

TO: Bayfield School Board
FROM: Dave Aslyn
DATE: January 24, 2016
SUBJECT: February District Administrator Report

1. WASB Convention

Sheila Kelly and I attended the WASB Convention in Milwaukee. There were a number of excellent sessions facilitated by a variety of presenter. There was a lot of buzz about school districts holding excess levy and building referendums during 2016. These are always challenging undertakings for Districts and communities and we are fortunate in Bayfield to not be facing such an undertaking. We brought back a number of great ideas on increasing and improving the District's communication. We also gained valuable information regarding wellness and the District's health insurance. Thank you for your support in allowing us to attend this important convention. We are already working to put some of the new ideas we gained into practice.

2. Wisconsin Fair Aid Coalition

The Wisconsin Fair Aid Coalition's (FAC) annual took place during the WASB Convention in Milwaukee. There was a great deal of discussion about the growing number of Wisconsin School Districts receiving no or very little general state aid – Bayfield being one of them. It's disturbing to see that the statistics: the average per pupil general aid support in WI in 2015-16 is \$5,088. The average per pupil state aid for WI students in the Choice Program (vouchers) in 2015-16 is \$7,214 through grade 8 and \$7,860 for high school students. These figures are in stark contrast to the situation in Bayfield where we receive less than \$500 per student in general aid. This growing situation is causing high property value school districts to over rely on excess levy referendums. Between 1990 and 2015, just 8% of the state's total 424 school districts passed 25.7% of the total number of excess levy referenda and 19.2% of the total dollars approved. The state's educational funding system harms the financial situation of school districts like Bayfield where student enrollment has dropped over time and property values are high. Our general aid has been cut 15% a year for the past number of years. FAC is pushing to have minimum aid reestablished in WI so that no public school student would receive less than \$1,000 in general aid. On another note, I was reelected to another two year term on the FAC's Board of Directors.

3. February Professional Development

February 19th is a scheduled early release day in the District. The afternoon hours will be focused on professional development. We'll be working on the mid-year required events, activities and materials called for in the Educator Effectiveness Program. It will be a good time to review mid-year progress and complete any required adjustments for the second semester. The professional development activities will take place in various locations around the Bayfield School.