

## December 2017 Board Meeting Notes

4b. Finances look good. We had budgeted for a 3% increase in expenses from last year to this year and you can see we are down a little. This will likely change some, but we are in a good position right now.

4e. Mr. Schmitt recommends Chris Wernimont as a volunteer wrestling coach. Mr. Manson recommends Tomas Hart working as a 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade para. He has been subbing for us for some time. Dr. Updegraff recommends Jackie Lemke for a position at the high school.

8a. I have 5 completed application for early retirement right now. I will share them with you at the board meeting.

8b. Bob has been doing research on the cash back credit cards. I will have him update you, but it looks like all that he is found so far have a limit on how much cash back you can receive.

9a. This is informational at this time. Cedar Rapids has asked us to sign a contract if we want to continue as Iowa BIG North. In a meeting with them, they are happy with how things are going with us, but they are getting a lot of interest from other schools so are looking to formalize everyone's relationship. As a group, we have sent the contract back several times with some things that concern us. When we started the contract was 2 pages in length, but since that time I think they sent it to their attorney. I will have more to discuss at the meeting on this.

9b. Forecast5 is a recommended partner of the Iowa Association of School Boards. I have always avoided their presentations, because I felt they were a sales job and we have been managing things fairly well. In talking to another superintendent who works with them, he suggested I at least give them a shot and listen to their presentation. I listened and heard some really great things. I have attached sample reports for your review. Report 1 is very similar to the report we currently use each month. Report 2 is interesting because it provides a monthly snapshot of Unspent Authorized budget for the month and a projection to the end of the year based on current spending. Finally, the dashboard report gives a quick overview of all funds in a graphical way that's easy to report. The data is uploaded from our finance software for the last five years and again each month. That data is used to create projections that help us monitor our progress during the year. It lets us drill down a little more within each area and gives us a better look at what we have. It is quite expensive, but could come out of SAVE/PPEL. What we do is working as our finances are healthy, but this would give us much more targeted information in an easy manner for the board and administration to make decisions moving forward.

9c. We need to approve a request for supplemental modified amount for At-Risk and Drop out prevention. The amount we are asking for is \$319,739. This is the maximum we can ask for and is what we've done since I've been here. This funding is used to pay for our Alternative School, Empowerment teachers at each building, part of counseling

services for intensive counseling, and part of our elementary reading program to assist with struggling readers. This is not money that we are requesting, but rather spending authority.

9d. I will have an update on the building project and our upcoming meeting on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

9e. It's time for my mid-year evaluation in each district. I plan to continue with the informal process that we have used in the past for this mid-year meeting. The purpose is to make sure we're all on the same page on the year so far. I ask that it be in closed session and recommend we do it at the end of the January meeting.