

March 2014 Board Notes

IV. c. Nothing remarkable to mention. As mentioned previously the gap between last year and this year's expenses continues to close as the year progresses. The cash balance continues to better than last year, so our Cash Reserve Levy is building it back to a comfortable level to get us through the summer months. The management fund is dropping off as planned. We will need to address that in next year's budget. The nutrition fund continues to improve thanks to the efforts of our food service staff and our increase in prices last fall. Activities has improved over last month, but I continue to watch it closely with Mr. O'Donnell. Nothing to mention in PPEL and debt fund. Local Option Sales Tax continues to look healthy. We will take a drop when we buy our one to one devices for next year. We received our make up payment in the ISL fund as well so that is looking good.

e. I have a resignation from Megan Fandel from her position as a high school Spanish teacher. Also from Sheena Hovey for her JJV Softball coaching position. We need to approve Danielle Goodwin as a Star Mentor.

VIII. b. After our school visits this past Sunday, we should have a good feel for our consultant's work. Those who attended the visits, please come prepared to share your thoughts on what you saw during our visits.

IX. b. Early Retirement Requests. I will have a list of individuals who are qualified for our program and have applied. At this time, it looks like we will have four.

c. David Gauss from Iowa School Finance Information Services will be here to present some enrollment projection information. He will share information on birth rate, housing data, employment data, etc.

d. The state of Iowa is paying for a program where any of our students who would like to receive a certificate stating they are workplace ready, may do so at no cost to the student or the district. This is aimed at students who plan to enter the work force after high school or sometime within two years of high school, like after attending a certificate or two year program. It is sponsored by Iowa Workforce Development with the goal of increasing the skill levels of Iowa's Workforce. According to the attached documents, half the available jobs require middle job skills—high school to associate degree. However, only 1/3 of the work force has the skills to fill these roles. This could also help with the goal of turning New Hampton into a Skilled Iowa Community. I will have more information to share at the board meeting. You may also review the attachments included with the board item.

e. I will have some information to share on our Teacher Leadership and Compensation Plan. We were not awarded our plan. We scored 67 points on our application and a score of 71 was the cut-off to be considered for participation.

f. I will have some summer projects for your approval at this time. At this time, we will be looking at retiling the upper hallway in the high school which will also include costs for removing asbestos. We will have bids to discuss at the meeting.

g. Mary Frese will be here to present the District's Technology Plan for your approval.

h. There may be some opportunities to do some sharing with the Turkey Valley School District. I recommend we send a letter to their board of education asking for a joint board meeting where we can discuss sharing opportunities that would benefit both districts. I will have more information to share at the board meeting.

i. Dr. Updegraff will present some information on the music trip. It will need the board's approval.

j. We need to approve our agreement with the University of Northern Iowa for placing student teachers and also students doing observations.

k. I will have a presentation on the 2014-2015 budget. We will have a public hearing and have to certify the budget at our April board meeting, so I want to get the information out for everyone's review and consideration.