

School financials tracking as expected in first quarter

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

First-quarter financials for Holyoke School District Re-1J are showing that both revenue and expenses have tracked as expected, said Supt. Bret Miles in his report at the Oct. 16 school board meeting.

He explained the first quarter is typically uneventful, looking at revenue, and again this year there are no real surprises. He reviewed how different revenue comes in at different times, but there's nothing unexpected.

Highlighting expenditures, Miles pointed out some differences from last year. Utilities and other maintenance line items have been pulled from the building budgets and placed into the maintenance budget for easier oversight into those expenses.

Miles pointed out the alternative school budget is where he expects it to be, as computer licenses for the year are all paid in the first quarter. Transportation costs are up compared to last year, but are tracking as expected, he added.

The bank payment for the construction loan has been paid and most of the capital projects have been completed for the year, said Miles. With construction nearly complete, Miles pointed out they still expect to have over \$200,000 for more projects as they close out the work from this summer.

A majority of the \$2.9 million of construction work has been completed for some time, but Miles reported there are still a few items left after the workers leave.

The district has received training on equipment, received owner's manuals and owner's stock, worked through the warranty process and is currently finalizing invoices. Miles is pleased the latest budget run has the construction work under budget.

Miles also acknowledged a sizable donation from Ag Power Equipment Co. and Case IH to the Holyoke FFA and ag program. The donation will address high-dollar equipment needs and will

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help provide leadership opportunities for students.

Policies approved

Three motions regarding policy were approved at last week's school board meeting.

Several student discipline policies were changed, based on changes in the legislature last year. After discussing changes in the zero-tolerance policies at the previous two board meetings, last week the board adopted the new flexible language around expulsion, returning more of the decision-making to the local realm.

These student discipline policy changes were approved on first reading and will return to the Nov. 6 meeting for second reading and final approval.

Two other policy motions involved second reading and final adoption of policy revisions. The first motion covered policies which were first introduced Sept. 18. The second motion involved policies on repeal from the Oct. 9 meeting.

Year of the Student campaign will be watched

Citing they will continue to watch the Year of the Student campaign to see how it evolves, the local board will not be publicly supporting it at this time.

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The Year of the Student public awareness campaign was created to emphasize school funding in the legislature this coming session.

While the Re-1J board desires to be more involved in advocacy and to spend more time working for solutions to school funding issues, at this time there wasn't a consensus to publicly endorse the Year of the Student campaign.

Board members indicated the campaign needs more direction and a clearer platform before they consider publicly supporting it.

Other business

In other business Oct. 16, the Re-1J board:

—held a 90-minute executive session with Supt. Miles for a post-evaluation conference, at which they reviewed each of the domains and deliverables listed in his evaluation.

—continued discussion from the Oct. 9 meeting about issues to be addressed at the Oct. 20 Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) delegate assembly, which will be attended by board member Dennis Herman.