

**Superintendent's Update**  
**For the period: March 8, 2017 through April 11, 2017**

**Maintaining an Instructional Focus**

- The Reading Committee continues to review instructional textbooks and resources that are being considered for our reading And English Language Arts adoption for next year.

**Budget Preparations**

- The budget development process continues after making our recent decisions regarding the addition of new positions for 2017-18. Our projected state funding levels should remain at about the same level as the current year.
- We are anticipating a reduction in federal funding support for 2017-18. We have been told that the Title I School Improvement grants will most likely not be available. Currently we receive about \$300,000 in this area. While we are continuing our efforts to seek out grant funds to replace this source of funding, we cannot count on any outside grants at this point in time.
- We are anticipating a significant increase in salary costs for our classified employees because we negotiated a \$1.05 per hour increase plus a step for 2017-18. At the same time, these employees will be responsible for paying a portion of their health insurance costs. It is uncertain at this point what the net effect the change in how we pay for health insurance will have on our budget.
- The administration has requested an estimate of our Impact Aid funding for 2017-18 from John Forkenbrock. We are anticipating approximately the same level of funding as we had for this year; however, there is uncertainty around the level of Lot distribution. Currently we have received only about 60%. We historically budget based on 85% lot fr Impact Aid support.

**Community Relations**

- The Superintendent's Community Advisory Committee has scheduled a Community Summit for April 25<sup>th</sup> in order to develop a set of action steps to address the three main areas of need identified by this committee.
- The three areas of need selected by the SCAC as our focus for this summit are as follows:
  - Promoting Pride in the Community- including ways to engage and involve parents and the community
  - Community Wellness- including drugs/alcohol in the community, mental heath resources, bullying both students and adults in the schools and the community (Facebook), suicide, and homeless children
  - Blackfeet Language and Culture.