

WBCSD School Board April and May 2018

In the last 8 months or so there's been a new program at the school board meetings – the principals' reports. Because of the board's requirement that presentation paperwork be submitted 5 days prior to the SB meeting, the presentations are mostly available on the website with the agenda.

In April principals reported on students' average daily attendance (ADA) of 93 or 94% - which is the basis by which schools receive state funds, and their assessment scores, which ranged from 60 to 80% of proficiency, depending on grade and subject. They are doing better in math because apparently the new math curriculum is more understandable, and there are two math pros to teach the teachers. Teachers are also working together on scoring the assessments, and if two scores for the same student come out differently, a third scorer is called in for an additional score. As a result, scores are available to the teachers almost immediately. Children seem to be enjoying the assessments more this year. In May, this subject was discussed more. Priest Lake Elementary reported 94% proficiency in IRI reading, and 79% overall on ISATs. Idaho Hill reported 70% proficiency overall on ISATs, and PR Elementary was somewhat lower, with 5th and 6th graders scoring below proficiency in some subjects. IHE principal Susie Luckey commented on the difference the Math coaches have made in the children's ability to be proficient in math, and recommended the district keep at least one of them. Currently they are funded by grant money, at \$180,000 per year for both, but WBCSD did not receive grant money for the positions for next year.

PRE principal Connie Kimble reported that PRE has a goal to become a "High Reliability School" based on Marzano's 9 factors for influencing school achievement. The five goals PRE is currently working on attaining include safe environment, effective classroom teaching, guaranteed viable curriculum, standards-referenced reporting, and competency-based education. It also includes making the school "free of debris" i.e. getting rid of programs make the school not function as well. This would include ne protocols for ISAT testing, including more time for core subjects like math and reading, and increasing art classes in the school, as students do better in school overall if they have art. Ms. Kimble also expressed how much having a Behavior Interventionist at the Elementary has helped the school. As a result, the board voted on hiring an assistant principal at PRE, at the cost of \$33,590 more than the current interventionist, Mr. Jenkins, who was hired as an hourly classified employee, is making. A community group has agreed to seek funding for this position for the upcoming school year from the PR Community Foundation, the Priest Lake Lion's Club, and People Helping People. The board voted to pick up any funding not covered by grants for a period of one year. It also voted to fund a \$7200 curriculum needed by the special education department.

Supt. Anselmo reported that he will again be going to the June 19 Interim funding formula meeting in Coeur d'Alene. This is an open meeting and can be attended by anyone. He is concerned that more money will be taken from small school districts, and stated that districts should not have to rely on grant money to staff their programs.

Acadeca, the Academic Decathlon students, reported on a field trip they took. They did not tell much, just that they had fun and got to know each other better. They gave a power point which

contained proper names that were not capitalized, and they showed up in ragged jeans to give their presentation to the school board. I found it sad. Are these our brightest kids?

There will be a summer reading program sponsored by the PR Community Foundation Literacy Team, to provide books and prizes to keep kids from sliding back in reading over the summer. PRE has “free of debris” program to get rid of unnecessary programs. PRJH principal reported that students in Jr. Hi and HS can take advanced programs on line – Jr. Hi students can take HS courses, and qualified HS students can take college courses and graduate with an AA degree at the same time as they get their HS diploma. On the other side of the coin, HS students do not have to pass the ISATs to graduate, they just have to take them.

Kids have been generous. PRE students donated 823# of food to the food bank, and IHE students collected \$592 in two weeks for a lady whose house, located on the road to the school, burnt down.

Last but not least, the Kaniksu Masonic Lodge again asked to hold their bi-annual gun shows at the PR Jr. Hi. Board Chairman Sandy Brower spoke up against the idea, stating that in the current political climate, having gun shows in a school building looks bad. She also asked that the Masons adjust their rules to require only dealers to sell guns at their gun shows. The representative stated that the Masons would follow current law, and that if someone wanted to buy a gun illegally, he could do so on the street, whereas the vendors are pretty careful who they sell to. He invited the Board to come to the gun show and see for themselves. There were 4 trustees present at the meeting, and three of the four approved the gun show immediately, after which Ms. Brower also voted in favor of the gun show, at least for the next one coming in October.

I will be out of town for the next school board meeting. It will be held June 20, at 6:00 PM at the WBCSD office, just south of the Priest River Library on Main Street.

Respectfully,
Anne Chamberlain