

TO: Bayfield School Board
FROM: Dave Aslyn
DATE: January 30, 2017
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 a variety of presenters. The keynote speakers at this year's convention were excellent. The first day's speaker presented the topic of organizational trust. The second keynote speaker told her story of resilience. She went from homeless and parentless to graduating from and attending Harvard University. With so many districts holding excess levy referenda, many of the sessions focused on holding a successful referendum campaign and facility planning. These are always challenging undertakings for Districts and communities and we are fortunate in Bayfield to not be facing such an undertaking. We brought back some good ideas on increasing and improving the District's communication. Thank you for your support in allowing us to attend this important convention.

2. Wisconsin Fair Aid Coalition

The Wisconsin Fair Aid Coalition's (FAC) annual took place during the WASB Convention in Milwaukee. There was a great deal of discussion about the growing number of Wisconsin School Districts receiving no or very little general state aid – Bayfield being one of them. It's disturbing to see that the statistics: the average per pupil general aid support in WI in 2015-16 is \$5,088. The average per pupil state aid for WI students in the Choice Program (vouchers) in 2015-16 is \$7,214 through grade 8 and \$7,860 for high school students. These figures are in stark contrast to the situation in Bayfield where we receive less than \$450 per student in general aid. The state's educational funding system harms the financial situation of school districts like Bayfield where student enrollment has dropped over time and property values are high. Our general aid has been cut 15% a year for the past number of years. The FAC has been pushing the legislator to build in a minimum amount of general aid of \$1,000 per student in WI Public Schools for the past few years. State Superintendent, Tony Evers, has included the \$1,000 per pupil general aid minimum in his biennial budget request.

3. February Professional Development

February 17th is a scheduled early release day for MS and HS in the District. Please note that elementary students will not attend school on Friday, February 17th. All elementary teachers as well as MS and HS English/Language Arts (ELA) Teachers will be part of a required full-day professional development session with company trainers from Holt-Mifflin regarding formative and summative assessment using our new ELA materials. The rest of the teachers and administrators will be involved with ACP plan development during the afternoon. This plan will come to the School Board for adoption near the end of the current school year. The professional development activities will take place in various locations around the Bayfield School.

4. Strategic Plan Update

The District Strategic Plan Survey is open thru February 11th. The survey will provide data for the School Board to establish strategic priorities for the next five years. The survey is available online via the District Website and Facebook. Hard copies of the survey are available from Sheila Kelly. We are encouraging all stakeholders to provide input on their schools by completing the survey. The annual School Board Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, March 11th.