

TO: Bayfield School Board
FROM: Dave Aslyn
DATE: February 6, 2013
SUBJECT: February District Administrator Report

1. Strategic Planning Update

Kevin Stranberg of Stranberg and Associates has met two times with the School Board. Once during the January 14th regular School Board meeting to present information on strategic planning and to answer questions. His second session was a special School Board meeting on Monday, January 28th to review/revise the District's mission, vision and priorities as well as establishing key assumptions. Finalization of the mission, vision, values/beliefs as well as community survey questions is set to take place at the February regular School Board meeting.

2. BEA Mediation

The mediation meeting between the School Board and BEA took place on January 16th at the school. Wisconsin Employment Relation Commission's (WERC) Lauri Millot served as the mediator for the session. An executive session agenda item on the status of negotiations is scheduled for the February regular School Board meeting.

3. Brummer Case

An affidavit of motion for summary judgment where the District seeks to have the case dropped was filed in January. Steve Dunn appeared in Ashland County Court on January 24th on behalf of the School District. Judge Eaton granted Mr. Brummer additional time to respond to the District's motion. It is likely that the case will continue into the late spring. I will keep you updated as new details become available.

4. WASB Convention

Sheila Kelly and I attended the WASB Convention in Milwaukee. The overarching theme seems to be change and uncertainty in education in Wisconsin. There were a number of excellent sessions facilitated by practitioners in the field. It was excellent to see and hear how some school districts have created new opportunities in the post-Act 10 world we are living in and I will be presenting some ideas that may be a good fit for the School District of Bayfield in the coming months.

5. Wisconsin Fair Aid Coalition

The Wisconsin Fair Aid Coalition's (FAC) annual took place during the WASB Convention in Milwaukee. Governor Walker's heads of Government Relations and Education Policy were presenters at the meeting. The Governor's budget is set to be published on February 20th. I am optimistic that more state aid may be made available to our district. I was able to share two points that are significant to Bayfield with them:

- a. Raising the revenue cap so that the School District can levy more taxes on property owners is not a viable option for meeting the District's financial challenges for our community. State funding to replace what we have lost due to the State Aid Formula penalizing us for declining enrollment and high property values as well as the 16% cut in general aid in June 2012 are key.
- b. The new Wisconsin Accountability Index needlessly penalized Bayfield for non-academic reasons and failed to provide important feedback on District progress on closing the achievement gap as well as not providing any feedback on the LaPointe School.

6. Professional Development

February will be a key staff development month. We are slated to have a half-day on 2/15/13 and a full day on 2/18/13. The two areas of focus will be regular education teachers working on subject area curriculum and special education teachers and assistants working on jointly developing tools and strategies to serve special education students.

