

TO: Bayfield School Board
FROM: Dave Aslyn
DATE: February 3, 2014
SUBJECT: February District Administrator Report

1. Impact Aid Payment

Last month I reported that the District was in a cash crunch due to our first Impact Aide payment not arriving when it normally has. Anne Sullivan did a great job of tracking the person responsible for ensuring the payments were sent out to school district in Washington D.C. The updated information is that we are to receive a 50% of LOT (Learning Opportunity Threshold) payment in mid-February. The payment is slated to be in excess of \$800,000. I will keep you posted when the payment is received. I extend my kudos to the School Board for using the Fund Balance for strategic purposes. Because of the fund balance, the District did not incur the cost of short term borrowing to bridge the gap during the cash crunch. Meantime, the bills are being paid and employees are being paid.

2. CUT Negotiations

The Board's Support Staff Negotiations Committee and CUT Leadership met to exchange proposals. The two sides reached agreement on terms of a settlement for the 2013-14 school year. The intent is to have a signed contract for Board ratification at the February School Board meeting.

3. WASB Convention

Sheila Kelly and I attended the WASB Convention in Milwaukee. There were a number of excellent sessions facilitated by practitioners in the field. Rick Erickson was recognized as the Wisconsin High School Teacher of the Year during the general session on the first day of the convention and Rick did a great job of presenting during a convention luncheon. We brought back a number of ideas/innovations that we will look to put into use here in Bayfield.

4. Wisconsin Fair Aid Coalition

The Wisconsin Fair Aid Coalition's (FAC) annual took place during the WASB Convention in Milwaukee. DPI Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Brian Poenke, presented to the group. Unless there is a change to the funding formula in the state, Bayfield will continue to lose about 15% of its state aid a year until it joins the 20 Wisconsin school districts that receive no general aid. FAC continues to lobby for additional state funding through increased or expanded categorical aids. FAC is working with legislators for solutions to educational funding challenges that do not call raising the revenue cap so that the School District can levy more taxes on property owners. Raising property taxes is not a viable option for meeting financial challenges for our community and many other communities across Wisconsin.

5. Professional Development

February will be a key staff development month. We are slated to have a half-day on 2/14/14. This is an important training day as teachers and administrators begin developing Student Learner Outcomes (SLOs). These outcomes serve as the base of the new evaluation system which goes into effect in September. At this time, 45% of teacher and administrator evaluations are based on the success of meeting these SLOs. There will be more training this spring and I am confident that everyone will have the training and supports needed to successfully meet these new challenges.