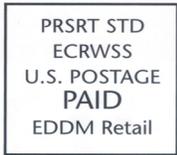


February 23, 2016



*****ECRWSS*****
Local Postal Customer



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Grace School District #148 Highlights

Superintendent's Letter

Dear Patrons-

We are excited about the great things we are seeing in our classrooms throughout the district. It is very gratifying to see our students and teachers hitting their stride. The months of February and March provide us the opportunity to really put our professional knowledge into practice and, with fewer distractions, really accelerate student growth.

The winter season has been hard on our aging facilities; we have experienced an increase in maintenance issues in both of our elementary schools: the wiring and heating in Grace Elementary, and water and structural concerns in Thatcher Elementary. As we have considered the ongoing cost in maintenance, as well as concerns with compliance with safety and accessibility codes, the school board has asked me to conduct a feasibility study on building one elementary school. This new elementary would house all of our students Pre-K through 6 in one location and offer better efficiencies and educational benefits that have been difficult to accomplish in the past. The board has designated times for informational meetings to gather community input. Please take time and attend these meetings.

We have also determined to purchase additional chrome book labs in both Grace and Thatcher Elementary, these labs house 30 lap tops for research and key boarding skill development.

These Chromebooks will be purchased with dollars designated by our legislators for the improvement of classroom technology. We are also excited to report that we will be adding two chrome book labs in our secondary schools as well. The use of instructional technology cannot replace a great teacher, but we are seeing how technology used well can make great teachers even better!

I would like to address a couple of key issues that have emerged in the district in the past couple of months. Concerns have been brought to my attention regarding our district's stance on student drug, alcohol and tobacco use. I will refer you to our district website under board policy #551; this policy has been, and will be followed to the letter for any and all allegations. Another key issue is our district emergency procedures. We have been teaming with the Caribou County Sheriff's office and Peak Alarm on building security and student safety. You will see some procedural changes in our buildings check-in/check-out procedures, as well as exterior doors being locked during school hours.

As we attempt to project district finance for the 2016-2017 school year and watch closely the recently convened legislative session, there are some points of clarification and information I would like to share with you. We have experienced another influx in our student enrollment. Our kindergarten class of 50 energetic young

ones is the largest class we have seen in recent years. This class may simply represent a cohort bubble, but does make projecting staffing difficult. Growth is a great problem to have, and because of it, I believe we will be able to fund the necessary increase in staff without increasing our Supplemental and Plant Facilities levy.

We will be running both our plant facilities and supplemental levies this year on the May 17th ballot. The School board has decided to leave both levy amounts at their current rate. We are so appreciative of the continued support you have shown our schools; we truly couldn't do it without you! Please mark your calendars and get out and vote.

I appreciate all you do as patrons for the students and staff of this district. We are facing unsettled times but together I am confident we will find a way to serve and inspire the students of our district.

Go big R.E.D.,



Jamie Holyoak

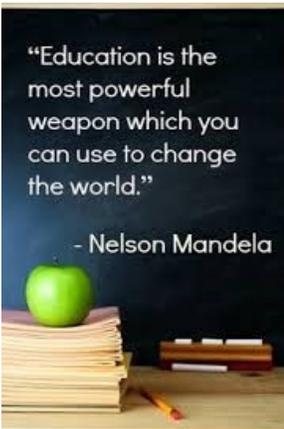
Superintendent of Schools

Grace School District #148



May 17th, 2016

Plant
Facilities and
Supplemental
Levies



Building Projects and Proposals

Vocational Building

The District has received a materials grant from R & M Steel, a steel company in Caldwell, Idaho. R & M Steel has offered to donate \$91,000.00 in structural steel for the housing of our vocational department. This project would require us to use plant facilities dollars for erection and exterior doors and windows as well as all associated concrete, plumbing and electrical costs. It is anticipated that much of the interior

work could be done through our construction class. We are excited about the real world application this project would afford us. We are currently gathering information on what the district would incur in related cost for this project.

New Elementary School

In the past 5 years our district has incurred over \$200,000.00 in maintenance cost associated with our aging elementary schools. It is because of this that it is becoming cost prohibitive to continue as we are. The school board has requested and received a building audit on each elementary school. This study looked at our two elementary schools structural, electrical, seismic, and heating systems. The study also addressed the issue of ADA compliance as outlined in the American with Disabilities Act. Neither building complies with the current codes in any of the above areas. It was quickly evident that renovation of the existing buildings would cost more than a new building that

housed all students grades Pre-K through 6th.

The Board also heard a financial report through Zions Bank regarding possible bonding options. In that report it was identified that the State of Idaho through its "Bond Equalization Formula" would pay up to 18% of the total Bond on a new construction project. This would mean that the state would pay approximately \$900,000.00 toward a 5 million dollar bond.

The team who performed the building audit, as well as the financial representative from Zions Bank will be available for questions at the April 7th meeting.

Informational Meetings: New Building

- March 18th 9:00 am - all district employee meeting
- Apr 7th 8-9:30 pm - 1st public meeting
Revise Plan with Building Committee
- June 9th 8-9:30 pm -2nd public
Revise Plan with Building Committee
- July 14th 8-9:30 pm - 3rd public
Revise Plan with Building Committee
- July 25-30th - display at the fair
- Aug 30th - Potential Bond Election

Input Wanted on Administrator and Teacher Evaluations

As part of recent legislation, administrative and teacher evaluations are required to have a component of student growth and parental input. If you visit our district website and click the **Resources** tab, you will find a tab for **Parental Input**. On the **Parental Input** page are links to surveys where you can provide valuable information regarding your student's experience in our schools. Please take time to offer your feedback.

Transportation Department Goes "Green"

The next route bus you see transporting district students will be the Blue Bird Vision. This bus will be powered by Propane instead of diesel. The School Board opted to begin to "green" our fleet in its November meeting. The benefits of the propane engine are 60% less carbon monoxide emissions, and 24% less greenhouse gas emissions than our existing route buses. Propane buses also have a reduced fuel cost of 40%. The new bus will also pack a punch with 362 horsepower and 457 pounds of torque. Maybe most importantly it will start easily in extreme cold as propane does not gel like diesel.



Why Go GREEN?

- 40% reduction in fuel costs
- 60% reduction in carbon monoxide emissions
- 24% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions

Grace School District 148

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