Larry B. Hammond, Superintendent

Board Report

March 16, 2021

Today’s report will address the areas shared by Hargis in the email dated February 27 and can be further discussed at your discretion.

As we look toward the 2021-2022 school year, we need to evaluate iLead and recurring funding issues. The $100,000. annual cost seems to be a good choice for the students involved. When we consider the cost for students with learning difficulty and the benefit received, we should also consider the cost for the iLead students and the benefit received. The gifted education budget for the district is only $19,905. annually to meet the needs of all gifted students. We have a gifted teacher employed that has an impossible load to bear successfully. She does well in working with students in the district from the elementary level throughout high school. It goes without saying, our coverage for gifted is not very deep. iLead serves to meet the needs of gifted students which I have grown to appreciate more over the years. Gallatin currently has 30 students enrolled in iLead for the 2020-2021 school year. The recently received Rural Schools Grant ($100,000) will fund opportunities for 10 additional students beginning with the 2021-2022 school year and an additional 5 per year with a maximum of 20 additional students total. The cost for the 30 students is approximately $3300 each when considering the overall investment of $100,000. annually. The seek base is $4,000. per ADA. The cost has continued to decline over the years as a result of increased interest in the program and could reach the level of $2,000. per student in a couple of years. We remain optimistic toward the addition of the computer science offering. In addition, the quality of the staff has continued to improve during my tenure in Gallatin County. Mr. Jury is in agreement with these statements regarding economics and the quality of the staff. I realize the lump sum of $100,000. is not the total cost. However, the overall the program is worth the expenditure. Students of this caliber will be contributing members of society and tax paying citizens.

SBDM allocations were reviewed and plans were tentatively made to non-renew staff throughout the district. Due to the guidance provided in the CARES Act/ESSER Funds District-Level Review Monitoring Checklist dated February 25, 2021 signaling it was appropriate/acceptable to “Maintain/continuity of services and continued staff employment”, the decision was made to maintain the staff previously on a list to be non-renewed. These individuals were deemed as essential to provide remedial and ongoing services to fill the gaps enhanced by COVID19. In addition, the non-renewal process was viewed as detrimental to district efforts toward improving the culture. Blanket non-renewals are nonproductive when the staff will be rehired. Staff should be non-renewed on an individual basis when performance is too low to meet standards of the district.

The Round 1 CARES funding received by the district totaled $291,699. with $115,233. remaining unspent. $54,534. Geer and $41,932. ESSER funds were used for the purchase of Chromebooks. We have encumbered $70,000. for additional Chromebooks. Kelley will be evaluating the appropriate codes in collaboration with Tony to allocate the balance of Round 1. A spending plan must be submitted in May prior to obligating funds for Round 2 which totals approximately $l.8 million.

I contacted Mayor Charlie French and Kenny French to discuss possibilities of using their bids to meet the paving needs in the district this summer. In particular, the road in front of the middle school will need repair/repaving. Kenny does not have a contract. He will bid pavement, dependent upon the projects on his list. Mayor French was very receptive to the conversation/possibility of allowing the district to make connections with their bid for the year. He indicated the city would likely be seeking prices and a resulting contract during the month of April. We will remain in contact and plan accordingly by evaluating the budget in comparison to the need. You can anticipate a proposal for your consideration/approval when the city gets a contract.

I have been in conversation with Michelle Bare regarding the use of facilities by the Gallatin County Athletic Boosters. The procedure was emailed to her and I expect the form to be completed for your consideration this evening.