

“THE MAIN THING IS TO KEEP THE MAIN THING, THE MAIN THING”

To: Bayfield Board of Education
From: Linda L. Kunelius, District Administrator
Re: Administrative Report
Date: December 8, 2010

Achievement and Curriculum Expansion

- The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) conducted an on-site review of the District’s TAP program in October. DPI sent a follow-up report on the findings of the monitoring team. The report provided a summary of the observed strengths, areas for improvement, and items identified that require corrective action. Linda Weber immediately responded with a corrective action plan. Department staff reviewed the plan and found that it meets the requirements set forth in the directives made in the report.

DPI concluded, “Keep up the great work and pass along our congratulations to the TAP staff on a job well done.”

- We are monitoring proposed legislation closely. Many of the proposals could have ramifications for our District. For example, SAGE may be eliminated, although advocates are recommending that SAGE funds be available for districts with 50% or more free and reduced lunch rates. We currently receive \$184,000 for the SAGE program.

Attendance

- The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has been awarded a four year, 3.5 million per year grant to reduce suspensions and expulsion rates. The DPI has identified 50 districts with high suspension and expulsion rates.

Bayfield has been identified as a target school based on our suspension and expulsion rates for 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10. The District will immediately receive \$10,000 to cover the costs of conducting a comprehensive school climate survey in April.

The District will receive substantial technical assistance, staff development and will be awarded approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 per year based on the results of the school climate assessment.

- GEDO 2 – Trent Hanson, Tom Steckling and Bob Kent have been working on the GEDO 2 application with the hope the program can be implemented 2nd semester. DPI has indicated the District should post the position for someone with Alternative Education certification. They would also approve an emergency license for someone with Special Education background. If the District does not receive any applications from candidates with Alternative Education or Special

Education, we could utilize staff with Core subject certification, i.e., math for math, English for English, Science for Science, Social Studies for Social Studies.

The program needs a designated instructor who can provide continuity to the program. It is also recommended that we utilize the unused funds from 1st semester (had budgeted a full year at 50% FTE) and post the position as a full-time position. The individual would be able to complete a needs assessment and develop a plan for Alternative Education for 2011-12, assist students assigned to Credit Recovery (In-School and Virtual) and the PASS program.

School Climate and Behavior

- Staff are continuing to attend Data Retreats to collect and analyze information in preparation for completing a comprehensive Safe and Healthy Schools grant application. The workgroup is also putting together community-wide focus groups to get input from parents and community members.
- Melissa Eid attended Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies (PBIS) Training at CESA #12. This is a five year initiative that will provide staff with training and effective intervention strategies. Sandy Raspotnik is coordinating a team that is guiding us in implementing PBIS.
- Backpack Initiative – A community-wide committee has been exploring the feasibility of implementing a Backpack program. The community does not have sufficient food storage space. Second Harvest is willing to work on this initiative and Bethesda Lutheran Church has volunteered to help unload food and fill Backpacks once a month. It is estimated that the program would cost approximately \$2,000 per month. While there is considerable enthusiasm for this project, it is apparent that more planning must take place. We need to collect data (breakfast participation on Mondays, food consumption on Mondays and Fridays, student and parent surveys) to determine the level of need. Staff feel strongly that children are hungry and not getting sufficient food over the weekends. The Bayfield Food Pantry has sufficient food for distributions, but it was reported that the Red Cliff Food Pantry ran out of food before Thanksgiving. Bremer Bank has indicated it could send a semi of food to Red Cliff. Red Cliff representatives will be looking into this offer further.
- AODA Reduction Team – The District attends monthly AODA Reduction Team meetings sponsored by the Red Cliff First Prevention Center. The Center has shared a detailed work plan with goals and objectives (see attached).
- BCEF Awards – A \$3,000 Literacy project submitted by Angela Botka, has been funded (see attached).

- The District has been selected to participate in the 2010-2011 USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and received an award of \$7,599. This is our third year of funding.
- Tech Ed Building - Rick Erickson and Ed Batton have communicated their disagreement with the minutes of the last STEM workgroup meeting. Ed Batton believes there was consensus on recommending the District complete a long range plan before proceeding further. Mr. Erickson does not believe the group reached consensus. However, he does believe there was a clear message from the workgroup that the district should build a long-range plan that would then lead this project.

The Building and Grounds Committee met on December 7, 2010 and set interview times to review District needs with Miron, Jamar, ATS&R and DSGW Architects. Meetings with representatives of each firm will be held on December 15, 2010. Dave Doering is completing a list of needs, i.e., storage space, instructional space, work stations, etc. that will be used along with the Inspection reports that have been completed that identified structural issues. The District could benefit from having an additional multi-purpose room (for Art and Physical Education activities), an Alternative Education classroom and more common instructional space.

Staff have also expressed the need for additional needs in the area of Music and a Physical Fitness area for students and staff. The Building and Grounds Committee suggested elementary and middle school staff be added to the committee.

- Staff Recognition – A former student has recognized Beth Kasinski in the Introduction to Early Childhood Education course at the University of Wisconsin-Stout as a teacher who most inspired him to pursue a teaching career. Kari Merritt, Early Childhood Education Program Director noted, “you have provided inspiration, modeling and guidance to help the student develop a professional outlook that leads to teaching young children. Your responsibilities and hard work have truly extended beyond our classroom to the larger educational community.” Beth was thanked for her efforts and inspiration.

Other

- Administrator Notification – Unless the Board notifies an Administrator by January 31, 2011 of its intent to not do so, the Administrator’s contract shall be subject to a single one-year extension to cover the 2012-2013 year. According to the Administrator contract, the Administrator shall advise the Board of the January 31, 2011 deadline at or before the December Board meeting.
- Vacation – I will be taking six days of vacation December 22, 2010 through January 2, 2011.