

Arapahoe-Holbrook Public Schools
Superintendent Report to Board of Education
Dec 11, 2023

Building & Grounds

1. Fuel Tank Sale - Bids for the Fuel Tank were opened at noon on Friday, December 8, 2023. The high bid was from Brian Ballou from Wilsonville for \$4175.00. A 10% deposit was required with all bids. Acceptance of the bid will be an action item at the board meeting on December 11, with the winning bidder expected to provide a cashiers check for the remaining balance within 10 days of board action to approve the sale.
2. Refrigerator for Kitchen - The grant to cover the cost of our new refrigerator requests verification of purchase for the approved item prior to reimbursement. As soon as we receive the bill from Heartland Refrigeration, we'll have it on the list of claims and submit for the funds by showing it has been approved at a board meeting.

Finances

1. Gubernatorial Commitment - Gover Pillen, along with Elwood Supt. Daren Hatch, Norris Supt. Dr. Brian Maschmann and NDE Commissioner Dr. Brian Maher held a press conference on Monday, Dec 4 giving some statistics on the Education Future Fund impacts and hopes for the next year. Of the 244 school districts in the state, 188 of the boards voted for the 7% increase in tax authority over the "soft cap" presented by NDE. That's 77% of all systems. However, 92 districts (37%) are collecting less in Property Taxes this year compared to last. AHPS is in that group that passed the 7% increase, but still collected less in taxes.
2. Voluntary Vision Insurance Addition - We've taken advantage of a program by Principal Insurance (handles our long and short term disability) to offer voluntary Vision insurance to the staff. This is at no cost to the district other than setting up the section 125 deductions for staff members to pay the premiums. Enough have opted for the coverage that we will get a 5% discount on the staff disability insurance paid by AHPS.

Other

1. 2024-2025 Calendar - We should have a finalized 24-25 calendar available for the board to approve at the January meeting. The basics format and structure from this year will be used, so don't expect any significant changes. The slight difference will be that instead of the full day in October that is designated for the ESU Conf every other year, we will insert a number of 1:30 early dismissals on Wednesdays (eliminating the 10am late starts) so that we can take care of professional development needs in smaller segments of time.

2. Community Eligibility Provision - We have completed the paperwork and qualified for the CEP (Free Lunches) the remainder of the school year. The threshold to qualify was dropped by USDA this fall from 40% to 25%. The program provides free breakfast and lunch to all of our students. There is a different calculation for reimbursements on meals, and we should come out just a little bit ahead financially. Second helpings or extra milk will still require payments. When we get to the middle of the next semester, we'll look at our data to see if we may qualify for the program for 24-25 even if the threshold goes back up to 40%.
3. Curriculum Review Cycle - We've begun our Curriculum Review process that cycles every 7 years. The first curricular area(s) on our cycle are Language Arts/Speech. Both the elementary committee members and Secondary committee members have been working to find options and quotes on materials. They will meet formally before the end of the semester to finalize their selections, then come together on January 24, 2024 with the board members on the Curriculum, Programs and Activities Committee to discuss a recommendation for the board. Typically, the ELA year is the most costly in terms of financial commitment.
4. Board Professional Development -
 - a. KSB ESU11 Legal Update - Jan 31, 2024 (Holdrege)
 - b. NRCSA Spring Conf - March 14-15 (Kearney)
 - c. Summer Retreat - corresponding date would be June 19, 2024.