

**Browning Middle School**  
**Board Report**  
**May 2017**

*Positives:*

During the last week of April, we had a couple of very difficult situations to get through. First, our long-time custodian, Dennis Juneau, passed away from a heart attack. Although losing Dennis was very hard on our students, and particularly our staff, it gave us time to not only reflect on all the positive ways that Dennis affected all our lives, but also reminded us to appreciate each other's contributions to our school.

The second difficult situation, as you know, was a series of threats made over social media. Although this incident had negative repercussions that will reverberate for quite awhile, we have some brave students who stepped up and reported the posts before anything happened. Our law enforcement officers responded and addressed the situation in a very professional and quick manner. Finally, even though almost every principal was out of District that day, our assistant principals were aware of and followed our District Emergency Plan, with the result that the Superintendent and Law Enforcement were immediately notified, emergency procedures were followed, and there really was no point in the incident that our students were in any direct danger. I want to thank our BMS assistant principal, Natasha Siliezar, for the way she demonstrated herself as a strong leader during both these difficult situations while I was out of District.

I attended the Gear Up spring meeting during the last week of April. It is at this meeting where we prepare our Gear Up plan for next year. Thanks to the monies we receive from Gear Up, we are able to provide each of our students with a college visit every year. A few of the other events that Gear Up pays for each year are science field studies, SpectrUM science, the career fair, BMS summer school, the 8th grade ACT test, and many other educational initiatives. Melanie Magee is one of two Gear Up coordinators in the state who have been with Gear Up since it was first introduced in Montana 17 years ago. Her knowledge and experience are a huge asset to Browning Middle School. Unfortunately, with the new administration in Washington DC, Gear Up may be on the cutting board. We want to encourage everyone to contact our senators and representative to advocate for the reauthorization of Gear Up.

*Curriculum/Instruction:*

SpectrUM science from the University of Montana, and the NASA educational program from Montana State University, both presented to our school on April 20, 2017. Our students rotated

through a variety of hands-on exhibits demonstrating the science of water erosion presented by SpectrUM. They also built and launched rockets with the NASA group from MSU. After school, both SpectrUM and MSU NASA stayed open for our Family Literacy Night. We had over 70 people go through the exhibits during that time. We are very lucky to have Gear Up who coordinates these events and pays for the SpectrUM exhibit.

We have completed our final cycle for the SRI Grant. I want to thank Jodie Goss, Andrea Evans, Laura Monroe, and Erin Gilham for participating both last year and this year in the grant. It will be interesting to see what the results of the study show at the state level.

Next year we do our end of the year ISIP and StarMath assessments. I will be including the yearly progress results in my June board report.

***Activities/Sports:***

- All Band Concert - May 23
- All Choir Concert - May 25
- National Junior Honor Society inductions - May 25 from 5:00-6:00 PM
- 8th grade celebration - June 8 5:00-6:00 PM

***Attendance:***

Joey Brown found all students who were 10 day drops and got them all back in school except for one. She is incredibly diligent in working to assure that our students regularly attend school.

April was a tough attendance month for us due to a variety of factors, including very low attendance following the threats on social media. Below are our April attendance totals:

7th grade - 72.00%    8th grade - 67.84%    Total - 70.05%

***Behavior:***

Below are our referral numbers so far:

Type	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.
# extreme	0	5	0	6	1	2	1	7	9
# major	0	20	12	12	3	5	7	14	33
# minor	2	78	70	86	50	78	34	50	83
Total	2	103	82	104	54	85	42	71	125

As compared to last year at this time:

Type	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.
# extreme	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	1
# major	1	9	13	10	12	8	13	12	10
# minor	8	109	128	60	59	57	106	63	98
Total	10	118	142	71	72	66	121	75	109