

## Homedale School District #370

**TO:** Board of Trustees; Superintendent Rob Sauer

**FROM:** Amy Winters, HMS Principal

**DATE:** May 11, 2015

**RE:** Board of Trustees Report

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### **April Enrollment**

Gr 5 = 87 (-3)      Gr 6 = 95 (-1)      Gr 7 = 96 (+1)      Gr 8 = 101 (+2)      Total: 379

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

114/379 students were represented = 30% parent attendance

### **April Student Support Day**

29 students attended

### **Grants**

Starla Bender received a \$400 transportation grant to help cover the cost of taking the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to Boise's Old Penitentiary.

Kim Portwood received a grant to cover the full amount of transportation for taking the 7<sup>th</sup> graders to Boise's Watershed.

### **Special Olympics**

Four HMS students are participating in either track, basketball, or swimming for the Special Olympics team.

### **Healthy Living Committee**

HMS is starting a Healthy Living Committee to create and maintain a healthy working environment for staff and students during the 2015-16 school year. Below are the overall goals:

- To provide continued education on healthy eating
- To organize and provide after-school or Friday physical activities
- To provide continued education on spiritual practices, stress reduction, and healing

### **Upcoming Events**

May 14            Awards Assemblies

May 19 – 21    Final Exams

May 20            Yearbook Signing & Field Day

May 21            HMS Graduation at 6 p.m.

The following three pages were sent out to 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents the day after the parent meeting. Parents had the option to vote anonymously via a text message poll or paper ballot through Tuesday, May 5.

## HMS Parent Information Night Presentation and Parent Input Summary

**Vision Statement:** Everything we do is in the best interest of our students—we inspire them to dream toward a better future, and we equip them with the skills necessary to achieve those dreams.

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### Background

- Homedale Middle School sent out a parent survey to ask what the school might need to improve upon. The main issue given was students bullying other students.
- The suggestion given by parents to help resolve this concern was to implement a stricter dress code or school uniform policy.
- Homedale Middle School administration, based on a recommendation from the school's Parent's Power Up group, was asked to research the idea of having students wear school uniforms.
- Homedale Middle School's Parent Information Night was a time to present what was discovered during the research process.

### Presentation

- According to *Huffington Post* in 2013, the average cost of back to school clothing is about \$688.62.
- A student at HMS purchasing clothing items to match the proposed dress code could be as little as \$100 - \$150 per student.
- Please see the attached flyer with local pricing of items matching the proposed dress code.
- Homedale Middle School will continue providing clothing and school supply assistance to students in need.
- According to research, the following are benefits of an enhanced dress code:
  - Parent/Child arguments and related stress is reduced
  - Classroom distractions are reduced
  - A sense of community at school is improved
  - Safety increases and violence is reduced
  - Test scores may improve
- According to local schools (Fruitland and Vallivue) who have a middle school uniform policy:
  - Behavioral incidents and office referrals have decreased

### Parent Comments Not in Support of the Idea

- Families will still need to purchase additional clothing for after-school and sporting activities which will require additional clothing costs.
- Schools, which are government run institutions, should not have a say in how families dress their children.

### Parent Comments in Support of the Idea

- Schools are preparing students for the work force and most jobs/professions have a dress code or uniform policy.
- Schools with uniform policies have seen a significant decrease in theft and behavioral incidents.

# School Uniform Options and Price Range



Polo: Short Sleeve

Wal-Mart \$3-\$6

Old Navy/Target: \$5-\$9

JC Penney: \$15-\$20

Long Sleeve Polo

\$4-\$8

\$6-\$12

\$18-\$28



Button-Up Shirts: Short Sleeve

Wal-Mart \$10

Old Navy/Target: \$12

JC Penney: \$18



Long Sleeve

\$12

\$16

\$28

Long Pants:

Wal-Mart: \$9-\$15

Old Navy/Target: \$16-\$23

JC Penney: \$15-\$30



Shorts:

Wal-Mart: \$6-\$10

Old Navy/Target: \$15

JC Penney: \$10-\$24



Sweaters/Sweatshirts:

Wal-Mart: \$12-\$13

Old Navy/Target: \$17-\$25

JC Penney: \$24



**Proposed Dress Code Plan:**

Single-colored, short or long sleeved polo shirts (no logos) OR Homedale Trojan T-Shirts (anything purchased to support sporting, activities, clubs, etc.)

Knee-length shorts, skirts, or pants in black, white, gray, or khaki. Students may wear dark, single-colored jeans without holes that also meet the above criteria.

The following reflects the survey results given to all students entering 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade next year.

**School uniform survey results by grade level**

Grade Next Year	Reduce peer pressure?	Increase Community?	Increase Self-Esteem?	Improve Discipline?	Support Uniforms?
<b>5th</b>	Definitely: 18 Probably: 8 Probably Not: 24 Definitely Not: 7	Definitely: 16 Probably: 22 Probably Not: 16 Definitely Not: 5	Yes: 28 No: 32	Yes: 18 No: 43	Yes: 18 No: 43
<b>6th</b>	Definitely: 3 Probably: 7 Probably Not: 10 Definitely Not: 6	Definitely: 2 Probably: 8 Probably Not: 7 Definitely Not: 9	Yes: 5 No: 21	Yes: 8 No: 18	Yes: 5 No: 21
<b>7th</b>	Definitely: 1 Probably: 5 Probably Not: 6 Definitely Not: 21	Definitely: 1 Probably: 7 Probably Not: 10 Definitely Not: 15	Yes: 4 No: 29	Yes: 7 No: 26	Yes: 4 No: 29
<b>8th</b>	Definitely: 6 Probably: 24 Probably Not: 35 Definitely Not: 9	Definitely: 8 Probably: 27 Probably Not: 25 Definitely Not: 14	Yes: 26 No: 48	Yes: 22 No: 52	Yes: 19 No: 55

The following reflects the number of parent votes cast and some general comments I received multiple times from parents.

**Dress Code Changes for 2015-2016**

33 Yes, I am in support of changing HMS’s dress code.

76 No, I am not in support of changing HMS’s dress code.

## **General Comments**

- If the school board is going to adopt a uniform policy, they should make it district-wide so middle school students aren't different from the rest of the students.
- The school board should make the policy for the entire district to make it easier for families with students in multiple buildings.
- A dress code will not stop bullying issues as students will find other ways to make fun of other students.

## **Final Statement from HMS Leadership Team**

The HMS Leadership Team has determined that there is not enough interest or parent support at this time to pursue the idea of changing the dress code to a uniform policy for the 2015-16 school year.