



Medford Public School
ISD #763

Providing quality education while preparing our children and community for the future

School Board Agenda Item

Meeting Date: March 16, 2015

Topic: Legislative Update

Place on Agenda: Reports, Superintendent

Presenter: Rich Dahman

Background:

The 2015 MN Legislative session is in full swing, and the state budget forecast released in February shows a \$1.89B surplus. Governor Dayton has released his budget proposals for the next biennium, and the Senate and House will soon release their budget targets.

On school funding issues, the areas that would have the most positive impact on Medford Schools are:

- Increased funding on the Basic Formula, which gives all school districts a consistent funding stream with local control.
- Equalization of debt service payments across districts, so that taxpayers in low-property value districts are treated in a fair manner across the state.
- Funding for Teacher Development and Evaluation (TDE), to enable districts that don't receive Q Comp funding the ability to fund the new TDE requirements.

A couple new educational proposals that are not directly funding related include:

- Governor Dayton has proposed eliminating 7 of the 21 requirement state tests, including the PLAN, EXPLORE, and COMPASS tests, MCA Math for grades 3-4, and MCA Reading for grades 6-7.
- A new proposal in the House, which would require districts to have a student member on their school board.

As we move through the legislative session, I will keep you updated on these and other potential bills which impact education. There should be a lot of movement over the next few weeks.