

MISD Board Communicator
February 25, 2013

Manistee ISD will provide services that will improve teaching and learning

School Improvement on the Move

Kay Salyer has been working closely with our superintendents this year to put in place local school processes that improve instruction. Our January professional development was facilitated by local Principals who had been trained by our General Education staff (Kay, Kim and Dency). Kay also worked closely with John Chandler of MAPS to visit classrooms to review the instructional practice and classroom structure. John then discusses the visits with his leadership team.

We think practicing and reviewing good instructional practice should be an ongoing expectation. We also believe that if all school leaders visited classrooms with certain expectations in mind that student performance will improve.

Manistee ISD will provide services to assist local districts to comply with local, state and federal mandates

State imposed funding structure rewards performance

The latest budget proposed by the Governor actually cuts funding to our local districts. Only two districts will qualify for \$ 34 per student in an equity funding categorical, while all of our districts will likely qualify for \$ 16 per student for utilizing educational best practices. The best practice funding was \$ 52 per student during the current school year. The net funding result is -\$2 per student for Bear Lake, CASMAN and MAPS and -\$36 for Onkama and KND.

Districts can earn up to \$ 100 per student (\$ 30 for grades 3-8 math, \$ 30 for grades 3-8 reading, and \$ 40 for all tested high school areas) in school performance funding. This funding is tough to get based on expected levels. In fact, only one school in the state qualified for all three areas in the current school year.

The Governor had stated that the budget represented 2% increase in K-12 funding. The facts of the matter are that most of that money comes to the state school aid formula in two areas: a \$ 65 million expansion of the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP – preschool) and \$140 million dollar MPSERS (Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System) offset. The MPSERS offset has the state keeping the retirement rate the same for our schools at a cost to the school aid fund. Other smaller funding improvements were made in support of the Michigan Virtual University and State Department of Education Office of Great Start.

The bottom line for our schools was that while the state put more money into the State School Aid pot, our local schools will be getting less money per student in the 2013-14 school year under the Governors proposed budget.

Manistee ISD will provide services to improve the quality, enhance efficiency, and foster cooperation and collaboration in our Educational service area

Superintendent Search

Wexford-Missaukee ISD was interviewing two superintendent candidates on Thursday night, February 21. Several MISD staff members, administrators and Board members planned to attend these interviews. WMISD did have the search consultant meet with MISD staff, local districts and Board members related to the search. We should know about their planned next step in the process by our Board meeting on Monday night. In any case, Manistee ISD retains the right to select, hire, evaluate, and fully employ our own Superintendent. The question remains will we work out an agreement with WMISD to continue with a dual superintendent.

Regional School Boards Meeting

West Shore ESD has set up our next regional school boards meeting for Thursday, April 11 at West Shore Community College. Brad Biladeau, the Associate Executive Director of Governmental Relations for the Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA) will be our guest speaker. Brad is the lead lobbyist for State Superintendents Association (MASA) and should bring some excellent insight about the upcoming school year and Educational issues being considered in the legislature.

Other Items

- We have been working on a potential payment schedule for contracted employees based in part on our teachers contract. As it currently stands we have six contracted employees that are paid varying rates as set by our administrators so we have some inconsistency. The Board should be setting all pay rates and provide overall guidance to our administrative team on contractors. We anticipate bringing you suggested rates at our March meeting.

As always, feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns. Scott

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