

TO: Bayfield School Board
FROM: Dave Aslyn
DATE: May 7, 2013
SUBJECT: May District Administrator Report

1. Strategic Planning Update

We are in the process of constructing a strategic planning tab for the District website. Kevin Stranberg has provided his consolidated meeting notes from the staff and community meetings. He is in the process of processing the community survey data. Kevin will be on-hand to report to you at the May School Board meeting.

2. Insurance Task Force

An insurance task force consisting of members of the BEA, support staff and non-affiliated staff has been formed to provide input on the district's health insurance offerings. Unfortunately, the meeting has been snowed out twice. The group is scheduled to meet with M3's Jeff Steckbauer to discuss health insurance options on May 8th. A whole-staff health insurance survey is also scheduled to take place later this month. Jeff will be presenting to the Finance Committee this month as well. M3 will be bidding out the district's health insurance later this year.

3. DPI Instructional Time Waiver

We have applied for a waiver on instructional time from the DPI in regards to the amount of snow days during the 2012-13 school year. The waiver requests that Friday, June 7th be the final day of instruction for children and teachers would have professional development on June 10-12. I received word from the DPI late last week that our waiver is currently being assessed for consideration.

4. Fund Balance Alert

An alert has come through CESA and WASDA. There was a great deal of legislative flashback late last month when the University of Wisconsin System reported a large fund balance as part of the state's biannual budget process. This large fund balance came on the heels of years of tuition increases and large amounts of state money going to sustain the system. During this budget year, many legislators reported outrage. Now K-12 school district fund balances are being closely examined by the legislator. There are no state rules on fund balance, but a general rule of thumb is that a district's fund balance shouldn't dip below 18-20% of one year's operating budget. Bayfield's fund balance is currently around the 50% mark. Reasons for having a fund balance in the school district include:

- Demonstrating financial stability and preserving a high bond rating which saves local taxpayers money
- Avoiding excessive short-term borrowing, or short-term borrowing all together and limiting money spend on interest which saves local taxpayers money
- Stabilize both the district budget and the local tax rate
- Accumulate sufficient assets to make planned purchases
- Provide for unexpected or unforeseen expenditures

The information above may be helpful for you to share with community members who may approach you regarding the district's fund balance. I will keep you posted on further legislative action on fund balances as more information is available.

5. Community Involvement Update

I have accepted an invitation to join the board of directors on New Horizons North. This non-profit agency serves individuals who are disabled and live in Bayfield and northern Ashland counties. The agency supports disabled citizens with training and support for successfully holding jobs in the community as well as helping with housing so that these citizens may participate fully in community life. I look forward to take part in supporting citizens of our region by being part of the New Horizons North board.