

THREE FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School District No. J-24 . 212 East Neal . Three Forks, MT 59752

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January 30, 2017

January-February Superintendent News

January and February in the school is an exciting time. We finished the first semester and we are three weeks into the second semester, it is hard to believe that the school year is already half over. Over the last two months, our district has been working diligently meeting content standards for our students. Our annual middle and high school ski trips are underway. This is a great experience for our students as it builds lifelong activities for them that they will carry with them after high school. Recently the district received word from The Office of Public Instruction that our Graduation Matters grant will not be distributed to the district. In December, the district received a \$1,500 grant to help with summer school for high school students. The grant money was donated statewide by the Dennis and Phillis Washington Foundation and AT&T but then not sent to districts from The Office of Public Instruction. The district will continue to work with The Office of Public Instruction and new Superintendent Elsie Arntzen to try to continue the program for our students here in Three Forks. The district continues to keep an eye on legislative bills in Helena during the session and will send correspondence to our representatives concerning specific bills that have the potential to help our students. We continually keep an eye on public education funding and any inflationary increases the legislature provides so that the future tax burden does not fall on local taxpayers. The district continues to work with the AdvancED team on K-12 systems accreditation, and we continue to gather feedback about our potential building project.

Our AdvancED team recently received candidacy status and is now one of ten districts in the state to shine a spotlight on teaching and learning in the classroom for students, through the AdvancED process. Once systems accreditation is obtained, the district will have state, National, and International accreditation. The AdvancED committee is a representation of administrators, teachers, school board member, and parents. This process is something that the school district will be working on the entire school year. If you would like more information, please find our documents online at <http://threeforkswolves2.weebly.com/advanced---accreditation.html>.

The district continues to see an enrollment increase each month. Next week is our official second spring count and after that count is completed the district will begin to have an idea on the general fund budget for next school year. We will need to wait on the legislature with respect to additional funding that they may enact for the next two years as well. The district has a special board meeting scheduled for February 7, 2017 from 4:00-6:30pm to hold interviews for the final two architecture firms. The district will be interviewing SMA architects from Bozeman and Helena, and NE45-Shannahan architects from Bozeman. After the selection of the architectural firm, the team will begin to gather additional feedback from all stakeholders about the potential building project.

It is our steadfast belief that our school district is the best in the state of Montana. We are able to provide our students with many different educational opportunities that many other area and state schools are not able to provide. Recently our school board updated the districts strategic plan to reflect the current goals of the district. I would encourage you to look at this document on the district website. This is the driving source document for all that we do in the district for our students. All of our employees here at the school value our students and are here each day for them.

Yours in Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert DoBell", written over a horizontal line.

Robert DoBell, Ed.D.
Superintendent

In collaboration with our community, the core purpose of the Three Forks Public School District is to be the model of excellence in education by using best practices, meeting the needs of every student, and instilling a love of lifelong learning.