

WEST BONNER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #83



Superintendent Report

Kim Spacek, Superintendent

December 2024

Board Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Who should be recognized for their contribution to student growth and achievement?

- *School Council Presentation - Students representing the Priest River Elementary School Student Council presented activities to the Board of Trustees. This is an excellent example of involving student leaders in public speaking. Student leadership contributes to an engaging learning environment.*

What has the Superintendent been working on this past month?

- *2022-23 Fiscal Audit - Jonathan Gillen was in the office Tuesday, December 10, 2024, through Thursday, December 12, 2024. Since that time, Kendra has been networking with Jonathan to provide needed documentation to move the audit along.*
 - *Nine (9) outstanding items are open at this time. A submission went in on Friday, December 13, 2024, to CLA for field work to begin on Monday, December 16, 2024, to review these items.*
 - *Once CLA reviews the submission within their field work, Jonathan is certain there will be more questions to answer.*
 - *Special Education cash receipts were found to be off and a proposal was submitted to fix this.*
 - *SEFA (Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards) is an important item submitted along with the other eight (8) mentioned above.*
- *Field Trip to Junior High School - District level staff visited the junior high on Thursday, December 12, 2024, to brainstorm options for the Board of Trustees to consider in moving the District Office to that location. The staff believes other options should be explored as the board continues to envision possible uses of the building. The staff will continue to estimate costs to potential options for board action.*
- *PLC Guiding Coalition - The leadership team is continuing to develop. Our next meeting on December 16th will center on creating a goal for the year. For the*

district's next Professional Development Day, the AdTeam is working on creating time for the Guiding Coalition members to lead professional development and then focus activities in buildings on PLC Work applicable to the building. All of this work is to improve instruction for students to become proficient as measured by state testing.

- *Secondary Early Release - My recommendation will be to approve the request by Matt George, Principal. This proposal was brought forth after the Parent Advisory Committee and the Building Leadership Committee discussed it. The rationale meets the purpose for professional development. It is also allowed by Idaho Code. As we focus on implementing an instructional program based on stated funding, the building will get an early start on utilizing these hours to refine its work this year and in preparation for next year.*
- *Title IX Question - There was a question raised by a parent of a student-athlete concerning Title IX. I contacted the Idaho Title IX Consultant from the State Department of Education. The consultant sent the two publications noted in Other Items of Interest. Through meeting with the parent, I am trying to determine what the parent would like to see in one of our secondary school athletic programs.*
- *HB521 - Ryan Carruth submitted the application on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, and the district received notice that the State Department of Education approved the application on Wednesday, November 27, 2024. This is the first milestone in determining facilities that may need to be upgraded. The next milestone will be to determine district priorities to make needed improvements to district facilities.*
- *Meeting with PLEF (Priest Lake Education Foundation) - I was invited to meet with PLEF on Monday, December 2, 2024. The foundation leaders were concerned about the recent articles in the area newspaper concerning the potential closing of the school in the upcoming year. That may have generated the initial reason for the meeting, however, discussion was about supporting educational excellence throughout the district. PLEF is working on collecting information through a survey about how parents of home school children can be supported by the school system. Trustee Margy Hall attended. More information will be relayed as the budget and the work of PLEF develops throughout the year.*
- *CIP - Final approval was given by the State Department of Education. To help with monitoring efforts, principals will provide an update on progress their buildings are meeting toward their Performance Targets, identified in the CIP. A copy of the final report the district received on our CIP is attached to this report.*
- *Standards-based Report Card - Loretta Glazier has been working diligently with the committee on the update previously discussed. Loretta will present an*

updated standards-based report card for elementary schools at this meeting. The board outlined expectations last month for completing the update. My recommendation will be to approve the update if those expectations were met.

- *Idaho Governor Executive Order 2024-11 - The AdTeam discussed this topic at the end of November and in December. The consensus was that what the district implemented is sufficient. I plan to work on this and bring it back to the AdTeam as there is \$5,000 the district can capture from state funding to implement a policy. This continues to be a burning issue throughout the country that impacts learning and achievement.*

What tasks need focus for the upcoming month?

- *Several board policies need to be updated, too numerous to name here. I will discuss any changes with the appropriate stakeholder group before asking for them to be placed on the board meeting agenda. The board will be informed as this process begins for any policy.*

Are there any other items of significance to report?

- *Sensational Successes - This topic has been a part of AdTeam agendas throughout the year. Administrators continue to see successes and share them with the group each month. Here are some examples:*
 - *Lynn Parker, Principal of Priest River Elementary School, shared with the team that the intervention program after school is targeting students needing an intervention. The staff adjusted the schedule for students who need help. Students attending the intervention are making progress with the extra time staff are working with the students.*
 - *Mental Health Awareness week was well received by students. Students were reached with the curriculum in different ways.*
 - *Great questions were asked by teachers during Interim SAT training. This is evidence teachers are focused on improving student learning. Results of interim tests can be used to make changes to instruction and prepare students for the test in the spring.*

Other Items of Interest

I read the following documents to keep up with current issues in the field of education: (Reading is done during each meal time in the morning, noon, and evening as well as on two weekends per month that I am staying in town.

- *Title IX Athletics Handbook - The handbook outlines how schools can meet the guidelines of Title IX as interpreted through the Office for Civil Rights. The guidance, enacted in 1975, has been updated several times through the years. If there is a question about compliance, this publication is an excellent resource*

to understand how athletic programs ought to be operating. The district must monitor support from booster clubs to assure equality of opportunities for boys and girls are met.

- *Title IX and Athletic Opportunities in K-12 Schools - The publication from the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education outlines the history of Title IX and its implementation. Any school district or private school that accepts federal funding is required to follow the guidelines for implementation. The focus is on the benefits, opportunities, and treatment of boys and girls teams as well as meeting students' athletic interests and abilities to avoid discrimination as outlined in the law passed by Congress in 1972.*
- *Poverty Series by Ruby Payne - There were four parts to this series:*
 - Part I Understanding and Working with Students and Adults from Poverty*
 - Part II Building Learning Structures Inside the Head*
 - Part III Working with Students from Poverty: Discipline*
 - Part IV Campuswide Interventions That Improve Student Achievement*

Ruby Payne is a nationally known researcher concerning the topic of poverty and its impact on students in school. This series discussed the perspective families in poverty come from versus families in the middle class and wealthy class. The information helps set a foundation for working with all types of students in the classroom and meeting their needs.