EXHIBIT
8.2.4

To: Board of Education, School District of Bayfield
From: Randi Johnson
Date: March 3, 2015
RE: March Finance Manager Report

Budget Planning

Budget planning continues to be a high priority in the business office. We have received the new CPI rates and will be working on insurance renewals in the near future. Dr. Aslyn and myself are working on allocating dollar amounts for the various budet lines to determine our initial budget that will be presented at the April board meeting.

2015 Federal Funding Conference

In February I had the opportunity to attend the DPI and WASBO Wisconsin Federal Funding Conference in the Wisconsin Dells. This year's conference focused on the new Omni-Circular, which is an overhaul of the prior federal grant rules and impacts everything from allowable costs to the single audit. The Omni-Circular also moves away from strictly dealing with compliance and into performance based measurements, which could be used to align with Wisconsin's implementation of "Promoting Excellence for All".

They provided us with data regarding Wisconsin's achievement gaps, how this impacts our state both in the present and future, and how federal funds received by school districts should be used to address these critical issues. They also stressed the importance of fiscal management of federal funds. I attended sessions that focused on the fiscal management required of every school district receiving federal funds, the importance of internal controls and the safeguarding of assets purchased with federal dollars. I will use the information I learned at the conference to make sure we have the necessary procedures in place when determining allowable costs and making sure we have good budget controls.

Another big item of discussion at the conference is the proposed 2015-17 state budget. The challenges facing school finance in the upcoming state budget will be many. Some of the school finance challenges will be:

- Funding in the proposed budget approaches 2009 levels
- The expansion of vouchers and charter schools
- An increased reliance on referenda
- Rural districts facing declining enrollment, growing poverty, staff shortages

This proposed budget would mean 6 years of flat funding for students with special needs. Wisconsin rural schools deserve the resources to meet the needs of their students.