), and a Keen bracelet from HabitaWare (which senses when a student is picking skin, pulling their hair, etc and vibrates to cue them to stop). When the equipment arrives, the 16 members of the AT Committee will be trained in how to use them and then tip sheets for implementing the tools will be developed with the occupational therapy members of the AT team so that the tip sheets can be shared with staff members who want to check the items out from the AT Library. The other items we would like to purchase and train on, help meet the needs we are seeing in the areas of reading and communication and they are the Snap+Core apps to go on our iPads in the AT lending library as well as the C-Pen Reading Pens. Both of these items are checked out frequently from our AT lending library and there is consistently a waiting list. However, we want to be sure these items are being used correctly and to enhance literacy, so we will bring together our reading specialist and speech/language pathologists to collaborate on developing an implementation plan for these tools so that they are improving students' vocabulary acquisition. When staff want to check out either item, the implementation plan will be reviewed by the reading specialist, SLP, or another knowledgeable member of the AT team to ensure understanding of best practices to improve vocabulary acquisition.
- TESA's Work-Based Learning (WBL) classes have been going strong this school year. Students are learning the skills needed to find work, explore career paths, and are learning soft skills to keep their jobs once employed. There are 48 students participating in our WBL seminar classes. Students created resumes, practiced job interviews, and are participating in information interviews in the community. Currently there are 25 WBL students are currently employed. For students enrolled in our WBL classes, staff provides transportation to and from work, interviews, and job coaching sessions. To date, 89.4% of the transportation provided was due to work and 10.6% for job interviews. During this semester, staff provided over 80 job coaching sessions to students.

GOOD NEWS—Special Education

- The SUN Plus high school classroom uses the students' creativity to fuel their token economy system. The students earn Experience Points when they demonstrate exemplary behavior throughout their day, which are then used in a weekly adventure that they embark on collaboratively using characters of their own creation. The experience they gain throughout the week gives them access to new abilities, magic items, and increased skills that they can then use to complete quests, defeat monsters and overcome obstacles. The students succeed in the adventure when they work together to come up with creative solutions to the problems they face.
- **Andrew H.** from ISD 197 graduated from the TEA program on January 31st. As part of the ceremony, he presented his transition portfolio through posters and a PowerPoint to the guests. He has been doing some job shadowing as he determines which direction he wants to take following graduation.

- Students in Room 101 at Alliance Education Center have been implementing math stations this school year. Their latest project was working on the concepts of graphing and charting. They polled random classrooms and then charted and graphed the results. Which winter sport is your favorite?



- At AEC, our high school students started a new novel study this semester. They are reading, *The Pursuit of Happiness*. As part of this book study, the students are spending time creating vision boards for their future hopes and dreams.



GOOD NEWS—Special Education

- **Andrew F.** from ISD 192 transitioned from our CASE program at AEC to our middle school programming full-time on 1/21/2020. He was one of our original referrals to CASE. His goal is to get back to Farmington full-time by the end of next year. We know he can do it.
- **Isaiah T.P.** from ISD 191 transitioned back to middle school full time. He now attends Nicolet Middle School. His last day was 1/21/2020. We are so proud of his progress and wish him all the best.
- **Cole G.** from ISD 200 transitioned back to Hastings High School full-time. He worked very hard at meeting his goals and is doing great in his new settings. Way to go!
- AEC also has two high school students from ISD 197 and ISD 199 and one middle school student from ISD 200 that have started transitioning back to their home districts with a couple of classes a day. Keep up the good work!
- We are expanding at CEC! We are in the process of adding two full-time teachers to our staff, which will hopefully reduce the number of students on the SUN-individual wait list. We have a group of kindergarten students who are in the process of getting ready to transition from individual programming to group programming -- they have made SO MUCH progress since school started. We also had a new student start --- seen below. He has been very successful at Concord and wanted to let his staff know how much he loves being here, so he wore fun footie pajamas to school for a whole week! This picture was taken right after he lost his front tooth. We love being an educational placement that has the ability to be flexible for students with significant needs.

