

# WEST BONNER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #83



## Superintendent Report

Kim Spacek, Superintendent

February 2025

Board Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025

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

- Marsha Cork - Paraprofessionals play an integral and important role assisting certified teachers by providing instructional support to students. She exceeds expectations in her role by meeting with students working on their reading skills every day. Marsha continually evaluates student progress, adjusting groups accordingly, and consults with classroom teachers.
- Sonja Sheck - Paraprofessionals assist certified teachers by providing instructional support to students, focusing on individual and/or small group needs, reinforcing lessons, or supporting the learning environment under the teacher's direction. Sonja is extremely conscientious, wanting to make sure she is doing her job well and showing a strong commitment to her work.
- Daisy Sjostrom - Daisy is reflective, consistently observes, evaluates, and adjusts moment by moment based on the needs of her students. She worked hard at establishing a positive and productive learning environment by setting clear expectations and utilizing effective strategies to address disruptive behavior. daisy has done a remarkable job of building a rapport with students, fostering a sense of trust and respect, and does her best to provide constructive feedback to help her students grow.

What has the superintendent been working on this past month?

- 2022-23 Fiscal Audit - The audit is moving along slowly. The district is working with Jonathan Gillen to see what additional items are needed to bring this to a closure.
- PLC Guiding Coalition - Professional learning was led by team members on Friday, February 14, 2025. The team led teaching staff in reviewing the purpose of the work, collecting data to analyze, and exemplars of PLC Team minutes. Teachers worked in groups and were asked to discuss their learning. It was a productive day.

- Finance Committee - The committee met again in February. Kendra Salesky, Director of Finance, led the meeting. It was an informative meeting with Kendra providing knowledge of items coming from the legislature in the upcoming month.
- Facility Use Application - Ryan Carruth, Operations Director, and I worked on updating our current procedure for facility use applications. District office staff met with John Naccarato, Insurance Agent, to discuss a letter from ICRMP concerning closed facilities as it relates to insurance coverage. The information shared by John prompted an update to our procedure. After meeting with John, we determined all correspondence with ICRMP would flow through John as he is the district's agent and willing to help.
- Field Trip Request Form - On January 14, 2025, a meeting was held in an effort to clarify the process of requesting a field trip. The goal is to place the request online for ease of gathering all information needed for a successful experience. All staff who may provide service to students going on a field trip were invited to attend. Each person listed below will be a part of the approval chain:
  - Brittany Bryson, School Nurse
  - Ryan Carruth, Operations Director
  - Charity Hinshaw, Transportation Supervisor
  - Terri Johnson, Director of Child Nutrition
  - Kristina Kenny, Director of Special Education
  - Tracy Rusho, Human Resources Director
  - Brenna Saccone, Webmaster

A meeting will be held on Monday, February 24, 2025, to finalize the online request process and plan the launch.

- Invitation to Attend AdTeam Meetings - Discussion continues on planning for the 2025-26 School Year. Trustees are invited to our meetings to better understand the issues AdTeam tackles. The team has been meeting weekly, with a bimonthly schedule until discussing planning for the upcoming school year. The meetings are listed below:
  - Wednesday, February 19<sup>nd</sup>- Instructional Program & Budget for 2025-26 School Year
  - Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> - Budget for 2025-26 School Year & Supplemental Levy
  - Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> - Budget for 2025-26 School Year & Supplemental Levy

All meetings are 7 A.M. to 9 A.M. in the District Office - Board Room.

The goal is to turn discussion back to students and the current school year as soon as possible!

- Invitation to Attend AdTeam Meetings - Trustees are invited to our meetings to better understand the issues AdTeam tackles. The team has been meeting weekly, with a bimonthly schedule until discussing planning for the upcoming school year. The team has been attending the Idaho Title IX PLC meetings each month, since January.

The following Title IX Team assignments are listed below:

- Title IX Coordinator - Kim Spacek, Superintendent
  - Investigator - Matt George, Principal
  - Decision Maker - Tommy Hansen, Elementary Complaints  
Lynn Parker, Secondary Complaints
  - Appeal Decision Maker - Peggy Loutzenhiser
- Board Policy Updates - Several board policies need to be updated, as reported in my tasks for last month. Once the board plots out the annual review, I will discuss any changes with the appropriate stakeholder group before asking for them to be placed on the board meeting agenda.

What tasks need focus for the upcoming month?

- Idaho Governor Executive Order 2024-11 - Work on this policy was sidelined for other pressing matters. I plan to begin work on updating our current policy and take it back to the AdTeam prior to proposing it for an update. The criteria for meeting the policy guidelines, student well-being, and receiving \$5,000 are important to this effort.
- Principal Midyear Check-in - The check-in is a formal opportunity for the principal and evaluator to discuss progress related to the goals and the evaluation process. My attention is to move toward the instruction going on in each building. January is the month the Midyear Check-in is to begin and will continue until complete.

Are there any other items of significance to report?

- Sensational Successes - This topic has been a part of AdTeam agendas throughout the year. The purpose is to end the meeting on a positive note. Administrators continue to share successes with the group each meeting. Here are some examples sent out to district staff from the meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2025:

Loretta Glazier

The staff at Idaho Hill Elementary School was informed Jenny Frost, Reading Coach, would be in the building each week to assist and provide feedback on reading strategies. Teachers felt receiving feedback will be helpful!

Matt George

*Teaching staff welcome the time on Thursday with an early release to work together in Professional Learning Community Groups to create common formal assessments and review data to help inform their practice!*

Kim Keaton

*Jenny Long, Reading Specialist felt welcomed to the elementary schools by principals Loretta Glazier and Lynn Parker.*

Kristina Kenny

*An \$11,000 grant was recently submitted to extend mental health services for students! Kristina is waiting to hear back on the grant.*

Lynn Parker

*Clayton Nassath and Isiah Davis placed in the top 50 of 190 students in the Regional Spelling Bee. A great time was had by all during our Math Night! Parents expressed their thankfulness for the time our staff spent to help them support their children in math.*

Kim Spacek

*Kim worked with Kim Keaton earlier this week to brainstorm ideas on staffing for the upcoming school year.*

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 mealtime in the morning, noon, and evening as well as on two weekends per month that I am staying at the house in Oldtown.)*

- *Improving School Board Effectiveness - I finished reading the book shortly before the Communicating as Leaders workshop with Phil Gore.*

***“Everyone wins with vision and support!”** I stated this in my previous report and have a few quotes to add:*

*“Our nation’s founders were strategic and thoughtful when they chose to entrust state and local citizens with the governance of our schools. This heritage is a gift to be improved, not a fleeting effort to abolish. Improvement will come, and does come, when actors apply themselves in the pursuit of excellence. No specific training or pathway adequately prepares someone for the complexities of school board service. On the other hand, every time one engages in civil discourse, considers what constitutes an equitable process or outcome, or participates in public*

*service, she or he is preparing for effective school board service.” (page 171)*

*“Conflict happens; it is unavoidable. The problem for boards isn’t having conflict among members’ views and opinions, it is how to manage the conflict so that the exchange of ideas is productive and leads to good board policies and actions.” (page 138)*

*“The school board needs to take a leadership role in establishing a districtwide climate of trust and respect. Showing commitment to student success must be coupled with building a climate of trust and respect. Why? Because real sustainable improvement in student learning only comes when there is a climate of trust and respect among the school board, superintendent, and staff.” (page 137)*

*“. . . , school boards need to concern themselves both with doing things right and with doing the right things.” (page 127)*

*“When a board and superintendent work together on superintendent evaluation, both become stronger.” (page 105)*

*“It is important that the board not only hold high expectations for student learning but that it ensure that every policy and resource decision be assessed on whether they support that vision.” (page 80)*

*“When poor student achievement occurs in a district, boards need to examine their own actions and understand the influence those actions have on student achievement.” (page 58)*

*“In the United States, school boards were created to ensure local governance of a free public education. . . . Elected boards are intended to provide each community with a representative voice in how local schools educate their children.” (page 33)*

*“School boards are charged with approving policy decisions that affect what students learn, how students are taught, how learning is measured, how teachers are supported with professional development, how funds are focused on direct priorities, and how effectively the community is engaged around student learning. While by nature school boards are removed from the day-to-day work of teaching and learning, their policy, personnel, and budgetary decisions control the conditions that support successful teaching and learning throughout the system.” (page 15)*

*“Every preK-12 district in America needs a vertically aligned vision and top-down support -- from the boardroom to the classroom -- to realize the shared goal of more effective instruction that results in higher achievement and greater learning for all students.” (page vii - Forward)*

○ *APA Citation:*

Alsbury, T.L., & Gore, P. (2015). *Improving School Board Effectiveness: A Balanced Governance Approach*. Harvard Education Press.

- *Interventions and Progress Monitoring - Panorama Education emails ideas to improve the educational setting on a variety of topics. When I have an opportunity to download good information, I take advantage of their materials at no cost.*

*This publication provides a systematic approach to developing a MTSS for students. The purpose of a MTSS is to support students in math, literacy, behavior, attendance, and social-emotional learning. Education to the whole child is essential to help them meet the standards required to achieve proficiency. This document helps the reader understand the purpose of MTSS in language and terminology used by teachers in educating students and provides a blueprint to create a system to identify students who need support and charting progress through progress monitoring to help students in their educational journey.*

*Acronyms:*

*Education has terminology formed from the initial letters of other words and pronounced as a phrase of letters or word. (This list will expand as acronyms are used in this report.)*

- *ASVAB = Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery*
- *ICRMP = Idaho County Risk Management Program*
- *IRI = Idaho Reading Indicator*
- *MTSS = Multi Tiered System of Supports*
- *PLC = Professional Learning Community*