



**Monthly Board Update**  
**February 2021**

- Representative John Eklund attended and provided his thoughts on some of the currently proposed education legislation.
  - He believes the state must enact new methods of revenue generation
    - Energy tax revenue has been declining for years and will not recover
    - He does not believe a state income tax would generate enough to make it worthwhile due to our low population
    - Instituting new tax collection systems are very costly
    - He does think that a corporate tax could make a difference, in lieu of those companies taking their pre-planned/built-in tax dollars back to their headquarter states
  - He does not support school district consolidation and does not believe it will be approved as it would cost the state more by causing an increase in pay scales
- Enrollment was up by 6 from 1,054 on February 1, 2020, to 1,060 on February 1, 2021.
- We have received 59.3% of the general fund budgeted revenues for FY 2021, which compares to last year when we had received 61.2%. We have expended and encumbered 90.8% of the budgeted amount for FY 2021. This compares to FY 2020 when we had encumbered and expended 91.4% of the budgeted amount.
- Each of the Board Members present, the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Manager completed the annual disclosure of interest document. The signed documents are filed at the Central Administration Office with the District's banking documents.
- The 2021-2022 Alternative School Year Calendar was approved by the Board and is being submitted to the State Board of Education for their final approval.
- The Board approved the replacement of one route bus due to engine damage. The cost of repairs are high enough that the replacement requirement for severe service has been met.
- New course additions were approved for Burns High School, to begin with the 2021-2022 school year. Courses approved were AP Environmental Science, AP Spanish, Music Appreciation and Reading.
- The following individuals were approved for hire: Olivia Schon, Substitute Teacher; Alba Bingham and Adrienne Morgan, Substitute Paras; Laureen Bradshaw, Substitute Bus Driver; Katie Dennis, Substitute Bus Para; Laura (Ashley) Hottell, Part-time Para for Pine Bluffs Elementary, effective 1/25/21; and Ryan Wilson, Custodian, for Burns High School.
- Kim Nelson provided an update to the board regarding facility renovations and repairs. The facility report can be found in BoardDocs.
- Traci Schneider presented an update on curriculum. The curriculum report can be found in BoardDocs.
- Todd Sweeter presented an administrator update on the "Glows and Grows" at Pine Bluffs High School.
- The Board revisited questions and concerns they had, or had received from patrons, regarding the previously approved transition from an eight-period to a seven-period class day in 2021 – 2022. Items discussed were the potential benefits and obstacles of student electives, student work studies, district finances, class programs, class times, activities, educator impacts and the stakeholder notifications that took place. Chairman Randall expressed her appreciation for the time, effort and concern given by Michael Lerwick at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> COW meeting, regarding the potential impacts of the schedule change.

- Chairman Randall discussed an opportunity for the Board to conduct a spring Board Retreat for general and legal training sessions. The Board selected February 23, 2021, for the sessions to be held.
- Misty Gallegos presented the 2021 Education and Revenue Bills being proposed by Legislators, highlighting the ones that could potentially impact our district the most if they are passed.
- Superintendent Abrams highlighted the recent Governors' orders increasing the allowable numbers for gatherings and complimenting activity participants and attendees for following protocols, enabling our participants to achieve full seasons.
- The next COW meeting date will take place March 3, 2021, at Burns High School and the regular Board meeting will be held March 8, 2021, at Burns High School.