NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given of a Board of Education Committee of the Whole meeting of School District No. 17, in the County of Douglas, which will be held at 6:00 p.m. on **Monday, June 8, 2015** at 5606 South 147th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Agenda for such meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection at the office of the superintendent at 5606 South 147th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Dave Anderson
Secretary

6-5-15

THE DAILY RECORD
OF OMAHA

LYNDA K. HENNINGSEN, Publisher
PROOF OF PUBLICATION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
The State of Nebraska,
District of Nebraska,
County of Douglas,
City of Omaha,
} ss.

J. BOYD

being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is

LEGAL EDITOR

of THE DAILY RECORD, of Omaha, a legal newspaper, printed and published daily in the English language, having a bona fide paid circulation in Douglas County in excess of 300 copies, printed in Omaha, in said County of Douglas, for more than fifty-two weeks last past; that the printed notice hereto attached was published in THE DAILY RECORD, of Omaha, on _____

June 5, 2015

That said Newspaper during that time was regularly published and in general circulation in the County of Douglas, and State of Nebraska.

GENERAL NOTARY - State of Nebraska
ELLEN FREEMAN
My Comm. Exp. Dec. 11, 2017

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before

Publisher's Fee $14.90

me this _____ 5th _____ day of

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_____ June _____ 2015

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Notary Public in and for Douglas County,
State of Nebraska

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

June 8, 2015

NAME: **REPRESENTING:**

Name	Representing
Paul Schutte	MEA
Angie Craft	Horizon
Brian Begley	MNHS
Laurie Steckerman	MNHS

Proud to be

Millard

PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING

✦   ✦   ✦

June 8, 2015

MILLARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Board of Education Committee of the Whole will meet on Monday, June 8, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Don Stroh Administration Center, 5606 South 147th Street.

The Public Meeting Act is posted on the Wall and Available for Public Inspection

Public Comments on agenda items - This is the proper time for public questions and comments on agenda items only. <u>Please make sure a request form is given to the Board Vice-President before the meeting begins.</u>

A G E N D A

1. Class Rank

2. Budget

Public Comments - This is the proper time for public questions and comments on <u>any topic</u>. <u>Please make sure a request form is given to the Board Vice President before the meeting begins</u>.

AGENDA SUMMARY SHEET

AGENDA ITEM: Class Rank

MEETING DATE: June 8, 2015

DEPARTMENT: Educational Services

**TITLE AND BRIEF
DESCRIPTION:**   Class Rank

ACTION DESIRED: _X_   Discussion

BACKGROUND: Millard's current Class Rank calculation was established in 2000 to
encourage students to take more classes. In recent years, building
principals and District administrators have noted increasing concern
over the Class Rank formula. These concerns have resulted in a review
of the need for a Class Rank calculation and the exploration of
alternatives. Before bringing any recommendation forward a
conversation with the Board of Education is warranted.

RECOMMENDATIONS: None

**STRATEGIC PLAN
REFERENCE:**   None

**RESPONSIBLE
PERSONS:**   Mark Feldhausen, Nancy Johnston, and Barb Waller

SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL: _____

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CLASS RANK
STUDY 2013-2015

BACKGROUND

❑ The current Class Rank calculation within Millard Public Schools was last revisited during the 1999-2000 school year and approved by the Board of Education on April 24, 2000, to assist with maximizing the number of courses students would take within a school year.

❑ While other Graduation Requirement changes have been approved by the Board of Education since that time, class rank calculation has remained the same.

❑ Within the past several years, changes related to class rank practices have surfaced nationwide, as well as within the District.

CURRENT PRACTICES – BOE RULE 6330.1

Number Grade	Letter Grade	Grade Range	Standard Grade Points	Weighted Grade Points
1	A	93-100%	20 Grade Points or	25 Grade Points
2	B	85-92%	15 Grade Points or	20 Grade Points
3	C	77-84%	10 Grade Points or	15 Grade Points
4	D	69-76%	5 Grade Points or	5 Grade Points
5	F	0-68%	0 Grade Points	0 Grade Points
P	P	Pass	0 Grade Points	0 Grade Points
F	F	Fail	0 Grade Points	0 Grade Points

The Grade Point Average is calculated by dividing total grade points by total course credits attempted.

CURRENT PRACTICES – BOE RULE 6330.1

❑ To determine Class Rank, the Grade Point Average is multiplied by the total Grade Points which equal Total Class Rank Points for each student.

❑ The listing of the Total Class Rank Points from highest to lowest shall determine the Class Rank of each student.

GPA X total Grade Points = Total Class Rank Points

CURRENT CLASS RANK CALCULATION EXAMPLE

Full Name	Class Rank Current	Total Class Rank Points	Weighted GPA
Student #1	1.00	6,097.46	4.435
Student #2	2.00	5,578.31	4.242
Student #3	3.00	5,547.00	4.300
Student #4	4.00	5,474.92	4.345
Student #5	5.00	5,447.94	4.411
Student #6	6.00	5,387.07	4.310
Student #7	7.00	5,381.23	4.271
Student #8	8.00	5,292.00	4.200
Student #9	9.00	5,271.54	4.339
Student #10	10.00	5,253.48	4.220
Student #11	11.00	5,237.24	4.364
Student #12	12.00	5,204.87	4.131
Student #13	13.00	5,179.35	4.263
Student #14	14.00	5,161.69	4.048
Student #15	15.00	5,127.27	4.169
Student #16	16.00	5,047.62	4.172
Student #17	17.00	5,000.29	4.049
Student #18	18.00	4,947.83	4.321
Student #19	19.00	4,920.40	3.984
Student #20	20.00	4,844.75	4.123

WHY REVISIT CLASS RANK?

❑ Conversations with students, parents, staff, and graduates over the past six years helped determine it was time to review our practices.

❑ Research began in October, 2013 to ensure all aspects regarding class rank were reviewed.

❑ Information was gathered from other school districts, post-secondary institutions, professional organizations, and research reviews.

❑ During the study input was sought from high school administrators, counselors, parents of seniors and graduating seniors.

IDENTIFIED CONCERNS

❑ Equity of opportunity: Summer School and Transfer Credit
- ▪ "Please remove summer school from the class rank calculation or inform people that if they want to be on the top, the only way to do so is to take 4 years of summer school." – Student Survey Response

❑ Learning vs competition
- ▪ "Current system is out of student control and is based on what everyone else is doing." – Shared by a parent to a principal

❑ Transfer students
- ▪ "My graduate was at a disadvantage due to moving into the district from another state. (4.0 GPA, not in top 10%, 30 on ACT)" – Parent Survey Response

RESEARCH FINDINGS

❑ Admissions
- ▪ Colleges and universities range in use of class rank - some not at all (UNL, Wayne, Doane, Wesleyan) to others using it as one of two to three performance criteria (UNO, UNK) or others who create own calculations (Creighton, NWMissouri)
- ▪ Yale, Harvard, Stanford – Holistic evaluation of applicant

❑ Scholarship
- ▪ UNO: Use a combination of ACT and either Class Rank or Cumulative Grade Point Average
- ▪ UNL: Review overall academic profile, including Grade Point Average, ACT/SAT scores Class Rank (if provided) and rigor of coursework
- ▪ Yale, Harvard, Stanford – Holistic criteria, special interest funded

❑ Practices of other districts

HIGHLIGHTS FROM RESEARCH ARTICLES

❑ "Research suggests that of all factors used in college admission decisions, grade point average and high school grades are the best predictors of college success." - Hanover Research, November 2014

❑ "The practice of using class rank as a metric in admissions decisions has declined over the past two decades." – Hanover Research, November 2014

❑ "Only 19% of colleges and universities give class rank "considerable importance" in the application process. Among the traditional measures of student quality, class rank is widely described by admissions officers as the fuzziest." – Eric Hoover, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, December 2012

❑ "Grades in college preparatory courses and strength of curriculum were considered by colleges to be the top factors in the admission decision, followed closely by admission test scores and grades in all courses." – Clinedinst & Hawkins, *State of College Admissions*, 2012

SIMULATION EXAMPLE: USING WEIGHTED GPA

Full Name	Rank Current Practice	Rank Weighted GPA	Weighted GPA	Rank Unweighted GPA	Unweighted GPA
Student 1	1	1	4.471	1	4.00
Student 2	2	2	4.412	1	4.00
Student 3	3	3	4.403	1	4.00
Student 4	5	5	4.388	1	4.00
Student 5	8	6	4.364	1	4.00
Student 6	24	6	4.364	1	4.00
Student 7	18	8	4.339	31	3.966
Student 8	14	10	4.292	25	3.985
Student 9	30	16	4.273	1	4.00
Student 10	9	17	4.265	1	4.00
Student 11	34	18	4.255	27	3.982
Student 12	17	19	4.25	1	4.00
Student 13	21	21	4.233	1	4.00
Student 14	59	22	4.231	1	4.00
Student 15	37	23	4.218	1	4.00
Student 16	37	23	4.218	1	4.00
Student 17	48	25	4.204	1	4.00
Student 18	44	26	4.2	1	4.00
Student 19	26	28	4.19	26	3.983
Student 20	60	29	4.189	1	4.00
Student 21	39	31	4.179	1	4.00
Student 22	49	36	4.164	1	4.00
Student 23	62	39	4.148	1	4.00
Student 24	45	40	4.143	1	4.00
Student 25	41	43	4.14	1	4.00
Student 26	50	45	4.125	27	3.982
Student 27	27	46	4.117	30	3.967
Student 28	53	48	4.107	1	4.00
Student 29	63	54	4.071	27	3.982
Student 30	51	59	4.052	1	4.00
Student 31	90	69	4.00	1	4.00

SIMULATION EXAMPLE: USING UNWEIGHTED GPA

Full Name	Rank Current Practice	Rank Weighted GPA	Weighted GPA	Rank Unweighted GPA	Unweighted GPA
Student 1	1	1	4.471	1	4.00
Student 2	2	2	4.412	1	4.00
Student 3	3	3	4.403	1	4.00
Student 4	5	5	4.388	1	4.00
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Student 27	27	46	4.117	30	3.967
Student 7	18	8	4.339	31	3.966

PROPOSED CHANGE

❑ Recognize student honors using the Latin System (criterion-based)
- ▪ Summa Cum Laude   4.0 and above
- ▪ Magna Cum Laude   3.75-3.99
- ▪ Cum Laude   3.50-3.74

❑ Report weighted and unweighted GPA

Recognition by Latin System Comparison for Class of 2014

Building	Summa Cum Laude 4.0	Magna Cum Laude 3.75-3.99	Cum Laude 3.5-3.74	Recognized	Total in Class
North High School					
Weighted GPA	72 = 13%	77 = 14%	83 = 15%	232 = 42%	554
Unweighted GPA	24 = 4%	71 = 13%	103 = 19%	198 = 36%	
South High School					
Weighted GPA	31 = 7%	32 = 7%	62 = 13%	125 = 27%	463
Unweighted GPA	13 = 3%	31 = 7%	61 = 13%	105 = 23%	
West High School					
Weighted GPA	67 = 12%	95 = 17%	101 = 18%	263 = 47%	563
Unweighted GPA	7 = 1%	117 = 21%	123 = 22%	247 = 44%	

BENEFITS OF NEW SYSTEM: LATIN HONORS RECOGNITION

❑ Measures the performance based on the individual student and not against the performance of other students.

❑ Recognizes all students whose performance exceeds high academic standards.

❑ Utilizes a system familiar to and applied by most colleges and universities.

❑ Eases transfer of students between high schools within Millard without penalty due to the varied schedules.

❑ Allows students to not seek participation in summer school if only to focus on the mathematical advantage for class rank purposes.

❑ Enables students to focus on challenging themselves academically, focusing on areas of personal interest, and lessening anxiety if feeling pressured academically.

❑ Facilitates the potential that the three high schools could recognize students with the same honor code system during commencement.

16/1/2015

TIMELINE

❑ Provide background in Committee Meeting

❑ Revise BOE Policy and Rule for approval

❑ Changes impact Class of 2020 and beyond

❑ Communication of changes

Questions?