



Superintendent's Report March 28, 2018

As you know the past two months have been crazy with weather related school closures. Never in the history of Browning School District #9 have we had to close school as much as we had this year. I am so proud of our staff for working together, for their patience and understanding during this time. Maintenance and Transportation truly went above and beyond during this time of year; they kept our streets and parking lots plowed even during treacherous weather, which was constant battle. The custodians had to constantly shovel, which took them away from the inside of the buildings. Our bus drivers and truant officers had to drive in this and keep students safe. The Food Service Department fed students during the worst week of closures and with other volunteers delivered over 700 lunches. Our business office stayed open even on the worst of those days making sure our employees got paid on time. All the administration, certified, classified and professional technical employees did an amazing job and were extremely flexible. I heard a lot of positives. Employees in general were very thankful that the board cared enough to compensate them as much as possible. They also felt that we really cared about the safety of our staff and students. Our parents and students were also really resilient at this time and without buses over 50% of our students still came to school.

Not only did our district staff work together to create a safe environment for all, but it was during this time that I really saw "neighbors helping neighbors." It was nice to see the Browning I grew up in where people would stop what they were doing to help others. Browning School District, the Blackfeet Tribe, the council and their programs, Blackfeet law enforcement, Glacier County, Blackfeet Community College, Blackfeet Housing, Indian Health Service, BIA, area Businesses, State of Montana, and local churches all worked alongside one another. It was amazing to see the camaraderie of people working together and we saw the true hearts of people in our community pulling together. Often times in our community we see the need to reach out to one another it was during this time that we did this for our children, our elders and for a community. My wish is that we continue to do that every day of every year, building people up instead of pulling them down; finding the positives in all of our situations instead of the negatives. The dream I have is that instead of only doing this during severe emergencies that we continue to do this every day.

Some positive for our district:

- We honored Whitefish with a star quilt during a BHS basketball game which Whitefish then Gave our players a care package at state.
- Our District was highlighted on Fox News for overcoming adversity and feeding students during the extremed weather - they interviewed supt.
- We are partnering with Blackfeet Community College and University of Western - Dillon for our 2 + 2 pilot program. We have been invited to meet with Legislators' March 29, 2018 in Helena. To date we have 12 students that we have worked with which will be teachers for us in the future; 7 of which are already serving in that capacity with provisionals.
- The nurses, I and Ashton Smith recently met with our Teen pregnancy coalition at this time we have 20 teens in our community in this category :-(. We have agreed to provide training for our PE teachers, counselors and Good Medicine Program for a health curriculum around this subject. The planned Parenthood out of GreatFalls will provide the training and curriculum for free.
- We are beginning our \$1,300,000 grant with OPI and our Consultants are working with us to continue to move our District forward in a positive direction. They are excited about the continued partnership and have noted we have some good things going on so far in many of the buildings. I do know they required everyone in the state with the MCLP grant to have instructional coaches modelled after our program.
- We had a beautiful prom and I am so thankful so everyone for all the hardwork put into this. It was so amazing!