

WEST BONNER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #83



Superintendent Report

Kim Spacek, Superintendent

January 2026

Board Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Who should be recognized for their contribution to student growth and achievement?

- Priest River Elementary School/District Office Staff - This month both the Elementary School Staff and District Office Staff for their efforts in responding to the Emergency Evacuation on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. Mountains can be moved in a caring environment where the well-being of students and staff is a priority.

What has the superintendent been working on this past month?

- Visit to Clark Fork Jr/Sr High School - On Thursday, January 8, 2026, Vanessa Haggett and I traveled with Kim Keaton, Idaho Capacity Builder, to Clark Fork to visit the secondary school. We learned about their successful Workforce Training Program and the culture Phil Kimink has created over the past 21 years of his principalship. Kim Keaton wanted us to take time for this visit as our student populations are similar. As noted below, it is unfortunate we are not a part of the Career Connected Learning Cohort, however, under Vanessa's leadership, the junior-senior high school is moving ahead with some of the same attributes that can be found in Clark Fork.
- Career Technical Education (CTE) Organizational Meeting - Kendra Salesky, Business Manager, and I met with CTE Staff on Monday, January 12, 2026, to organize our efforts at the district level. It was a productive meeting as purchasing procedures were discussed along with better communication between the district and secondary school. CTE Staff has met with their Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to plan for the pathways offered at the junior-senior high school. An outcome will be expansion to junior high (Grades 7-8) exploratory classes from TAC meetings. Another outcome from our meeting is planning for a coordinator to enhance communication between the CTE Programs and District Office and assure that program requirements are being met for annual funding. The Perkins V Application will be completed in upcoming years to assure this Federal Funding is captured by CTE Programs.

- 2024 Fiscal Audit - An audit team from Hayden Ross was on site between December 16 through December 18, 2025. The Capital Assets list is being reduced, per Hayden Ross. Kendra Salesky, Business Manager, continues to respond to request for documents and information
- Forestry Building - Work has begun on the Forestry Building, located at the south end of the parking lot. The first invoice has been sent to Marcus Valentine, Project Manager for \$13,126.15. When we receive a signed certification, this will be submitted for payment. The Mechanical-Electrical-Plumbing Plans are being submitted to the Division of Occupational and Professional License for review. My follow up during this week will be with Marcus Valentine, Project Manager, as this information is from reading email chains.
- Rural Alliance - School Convening - Tommy Hansen will be attending this convening as there will be several topics presented on building culture. A copy of the agenda is attached to this report. Each time we attend the Rural Alliance we stay at the Northern Quest Casino at no cost and receive a \$35 card for meals.
- Career Connected Learning - West Bonner County School District #83 was not asked to participated in this initiative this year. Transcend is interested in working with the district in the future. Kevin Jacka, of the Rural Alliance, and I will continue to work on this initiative for a future year. This is of interest to me because Transcend will help bring the community together.

What tasks need focus for the upcoming month?

- Board Policy 5100 - Hiring and Criteria - Work on updating this Board Policy has not yet begun. I will work with the AdTeam and Tracy Rusho, Human Resources Director/Special Services Administrative Assistant, updating the policy. My goal, as Superintendent, is for the District Office to be a resource for recruiting and retaining certificated teachers and classified staff working directly with students as this is where staff is needed and where learning takes place.
- District Organization Chart - Board Policy 6200 - District Organization tasks the Superintendent with organization of the district. This refers to the Superintendent's oversight of employees. I am working on this chart and will bring a copy of my work so far to our meeting.

Are there any other items of significance to report?

- District Office Temporary Relocation - Work on the District Office will begin on Monday, February 16, 2026, and conclude on Friday, February 20, 2026. Arrangements will be made to have technology and items brought to the Temporary Office back in the District Office as soon as repairs are made. Staff continue to keep important documents in the District Office as we recognize this is a temporary office. Since we returned in January, comments from staff have been we look forward to returning to the base!

- Job Descriptions - Board Policy 5205 - *Job Descriptions is in the 5000 Series which involves Personnel. This falls under the Superintendent. I am working on clarification of several job descriptions to provide clarity to what is expected as an employee in the district. My focus is on job descriptions for the following positions:*
 - *Superintendent (It is important to start at the top and work down.)*
 - *Operations Coordinator**
 - *Director of Operations**
 - *Maintenance/Grounds Supervisor**
 - *Maintenance/Grounds**
 - *Custodian/Grounds**
 - *Counselor**
 - *Career/College Counselor**

The list may seem long, however, many attributes overlap in the asterisked () positions. I am continually asked about my plans. My first priority is for current staff within the budget, then spread to needs for the future. A graphic of the organization will be better help for Trustees, employees, and community to understand how our work is organized. With any effort, time to plan and create a graphic is a factor.*

How many corrective actions have resulted in a Temporary Suspension this past month? This information is provided based upon Board Policy 3340 - Corrective Actions and Punishment. The chart below outlines actions taken since the last board meeting:

# of Temporary Suspensions	Reason for Action	Response
1	<i>Distribution of ATOD</i>	3-days
1	<i>Fighting</i>	3-days
2	<i>Fighting</i>	5-days
1	<i>Major School Disruption</i>	3-days
2	<i>Prohibited Cell Phone Use</i>	3-days
8	<i>Use of ATOD</i>	3-days

How many Attendance Letters have been processed this month since the last board meeting?

Grade Band	# of Students
<i># of Students in Kindergarten through Grade 6</i>	1
<i>St# of Students in Grades 7 through Grade 12</i>	0

How many Open Enrollment Applications have been processed since the last board meeting:

<i># of Students Entering the District through Open Enrollment</i>	<i># of Students Exiting the District through Open Enrollment</i>	<i># of Students Changing Schools in the District through Open Enrollment</i>
0	0	0

How many Requests for Public Records have been processed? The chart below requests made and/or completed since the last board meeting:

<i>Requestor</i>	<i>Nature of Request</i>	<i>Date of Request</i>	<i>Date Request fulfilled</i>
CT Mills Public Info Access	Active Employee Information	10-16-2025	1-6-2026
Emma Epperly IdahoEducation News	WBCSD#83/Brandon Durst Settlement	1-8-2026	1-15-2026 and ongoing

Other Items of Interest

I read the following documents to keep up with current issues in the field of education: (Reading is done during each mealtime when at the house in Oldtown.)

- 4 Day School Week - I received this brief from Van Cummings, the Vice-Principal at Othello, when I taught there in the 1990s. We continue to keep in touch over the years. He is now subbing all over and currently an administrator at Tri-Tech in Kennewick, WA. More school systems are moving to a 4-day School Week. The priority must to do our best to educate students within the daily and yearly time we have them in our school system!

Acronyms:

Education has terminology formed from the initial letters of other words and pronounced as a phrase of letters or word. (This list will expand as acronyms are used in this report.)

- *ASVAB = Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery*
- *CTE = Career Technical Education*
- *IHSAA = Idaho High School Activities Association*
- *ICRMP = Idaho County Risk Management Program*
- *IRI = Idaho Reading Indicator*
- *ISEE = Idaho System of Educational Excellence*
- *MTSS = Multi-Tiered System of Supports*
- *PLC = Professional Learning Community*
- *STEAM = Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics*
- *STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*
- *TAC = Technical Advisory Committee (CTE Program Requirement)*

Kim Spacek

January Convening Agenda

Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 **Time:** 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM **Location:** Northern Quest Resort and Casino. **Theme:** Building Equitable Systems Through Data, Voice, and Strategy

Convening Goals

- Understand current legal and policy shifts impacting equity
- Analyze district-level data to identify gaps in student learning
- Conduct curriculum audits aligned with equity priorities
- Review well-being and motivation survey
- Learn how to build a BOT (Blueprint of Transformation) for systemic change

Full-Day Agenda

Time	Session Title	Description
8-8:30	Welcome & Opening Circle	Set intentions, build community, and review convening goals
8:30– 9:30	Legal Landscape in Education – <i>Alex Fern</i>	Explore current legal topics affecting schools: equity, discipline, student rights
9:30– 10:30	District Data Deep Dive – <i>Don Vanderholm</i>	Analyze achievement, attendance, and discipline data to identify gaps in current reality
10:30– 10:45	Break	Coffee and conversation
10:45– 11:45	Curriculum Audit Workshop	Teams assess curriculum for cultural relevance, accessibility, and alignment with equity goals
11:45– 12:30	Well-Being & Motivation Survey	Staff and student survey to identify trends in engagement, well-being and morale
12:30– 1:15	Lunch	Networking and informal discussion
1:15– 2:30	Building a BOT (Blueprint of Transformation) – <i>Min Sun</i>	Learn how to design and implement a BOT to drive equity-focused change

Materials & Preparation

- District-level data reports
- Curriculum samples or audit tools
- Well-being/motivation survey
- Devices for collaborative planning
- BOT framework templates (provided by Min Sun)

4-day school weeks are growing in popularity, despite a lack of data on the effects

Some districts see a shorter school week as a way to attract teaching talent. But many remain skeptical.

BY:ROBBIE SEQUEIRA-DECEMBER 1, 20255:00 AM

Northeast of the capital city of Des Moines in central Iowa, the 400-student Collins-Maxwell Community School District is one of many across the state shifting to a four-day school week.

Like many rural K-12 schools, the district has struggled to find teachers, and it sees the four-day week as a useful recruiting tool. It also wants to curb student absences, which tend to spike [on Mondays and Fridays](#).

The district maintained its traditional five-day calendar in August and September. But from now on, with scattered exceptions, the middle school and high school in the Collins-Maxwell district will be closed on Mondays. To meet Iowa's minimum number of instructional hours, the district will lengthen the other days during four-day weeks.

Superintendent Marc Snavely said he watched nearby schools transition to shorter weeks and was intrigued by the reports he got from his counterparts in other districts. Snavely hopes the shorter week will boost teacher morale,

reduce burnout, and make the rural district more competitive with nearby districts that are larger and can offer teachers better pay.

“Ultimately, the ‘why’ behind the four-day school week came down to staff recruitment and retention,” Snavely said in an interview. “We felt being a small school district, the four-day week would allow us to better compete.”

He added that surrounding schools with four-day weeks said they experienced fewer discipline problems and improved attendance. And rural school districts across the country tout the four-day work week as a way to stretch tight school budgets amid K-12 funding uncertainties at the federal and state levels.

But despite the reports of higher attendance and calmer classrooms, education researchers say the evidence tells a more complicated story.

Ultimately, the ‘why’ behind the four-day school week came down to staff recruitment and retention.

– Collins-Maxwell Community School District Superintendent Marc Snavely

Emily Morton, lead researcher for the Northwest Evaluation Association, which creates standardized testing for K-12 schools, cautioned that the promised benefits have not shown up in the data. Moreover, longer school days can harm academic performance, Morton said.

But such concerns might not matter as four-day school weeks become more popular nationwide.

“One thing that does show up clearly is that there is an extremely high approval rating for these policies,” Morton said. “Parents and students overwhelmingly want to stay on a four-day week once they have it.”

[A rural trend](#)

There are [more than 2,100 schools in 26 states](#) using four-day weeks, according to researchers at Oregon State University. In Iowa, the number of districts on a four-day schedule has grown from six in 2023-24 to more than two dozen in 2025. In Colorado, [two-thirds of districts](#) are on the altered schedule.

But so far, it's almost entirely a rural phenomenon.

"To my knowledge, there's not a single urban district using a four-day week," Morton said. "What a four-day week looks like in a rural community is very different from what people in suburban or urban areas imagine."

Dr. Shanon Taylor, an education professor at the University of Nevada, Reno who studies school scheduling, said districts typically adopt the model for economic and staffing reasons, not academic ones. Rural districts often save money on transportation, utilities and building operations, she said, and the promise of permanent three-day weekends helps recruitment efforts.

However, the burden of accommodating this transition may fall heavily on parents who work five days a week, and especially on the parents of younger students who must find a child care alternative on the selected day off.

"The research is still mixed," Taylor said. "We don't yet have decisive evidence showing academic benefits or drawbacks."

In June, researchers at the University of Oregon [published a review](#) of 11 studies on four-day school weeks, which included data on academic achievement, attendance, discipline and criminal activity. The impact of a four-day week varied based on grade level and on location, the Oregon researchers found, but overall "there was no evidence of large positive effects."

They also noted that “maintaining activities that foster healthy youth development on the fifth day is important for minimizing other negative impacts.”

State vs. local clashes

In some states, the policy has sparked conflict between state and local officials.

“There’s a lot of tension between state leaders and rural districts over whether the four-day week is something the state should allow,” said Morton. “In Oklahoma, when the state tried to take it away, districts simply shifted to ‘virtual Fridays’ — and instruction mostly didn’t happen.”

The Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, a conservative think tank, found through a public records request that more than 100 Oklahoma districts had at least one school where students had at least two full weeks’ worth of “virtual days” in the 2022-23 school year. More than 60 districts had at least one school that went online for three weeks or more. During many of those days, there was minimal live instruction.

In response, Oklahoma this year [enacted a law](#) that restricts public schools’ ability to shift to virtual learning. The measure limits districts to two days of virtual instruction each school year, and only allows them under certain circumstances, such as a state of emergency declared by the governor.

Missouri enacted a law in 2024 [requiring that certain big city, charter and county districts](#) obtain voter approval before adopting or continuing a four-day week. The Independence School District, a 14,000-student suburban system on the edge of Kansas City that switched to the shorter week in 2023-24, [has since sued the state](#), alleging the law unconstitutionally targets certain districts based on arbitrary criteria such as county size.

Last year, a [New Mexico mandate for districts to adopt calendars with more school days](#) was halted in court. And Arkansas legislators [considered a bill](#) that would allow for range of instructional times from 160 to 190 days, which would be contingent on a school's rating. A large number of [rural districts there have moved to four-day schedules](#).

Meanwhile, uncertainty over the costs and benefits of the approach are likely to persist.

Morton, the education assessment researcher, said that small rural districts might not be equipped to determine whether a four-day week produces benefits until further studies are conducted across the country.

“Even if your test scores stay flat, nearby districts might be rising, so your ‘flat’ could actually be a negative effect,” she said. “States need to equip districts with what national research shows, because local data will never be able to answer these questions alone.”

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