

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:051413 TAYLOR STEPHENSON

1. Legislation Update: Midnight May 27 is the last day for the 83rd regular session of the legislature. As of this date, no school bills have passed, but this is my best forecast of legislation:

a. A much kinder session for education. It appears that there will be an attempt to restore some of the cuts made in the last biennium. \$\$\$ would be allocated on the basis of Weighted Average Daily Attendance (WADA). My estimate is \$75,000 that would be added to this year's appropriation.

b. The next biennium: If the legislators hold firm, legislation will pass that increases the allocation for school districts of lower wealth. (That includes Brackettville). The numbers are still being discussed, but it's possible that we could gain some state funds rather than cutting, as has been the case for the past 3 sessions of the legislature.

c. Statewide testing: Parents and educators have united saying enough testing! The legislators appear to hear the message and reductions in the number of tests from 15 to 5 appears to be on the horizon. There is so much missed instructional time when statewide tests are given, and it appears that the test developer is the only one to receive benefits from all of the required tests. Looks much better.

II. LONG RANGE REVIEW OF BISD SCHOOL FACILITIES; I met with Bo Ledoux, architect to discuss the status of buildings and grounds at BISD. Bo is an extremely competent architect who continues to study BISD facilities as he works with me for a long range plan to update & improve the facilities.

Next, I met with a financial planner from San Antonio to discuss ways of financing any improvements that we might consider in the future. I foresee paying for improvements over a long period of time, 10 years, with a combination of funds from fund balance & possibly other sources of revenue. Interest rates on bonds are at a historic low of 1% on a 10 year bond. I have not studied this matter in great detail, but I have begun to look at needs and ways of paying for the improvements.

In the near future, a Building committee will be appointed that will review plans, make adjustments, and make a proposal to the Board. I will be as conservative with the taxpayers' money as I can be. The final decision on improvements will be made by this school board after recommendations from a Long Range Building Committee>

III. Staff Report: vacancies for 2013-14

2 Kindergarten Vacancies, Alma has reassigned some of her staff to fill vacancies in upper grade levels.

Head Start Teacher

Junior high science and assistant coach

IV. Avance Contract—

I have reviewed the Avance Contract for 2013-14. It looks as if no change was made; and I will likely recommend approval of the contract at the June Board Meeting.

Alma plans to move special education into the main building at Jones Elementary, as per Region 20's recommendation. If the plan works, we would move the Head Start & PK to the Smiles Classroom.

The hang up now is who pays for the improvements to the building, estimated at about \$20,000. I have told Avance, through, Alma Gutierrez that we are in a revenue neutral year. Therefore, we can't pay for this remodeling.

Avance is considering alternatives; if they want this done, they pay)

- 1. Replace decking.**
- 2. Paint portable building interior and exterior**
- 3. Add a restroom area for children to include; child appropriate; commodes (2) and sinks (2) w/hot water accessibility.**
- 4. Remove wall divider**
- 5. Replace carpet with VCT**
- 6. Add panic hardware to perimeter doors**
- 7. Add battery operated smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors**
- 8. Fence in perimeter to include playground area.**
- 9. Add wall enclosure for office area.**
- 10. Add window openings or additional lighting.**
- 11. If not available, have an asbestos and lead paint assessment completed.**

V. Budget update:

- 1. The legislature's actions will not be known for at least a couple of weeks; maybe longer. So, we are struggling with the same basic revenue as we have had this year.**
- 2. Cuts in positions from this past budget: savings—approximately \$70,000
Budget savings in utilities....we can still do better. This next year the effort will be much greater to cut back on air-conditioning and heating buildings when school is not in session. These are the same dollars that could be used for raises or instructional supplies.
Half time Library Aide, technology assistant, grounds keeper**

3. Conservative spending, thanks to Marla for her guidance, should reduce the budget deficit significantly.

4. Our salaries are low compared to other districts. I don't think this session will help correct that problem. It's difficult to keep a quality staff when salaries have been frozen for several years and when they are below other districts. This is a long range problem, which likely won't be solved this year.

I feel as if deep staff cuts should not be made at this time. We are trying to get a closer balance by cutting a few positions, and by conservative spending.

But, if our state continues to cut education funding, we will have no choice but to reduce staff. It's my goal, not to reduce more than the 3 positions that I have listed previously.

5. It remains a goal of mine, and I am certain Marla's to use fund balance ONLY for non recurring expenditures such as equipment, buses, vehicles, remodeling. I don't know if this is possible this year, but it is a goal>

6. Windmill \$\$\$ if we get a significant amount of money from tax abatement, we should only use those dollars for improvements to buildings, grounds & new equipment.

7. Technology Update: The IPADS for seniors of 2014 have been ordered along with many new technology items, such as calculators for math and advanced science. Funds were basically available through the state's instructional materials act.



Taylor Stephenson <taylor.stephenson@brackettisd.net>

Fw: Recent BB Playoff Games in S.A.

2 messages

Dr. Scott Norris <snorris@bbisd.esc2.net>

Tue, May 14, 2013 at 8:15 AM

To: taylor.stephenson@brackettisd.net

Mr. Stephenson: Here is yesterday's email to my board members that I was discussing with you this morning. Please share it with whomever you think would enjoy it. I am very glad you and yours made it home safely and sincerely hope your school year ends well as you have a class group of staff and students. Take care...S. Norris

"Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out." John Wooden

Scott Norris, Ed.D.
Superintendent - Ben Bolt-Palito Blanco ISD
172 Badger Lane
Ben Bolt, TX 78342
Office: 361-664-9904
FAX: 361-668-0446

-----Original Message-----

From: "Dr. Scott Norris" <snorris@bbisd.esc2.net>

Sent 5/13/2013 8:05:18 AM

To: joedanielbueno400@yahoo.com, noe@vpsales1.com, gracy.garcia43@yahoo.com, higinio.garcia@centerpointenergy.com, g.wicho@yahoo.com, rramirez@bishopfacility.com, zelda_saenz@yahoo.com

Subject: Re: Recent BB Playoff Games in S.A.

Ladies and Gents: I know I sent you the results of our recent win in S.A., but I'd like to share a few other quality things that happened during that series as well. First, both head coaches are originally from Waxahatchie, Tx. It appears that town can crank out some first-rate baseball people as both coaches made a number of very good calls and adjustments to improve their team's chances of winning during this 3 game series.

Secondly, both teams played their hearts out. There were more errors on both sides than any coach would want, but there was no lack of effort or commitment on either side. In short, there was no "quit" in either team. These young men were hustling all the time and doing everything they could do to win, but were doing these things in the spirit of good competition. I could not say the same for some of the fans, but they too, eventually settled down and cheered and supported their respective teams in the proper fashion.

At the end of the last game, which was a nail-biter let me tell you, I saw something that really made me even more proud to be associated with education and athletics and put a great cap on a great baseball series. When we got the final out on Brackettville, the coaches and teams lined up on the field as usual and met one another, shaking hands and congratulating the other team. When everyone got to the end of the line they all turned back around and met in a group next to the pitchers mound. The players and coaches from both teams were all mixed together. They congratulated one another again with handshakes, back pats, and hugs. Then they all took a knee and the entire group shared a prayer. I don't know what was said on the field, but it was a very emotional and very uplifting moment to witness, at least for me. I am definitely glad we came out on top of this series, but I'm telling you we played a class set of coaches and players from Brackettville. And you know what, we are as well! I don't know what the next series of games will bring, but it will be hard to top this past series, at least from the standpoint of honor, good sportsmanship and dedication. My hat is definitely off to both of these programs.

Please be sure to congratulate our kiddoes and staff on their very remarkable performances this past weekend should you see them.

As soon as I hear from Coach Galvan and Coach LeFevre as to where our next games will be I will get that info passed on to you. Till then....

"Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out." John Wooden

Scott Norris, Ed.D.
Superintendent - Ben Bolt-Palito Blanco ISD
172 Badger Lane
Ben Bolt, TX 78342
Office: 361-664-9904
FAX: 361-668-0446

Nondiscrimination: The Ben Bolt-Palito Blanco I. S. D. does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, sex, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

No discriminación: El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Ben Bolt-Palito Blanco no discrimina en base a la edad, raza, religión, color de piel, nacionalidad, sexo, y discapacidad al proporcionar servicios educativos, actividades, y programas, de acuerdo con el Título VI del Acta de Derechos Civiles de 1964, como ha sido amendada; el Título IX de las Enmiendas Educativas de 1972; y la Sección 504 del Acta de Rehabilitación de 1973, como ha sido amendada.

Taylor Stephenson <taylor.stephenson@brackettisd.net>
To: "Dr. Scott Norris" <snorris@bbisd.esc2.net>

Tue, May 14, 2013 at 9:03 AM

Thank youDr. Norris.

This letter is heart warming; and reflects my feelings also.

The entire series was a class act, but the moment that took my breath away was the teams meeting for prayer after the game.

thanks for a wonderful letter.

Let me know if I can assist you in any way.

Taylor

[Quoted text hidden]

-

Taylor Stephenson
Interim Superintendent
Brackett ISD
830-563-2491