

JANUARY BOARD MEETING NOTES

IV. B. The district financial condition is looking good this month. In the general fund, income is ahead of last year and expenses are down. Please note that expenses are down because of supplies and purchased services. I expect purchased services to catch up in the coming months as more special education billings arrive from other schools. However, we are looking good in controlling costs and the credit goes to teachers and principals as they work to reduce supplies.

Our cash balance is up \$100,000 over last year. You've heard me talk about building up our cash reserves so we don't have to worry about borrowing money at the end of the school year. This is starting to happen, though it's a little higher because of the special ed bills that haven't been paid yet.

Nothing notable to mention in management fund. Please note the nutrition fund. We are \$10,000 ahead of last year and the fund is much stronger and looking good. Part of this is from the raise in lunch prices, but I also need to give special thanks to Jodi Hollister and our entire food service staff for their efforts in reducing costs in our lunch program. Nothing notable in the other funds. Our ISL fund is now positive because we received our primary payment for the year. In February we'll get an additional smaller make-up payment as well.

D. In personnel items, we have received resignations from Brenda Geerts as a part-time para-educator and Teresa Glaser in food service. Jodi Hollister recommends Kristen Reicks transfer to the position held by Teresa Glaser. Kim Boos recommends ZoAnn Bear and Sarah Collins be approved as mentors for the STAR Mentoring program.

IX. New Business

B. We need to approve the staff's attendance at the Technology Integration in the Classrooms conference. It is June 17-18 in Dubuque. It will cost \$99 per staff member plus two nights in a hotel and some food costs. The staff voluntarily chooses to attend. Last year we had 42 staff members who attended and it was very helpful as we implemented our one to one initiative at the middle school. I recommend we do this again, the Teacher Quality Committee approved using Teacher Quality funds to pay for the majority and anything that won't be covered by them will be taken from Instructional Support funds. I anticipate 35-40 attendees this year as well. In addition, I anticipate we may have some staff members and students presenting at this conference.

C. The Professional Learning Communities Conference is in Minneapolis on June 11-13th. We are implementing PLC's throughout the district and it's been a key component in our technology integration and reading improvement. This conference is put on by the DuFour's who are considered the national guru's on the topic. It's fairly expensive at \$629 per attendee plus three nights in a hotel in Minneapolis and food costs; however, I've talked to many

superintendents and others who have attended this conference and they all say it's essential to take a team if you want to get the most out of your PLC work in your district. The TQ Committee has okayed the use of up to \$14,000 in TQ funds to pay for this conference. If there are additional costs, the balance will come from district professional development funds or Instructional support funds. I recommend we do this as we are having good success with our PLC process and this will help us continue to improve that work.

D. I've had a request from a union representative if the district would consider an early retirement incentive for this school year. I believe there are two primary motivations for this request. First, in my discussion on school finances, I've been open that we may be looking at some changes and possible reductions at the end of this year. Second, there are a number of schools around us who are offering early retirement incentives and that has created a lot of chatter among the staff members, especially those who are eligible. I will share my thoughts at the meeting on Monday night.

E. The Teacher Leadership Compensation Application is due January 31st. Either myself or some committee members will explain where we're at and ask for your approval of the plan.

F. Set a date and time for the public hearing on our request for an early start date waiver from the department of education for the 2014-2015 school year. We have to hold a public hearing on our early start date waiver request. Since the request is due March 1st this year, we need to take care of this in February. I recommend we set the time and place as right away at our regular February board meeting. 6:30 p.m. February 10, 2014. A little background, under the current state law school can only start in any week that contains September 1st. However, districts can and usually do request a waiver from this requirement. In the past, this wasn't due until July 1st, this year it has been moved up to March 1st. In addition, next month we will need to make a final decision on whether we will use days or hours in the next school year. I am currently gathering input from the community and staff on the start date and will have more information by board meeting time.

G. We will share and discuss the community meeting last Thursday night.

H. We will discuss our possible options as we move forward with our building plans. I will have a recommendation at board time related to how we should move forward.

I. I've had a request from the property owners directly west of the high school for a letter or resolution from the school board that the board does not intend to condemn their property for our current building plans. I will share my thoughts at the board meeting.

XII. We will need a motion to go into closed session to complete my mid-year evaluation.