

A Note from the Parkston School District

During Governor Daugaard's budget address on Wednesday, he announced a proposal for a 10% reduction to the K-12 per student funding allocation. Please consider the following points during the legislative session as you decide whether or not cutting school district funding is the appropriate action.

1. By law, schools should be receiving a 1.3% increase (law states 3% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less). During the 2010 legislative session schools were supposed to receive a 1.2% increase in per pupil funding, and state funding levels were frozen.

2. The current state aid amount is \$4804.60 per student. A 10% reduction would mean \$480 less per student next year for a new amount of \$4325 per student. This brings us back to the funding level we were at about 6 years ago. Estimates suggest it will take close to 10 years to get funding back to the current rate, which means today's Kindergarten students may not even know what today's school look like.

3. For the Parkston School District this reduction means approximately a loss of \$271,680. This number is calculated by the \$480 X 566 students. In addition to this decrease in funding, we will experience another loss for declining enrollment. Together, we estimate our total loss to come to \$350,000. Further yet, the proposal includes additional programs that will be cut by the Department of Education and Bureau of Information and Technology that will either have to be eliminated or absorbed by school districts, thereby potentially increasing our costs.

4. In a ranking of the 154 South Dakota School Districts in General Fund Expenditures, the following districts ranked as the lowest cost in per pupil spending.

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|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Canton | 11) Hanson |
| 2) Tea | 12) Belle Fourche |
| 3) Chester | 13) Pierre |
| 4) Aberdeen | 14) Elk Point Jefferson |
| 5) Milbank | 15) Rapid City |
| 6) Hamlin | 16) Lennox |
| 7) Brandon Valley | 17) Deuel |
| 8) West Central | 18) Mitchell |
| 9) Madison | 19) Meade |
| 10) Harrisburg | 20) <u>Parkston</u> |

5. While some claim that certain school districts are not efficient, we believe the Parkston School District is run very efficiently and we believe this ranking supports that claim. If we are forced to cut the kind of money being suggested, I am uncertain how we will accomplish that goal, for we are running about as efficiently as we can.

6. Sometimes people ask how we can construct or upgrade facilities and buy computers but then have to look at other cuts. The answer to that is that the reduction proposed by Governor Daugaard to the per student funding allocation is for the general fund. This is a separate fund from the capital outlay fund. The general fund is used for expenses such as salaries, supplies or activities. The Capital outlay fund can be used for the purchase of equipment, textbooks, computers and construction repairs. By law, schools are not able to use capital outlay funds to pay for general fund expenditures.

6. Each and every individual has thoughts regarding this matter. Though we will work hard to get the proposed budget modified, the greatest influence on the legislature comes from the patrons of the school district and not school officials. We humbly ask that district patrons make their opinions known to our legislative representation. The Parkston School District lies in three different legislative districts, District 19, District 20, and District 25.

Contact information for all legislators can be found at:
<http://legis.state.sd.us/sessions/2011/MemberMenu.aspx>

District 19

- Frank Kloucek, House -Home 605-583-4468, Capitol 605-224-6387
- Jim Putnam, Senate -Home 605-724-2541, Capitol 605-224-5951
- Edward Van Gerpen, House- Home 605-286-3659, Capitol 605-857-0201

District 20

- Lance Carson, House -Home 605-996-3662, Capitol 605-224-6877
- Tona Rozum, House -605-996-2191
- Mike Vehle, Senate- Home 605-996-5778

District 25

- Jon Hansen, House – Capital (605) 261-3620
- Stace Nelson, House – Home 605-996-0882
- Timothy Rave, Senate – Home 605-529-6379, Capital 605-360-7190

Please call if interested. **Remember**, if they do not hear from the public, they will assume the public is supportive of the budget cuts.

Respectfully,

Shayne McIntosh

Superintendent