

Memo

To: Board of Trustees
From: Rob Sauer, Superintendent
Date: February 4, 2015
Re: Superintendent's Board Report

House Education Committee

- I was invited to present to the House Education Committee on Monday, February 2nd to discuss the Leadership Pay that instructional staff members can earn this year. I was joined by the director of the administrator's association and the superintendent from Emmett. The Committee wanted to understand how school districts are using the money and how we might use the dollars in the future.

Grant from University of Idaho

- We were able to work with the U of I to secure a grant for ten iPad Mini's and five Swivl's. Only a small number of districts received the grant and it is for high schools. A Swivl will allow a recording device to follow someone around the classroom. The iPad Mini can be set to record video and display the recording. Together, the Swivl and iPad Mini can be a great tool for teachers to record their practice. As part of the grant, we will be required to use these devices in the high school this spring. At the end of the school year, we will be able to use these devices in other buildings as well. The devices will be the districts to keep.

Gmail

- The district will be moving away from our current Novell GroupWise mail to Gmail (Google Mail) on March 11th. This will save us from spending money to upgrade our mail server as well as yearly fees that we currently spend on Novell GroupWise. There is no cost to school districts for Gmail.

Idaho PTECH Network

- The Idaho PTECH Network is a pilot program funded by the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation. PTECH stands for Pathways to Technology in Early College High School. Its mission is to bridge the gap between education and industry by providing students with the credentials and skills needed to secure well-paying jobs in Idaho's high growth industries while giving businesses access to a qualified pipeline of employees. PTECH began its first year in August 2014 and now has 110 juniors and seniors from eight participating Idaho high schools. Homedale has been invited to participate in the next round beginning with the 2015-16 school year. Mr. Flaming and I attended a meeting with PTECH and several other school districts on February 3rd to learn more about the process. We believe this will be an outstanding opportunity for our students.