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To: all

Cc: Sensor, Carol; kwenzel@centralriversaea.org; Dirk or Lee Vanderlinden; KLMJ News; AJ Taylor; Thelma Martinez; Courtney Fiorini

Subject: e-News Update for All Staff for Friday, January 12, 2018



e-Newsletter for All Staff from the Superintendent

County Supervisors' Decision

On Monday, January 8, the Wright County Board of Supervisors met and held a public hearing regarding a proposal on whether or not to give \$1.5 million in TIFF tax dollars to Eagle Grove schools. The meeting ran from 9:00 to 11:00 on largely the one single topic. Several Eagle Grove residents spoke in favor of the proposal. A number of people spoke against it, including an articulate and erudite speech by our own Gary Berkland.

In the end, the Board closed the hearing, immediately voted without discussion, and approved the initial proposal. For those of us in attendance, it left us feeling (correctly or incorrectly) that the decision was made prior to the meeting, and the public hearing was a pretense.

Donation to Industrial Technology

Iowa Wood Products recently donated several pallets of hard wood for our woodshop classes in the junior high and high school. The value of their contribution is estimated at \$400. Thank you!

Skype with an Expert

Kendra Haugen's fifth grade today Skyped a live conversation with a vertebrate paleontologist from the University of New Mexico, to go with their fossils unit. The kids have been studying fossils, and wrote a list of questions to ask her.

Gifts for the Kids

Our school is the fortunate recipients of two more donations to our kids: The United Church of Rowan gave us \$300 for our backpack program. And Amy and Richard McDaniel gave us \$300 for elementary and secondary spring assessment snacks. Thank you.

Board Meets on Thursday

The school board will meet this coming Thursday at 7:00 P.M. in the high school library. The agenda for the upcoming meeting and minutes of previous meetings can be found at the following link:

<https://v3.boardbook.org/Public/PublicHome.aspx?ak=1001908>

Positive Education Thought of the Day



Ethics Training Topic on January 25

A topic has been added to the teacher agenda for the professional development set for the early dismissal on Wednesday, January 25. Respective buildings will each be asked to participate in an hour of educator ethics training.

Teacher Calendar for Next Year

On Wednesday, January 10, a committee representing the teachers and the BK Education Association met with the superintendent. They had a number of suggestions about how to rearrange the days on the calendar presented earlier. A revised draft of that calendar is attached.

Under Iowa law, the school board holds sole authority over a school calendar. The board will discuss the calendar at their January meeting and make a final decision in February.

Upcoming Staff Events

	January 15, 2018	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 18, 2018	7:00 P.M., Regular School Board Meeting	
January 25, 2018	1:00 P.M. Dismissal for Professional Development	
January 27, 2018	World Holocaust Victims Remembrance Day	

On a Personal Note . . .

By ignoring their constituents and the concerns, the County Board of Supervisors disrespected us. This was flat-out wrong. Certainly they have a right to their decision. But law requires a public hearing for a reason, and they made it a sham. I would like to suggest there are some lessons we can learn from the mistakes made by the County Supervisors.

First, we need to always be responsive to our public. Our school is a public institution. Ultimately, they are paying the bills and are due our respect.

Second, we need to treat our students and parents as customers. In business, customers come first. Gone are the days when the public school was the only educational option in a community. Open enrollment first opened the doors back in the 1980's. Now there are charter schools. Iowa's community colleges are now in the business of secondary education. There are free distance learning opportunities like the Iowa Virtual Academy. Also, there are the free online charter schools like Iowa Connections Academy. Customers who do not get the service they feel they deserve may go elsewhere.

Finally, we need to treat each other with respect. All our employees have earned our respect by virtue of serving as civil servants in this public school system. We all, myself included, must treat everyone in our school with respect, courtesy, and professionalism, regardless of our

personal opinions. Respect begins at home. We cannot expect others to respect us if we do not respect ourselves.

During the hearing on Monday, the Supervisors would have looked better if they had discussed the issues, acknowledging that there were valid arguments against the proposal, but explaining why the arguments in favor were more significant requiring them to respond with a vote in favor. That would have shown their respect for us. And they owed us that.

Dan

Dr. Dan Frazier, Superintendent

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