

Minidoka County School District

# Superintendent's Report

## November 20, 2017

### Correspondence

- We received notification from the City of Burley concerning a public hearing by the Burley Planning and Zoning Commission that was held November 9<sup>th</sup>. I did not attend.

### Information/Updates

- **Plant Facilities Supplemental Levy Results** – The levy passed 622 to 433. I have attached the unofficial results of the election. We had three precincts in which we had more Against votes than those In Favor, Acequia, Paul, and Rupert 5. It is my hope that we can get some feedback from these areas as to why they voted the way they did. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.
- **District Performance Evaluation Program** – We must submit copies of our certified and administrator evaluation policies to the State by December 1. We have been working on revisions to these policies since last spring, but have yet to submit them to the Board for approval. I have added them to the packet for a first reading and have included a copy of our District Performance Evaluation Program, which is a summary of our evaluation procedures across the District.
- **City of Heyburn Partnership** – I met with Tony Morley, the Heyburn City administrator and we discussed the need for a walking path along Villa Drive on the east side of Heyburn Elementary. The twelve-foot-wide walking and bike path would run south past the school to the other side of the drainage canal and connect with the path that goes to the park along the Snake River. I indicated that we would write a letter of support and share the cost of submitting the grant application (approx. \$2,000) in a three-way split between the District, the City and the developer. There would be no additional costs if the application is successful.
- **ARTEC – Industrial Regional Professional Technical Charter (RPTC) School** – The ARTEC Board approved the replicating of the ARTEC RPTC School and forming an ARTEC-Industrial RPTC School. The original ARTEC will focus on business, IT and health courses and the new ARTEC-I would include the diesel, construction, automotive and similar programs. The split would allow more programs throughout Region IV to take advantage of the 12:1 funding divisor from the State.

Our Board would have to approve this new charter school. The application for MCSD Board approval will be presented in December along with an annual performance report by Andy Wiseman, the ARTEC Director/Principal. If approved, this change would happen in the 2018-19 school year.

- **Machine Operator Student to Registered Apprenticeship Program (StRAP)** – The Idaho Department of Labor, CSI, Cassia County School District and our District have been working with High Desert Milk, McCains, and Fabri-kal for the past two years to develop this new program. It is the first in the nation of its kind and at the kick-off event on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup>. There students from both Cassia County and Minidoka County School Districts signed their

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contracts to participate in this early morning program. Class will be three days a week from 7 to 8 am at Mt. Harrison and will be taught by an industry paid trainer.

I spoke briefly at the event and Trustees Stevenson and Andersen were in attendance along with over 50 others. Many thanks to Chet Jeppesen from the Idaho Department of Labor and Justin Tate, from Minico for their work to make this a reality.

- **Staff Travel Update**
  - We have purchased a 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan with only 13,000 miles on it for staff travel use. We rented an identical (though upscale) version in Coeur d'Alene for the ISBA Convention and were able to fit all seven of us comfortably along with our luggage.
  - I have adjusted the Staff Travel Policy 405.21 to address the fact that we now have District vehicles for staff to use. The district vehicles should be used rather than reimbursement for personal vehicles.
- **Magic Valley Boys & Girls Club (MVBGC)** – Michele Widmier, Laurie Copmann and I have met with Craig Swenson from the Rupert City Council and representatives from the MVBGC in Twin Falls to apply for a **21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Grant** to help support the opening of a branch of their organization at the MC Fitness and Community Center here in Rupert. I have indicated that we would be willing to support them in providing after school transportation.
- **Mt. Harrison STAT Participation** – On October 25 I met with Kelly Arritt and representatives from the State Department of Education to review the possibilities of having Mt. Harrison participate in a pilot program for the SDE's **State Technical Assistance Team (STAT)** to help schools in need of improvement. The grant will provide supports to Mt. Harrison and an additional \$61,824 in funding.
- **Building Safety Inspections** – We received commendations from the State Safety Inspector, Jeff Harris, for those buildings who have improved in addressing safety concerns. The ones who received this recognition were: Minico High School – most improved, Paul Elementary received the Safety Award of Excellence, and Mt. Harrison, Heyburn and Acequia were recognized for Exemplary Safety Practices. We are working to address the issues that were raised, especially those that were repeat offenses.
- **Purchase Card Update** – After piloting our P-card agreement with Wells Fargo Bank we found out that we were not spending enough funds in those accounts to get the promised rewards. We have switched to a slightly less robust plan that does not give us quite as much control but will meet our needs. The P-cards were handed out to secretaries this week.
- **Calendar Committee** – I plan on convening the Calendar Committee once in December to get some feedback before we begin work on next year's calendar. I have heard some feedback on not having enough time for Parent Teacher Conferences, especially for

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Kindergarten families. I am also working on revising the District Calendar Committee Policy #600.

### Meetings/Activities

- **Staff/Building Visits:**

I stopped by a number of schools during **Parent Teacher Conferences** on October 26 but have not been able to do any classroom visits this month. I did meet with the Maintenance Department staff weekly and with the MCEA leadership on November 16.

- **Committee/Community Meetings:**

I have attended volleyball and football games this past month as well as the Minico Choir Concert, conducted Town Hall meetings on October 19 and November 2.

All our administrators and secretaries attended a special training at Minico on October 27 by Paul Stark, attorney for Idaho Education Association. Mr. Stark shared information about the **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)** which outlines the rules we all must follow with regards to student educational records.

I attended the **75<sup>th</sup> Annual ISBA Convention** in Coeur d'Alene along with Chair Heins, and Trustees, Gibson and Anderson. Kerri Tibbitts, our Board Clerk and Reed Cotton were also in attendance. While there I attended a couple of sessions about the upcoming legislative session and in one shared my concerns about the need for more flexibility in teacher classroom assignments. I will be pursuing this concern with the Idaho State Department of Education in the next few weeks.

I attended both the October and November **ARTEC/Region IV Superintendent's Meetings** in Twin Falls since our last meeting. The December meeting with our local legislators will be held on **December 13 and all trustees are invited**. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

### Upcoming Events

December 2      **Minico AG & FFA Annual Dinner** 6 pm McGregor Center

December 4      **Agenda Review** 2:00 pm

December 6      **Policy Review Committee Meeting** 3:45

December 11     **Regular Board Meeting** - 4:30 Agenda Review, 5:45 Work Session Topic:  
Middle School Sports Update

December 13     **Region IV Superintendents & Legislators Meeting** 8 am @ CSI