

TO: Bayfield School Board
FROM: Dave Aslyn
DATE: February 3, 2015
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 practitioners in the field. A few things that stand out are the general sentiment that this next state budget is going to be challenging for public school districts, school safety continues to play a greater part in school operations, branding and social media are gaining popularity in school communication efforts. 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. A policy advisor for Governor Walker was the featured speaker. On the positive side, the Governor is committed to putting more money toward rural schools which would benefit Bayfield with more sparsity aid and high cost transportation support. On the challenging side, expansion of voucher and independent charter school initiatives combined with very strict accountability measures will no doubt have an impact on public education in Wisconsin. FAC is lobbying for a minimum of \$1,000 per student of general state aid. Bayfield would see approximately \$250,000 if this funding change were implemented.

3. February Family/Community Event & Professional Development

February 12th & 13th will be eventful days in our school district and community. Things will kick off beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 12th. The Red Cliff Youth Center will house the Bittersweet Winds exhibit which is focused on educating children and adults about branding and images that perpetuate bias and racism in our society. Presenter Richie Plass gives a very moving narrative about how these images have played a negative role in our society in the past and today. The Bittersweet Winds exhibit opens at 3:00 p.m. on 2/12. A meal will be served beginning at 4:00 p.m. Emilio DeTorree of the American Civil Liberties Union will give a presentation titled "Digital Privacy-Know Your Rights Online". Emilio's presentation gives children, parents and families important information for keeping children safe in the digital age. We are hoping for a large turnout of students, parents/families and community members at the Thursday evening events. You are invited to attend.

The morning of 2/13 will have our MS and HS students going through the Bittersweet Winds exhibit and taking part in sessions with Emilio DeTorree at the school. The afternoon is an early release for students and teachers will be working with Emilio on anti-bullying training.

4. Celebrating Mr. Erickson's Accomplishments

A gathering will be held beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 13th at the Bayfield Inn to celebrate Rick Erickson's receiving the Horace Mann Teaching Excellence Award. Rick will be receiving his award at a gala in Washington D.C. that evening. We will view the gala via the internet. We're proud of Rick for this great accomplishment and hope to have a good showing at the 2/13 celebration.

5. Wisconsin Data Analytics Academy

Mr. Stralka, Mrs. Raspotnik and I took part in the first session of this six month leader development experience. Our focus is on building our leadership competencies around the use of student data to improve academic achievement. There is a first-rate cadre of instructors and some powerful technology tools to help guide our learning. The end result will be a solid plan for data use and management practices in the district and great support of teachers as they do their front line work with student data. We will be presenting at the spring WASDA Conference in May.