



Tri-Center Newsletter 2017

High School 485-2257

Middle School 485-2211

Elementary 485-2271

www.tri-center.k12.ia.us



Superintendent's News and Comments ... Angela Huseman

Professional Development EARLY Dismissals

March 10th, Early Dismissal (End of Quarter)

March 24th, Early Dismissal Inservice

Spring Break

Wednesday, April 10th, 1:30 Dismissal

No School Thursday, April 11th

No School Friday, April 12th

No School Monday April 15th

Budget Time 2017-18

The General Fund

The General Fund (GF) represents the largest portion of the budget for Tri-Center Community Schools. The GF budget revenues are driven by two variables: enrollment and Modified Supplemental Amount. The certified enrollment (state equation) is determined each year by mid-October. That number is then multiplied times the regular program district cost per pupil to yield the total regular program district cost for the next fiscal year.

The Modified Supplemental Amount (allowable growth) rate is determined by legislature, and it represents the percentage of growth that is added on to the previous year's program district cost per pupil to give schools more funding for the upcoming year. The allowable growth rate for Fiscal Year

2018 has been set by the legislature at 1.11%. I cannot think of anyone in public education that would say this percentage is "enough", but it is what we have to work with during the upcoming year. **I will share a few areas where the legislators could still help our school to realize additional funding at the end of this article.**

The budget capacity of the GF consists of local property tax dollars, state foundation aid, miscellaneous income from state and federal programs, special education funding, allowable growth dollars, and the previous year's unspent balance. The GF is responsible for the payment of all salaries and benefits, materials and supplies, transportation costs, equipment, repairs, and purchased services. School are financially responsible for maintaining the budget that is proposed and adopted each year by the month of April.

Enrollment of a school district has the largest impact on funding. A school with declining or even steady enrollment will realize very little if any allowable growth dollars. A school that increases enrollment will see the largest gain in dollars to build their budget. In many situations, schools are forced to operate the school on the same budget capacity as was used the previous year. This is extremely tough because the expenses of running a school rarely, if ever, go down, (i.e., transportation, technology, preschool, student information systems, textbooks, supplies). These were the primary reasons for implementing the Instructional Support Levy (ISL). The Board can make the decision as to how much of this tax will be income tax or property tax for each fiscal period. Each school in the Western Iowa Conference now has implemented the ISL, and all but a few schools in the state have

adopted it. As we move forward, this revenue stream will be vital to the quality of our transportation, technology, and early childhood programs.

The Special Revenue Funds

The Special Revenue Funds are a part of the Tri-Center Community School's budget consists of: Capital Projects, Management and Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PEEL).

Capital Projects can only be used for the purpose of infrastructure--or building/facility repair and updates. Our present source of income is the amount of revenue realized from Local Option Sales Tax in Harrison, Pottawattamie and Shelby Counties. The Harrison County Sales Tax was voted upon in such a way that it can be used to purchase busses, also. **More on Local Option Sales Tax later.**

The Management Fund levy provides the district with monies to pay for the annual property, auto, liability, and worker's compensation insurance costs. Much like other insurance premiums, the cost of this coverage continues to escalate. The Management Fund may also be used to pay for early retirement packages that are periodically offered by the Board.

The PEEL Fund is levied to enable the district to purchase buses or equipment vital to the operation of the physical plant. This money is presently earmarked for the purchase/lease of new buses in an effort to maintain a solid, up-to-date transportation system, but we will also use it to pay for such things as a new roof, cooling tower, technology or any other sizable plant and facility need that arises.

The Voter PEEL Fund was voted upon and passed the the T-C Community effective FY15 as a .67 property tax levy. The funds generated by this tax will be used to pay for technology costs incurred by the district each year. It should be noted the State of Iowa does not contribute any funding towards technology expenditures.

It should be noted that the revenue flows directly into each of these special funds and cannot be redirected to the school's General Fund. Special

Funds in school finance can be thought of as separate checking accounts. They are maintained and operated according to Iowa Code.

Spending Authority

As important as cash balance is in each fund, the concept of spending authority is equally if not more important. Spending Authority is the limit on General Fund expenditures calculated by the state. Exceeding the legal limit in spending authority is a violation of Iowa law and results in a negative unspent balance. If you have paid attention to our school's financial plights the past three years, you know that this is the area Tri-Center has worked to overcome. Tri-Center currently has a positive unspent balance, and we will plan to budget so this will not be an area of concern again.

Preliminary budget information for 2017-18 will be shared at the March board meeting, with the actual presentation/adoption of the budget taking place at the April board meeting.

Help from the Legislators

Our Iowa Legislators are still in session, and there are a number of bills (and I have outlined a few below) that would help our kids get a truly "equitable" amount of funding.

Transportation Equity: This refers to the amount of money districts spend on bussing their students to school. As you may have guessed, since everyone has to drive to our building, our costs are among the highest in the state. In fact, we pay \$547.47/student for transportation as opposed to a district that only pays \$83.37/student. Transportation money comes out of the General Fund, so you can see how this is inequitable. This equals \$464.10 more a year we are paying. If we had to spend less on transportation, we could use that money to get resources in our student's hands.

Per Pupil Spending Equity: TC gets \$143 less per student per year than some districts in Iowa. That equates to over \$90,000 in money and spending authority---EVERY YEAR.

Local Option Sales Tax: This is money that school districts get every year that we need to keep our building up-to-date. This particular tax is set to sunset in a couple years. There is some current legislation out there to extend the sunset. We need this to happen so we can continue on our long-range planning for our facilities.

These are just some of the areas that would help our Tri-Center students to be treated as well as other students in the state in terms of dollars we could use. I would urge you strongly to contact your legislators and advocate for our kids in each of the areas I have listed. If you need help figuring out how and who to contact, you can go to: www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find

Tri-Center is a great school. Just think of what we could offer our students if we got equitable funding.

If you have questions on any of the items I wrote about, please ask me.



Counseling Comments ...Tami Harman

Seniors should be in their final process of college visits, college applications, and should be working on college scholarships. Most of the seniors have made their selection in regards to post secondary plans. The FAFSA applications can and should be completed and sent in as soon as possible. This must be submitted in order for any financial aid packages to be submitted for the fall term of college. The website is www.FAFSA.ed.gov. If you need assistance call Tami Harman at the high school, 712-485-2257.

The **juniors** took the ASVAB (Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery) test here at Tri-Center. The assessment is given to assist students in career exploration and to gain knowledge of their strengths and weaknesses in relation to different careers. It also helps students to begin exploring

future educational and career plans. We will be going over those results with juniors in the next couple weeks.

There are 2 test dates available for ACT testing this school year. They are April 8th with a registration deadline of March 3rd, late registration is March 4-17th, and the last test date is June 10th with a May 5th registration deadline. Juniors should try to test at least once their junior year and then again starting right away their senior year. The website to sign up for ACT testing is www.actstudent.org.

There will be a John Baylor Test Prep offered here at Tri-Center before the April 8th ACT Test. If you son/daughter is registered to take the April 8th test, they need to sign up for the Baylor Test Prep with Mrs. Harman.

Tri-Center will be hosting a College Planning Night and Financial Aid Night on Wednesday, March 15 at Tri-Center in the Cafetorium. The College Planning presentation will start at 6:00 pm followed by the Financial Aid presentation at 7:00 pm. Sophomores and juniors should plan to attend if possible.

The **sophomores** will be attending a Career Fair on Tuesday, March 21st at Iowa Western Community College from 9:00 - 12:00 noon. All sophomores will be attending.

Freshmen Orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28th at 7:30 p.m. in the High School Cafetorium. All incoming Freshmen are invited and encouraged to attend to assist with the middle school to high school transition.

6th grade Orientation will be held on Tuesday, March 28th at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle School Gym. All incoming 6th graders are invited and encouraged to attend.

Tri-Center Foundation Scholarships (formerly called Dollars for Scholars) will be available to seniors beginning April 1st.

National Honor Society:

The applications for National Honor Society have been returned and staff has ranked those applications based on their Leadership, Character and Service. After those rankings were gathered, the selection committee met to make selections and students were notified of their application status. There will be 24 new inductees this year. Congratulations to those students and their families.

Blood Drive:

The annual Blood Drive was held on Tuesday, February 21st at Tri-Center. The goal was 59 units and we collected 64 units. Those units have the potential to save several patients in need. Thanks to all the high school students and community members that donated. Thanks again to all!!



Kindergarten Roundup!

If you have a child who will be ready for kindergarten this fall and **IS NOT** enrolled in our preschool program this year, they are invited to join us for a half day of kindergarten on Friday, April 7th, from 8:15 am - 11:15 am. Please call the elementary office at 485-2271 to reserve a spot in a classroom.



**From the Elementary
Principal
...Diane White**

March Highlights

March 1 – 4th Grade trip to Omaha Symphony
March 3 – No PK today
March 6 – School Improvement Advisory Mtg. 6:00
HS Library
March 7 – Student Council Mtg. 3:30
March 10 – No PK today
March 10 - Preschool Screening Day – Please call
for an appointment.
March 10 – End of 3rd Quarter – 1:30 Dismissal
March 12 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 17 – St. Patrick's Day
March 17 – No PK today
March 20 – First Day of Spring
March 22 – Grades 3,4,& 5 to IWCC for
MatheMagic Show
March 23 - Jump Rope for Heart
March 24 – 1:30 dismissal for InService
March 31 – No PK today

Mark your calendar:

April 5 - PK to IWCC for Health Fair
April 7 - No PK today
April 7 Kindergarten Roundup Day (If your child
did not attend Tri-Center Preschool, please call us
@ 485-2271 for info.)
April 11 - Spring Music Program Grades K-1 2:00
and 7:00 PM
April 12 - 1:30 Dismissal for Spring Break
April 13-17 – No School
April 16 – Happy Easter!
April 18 - No PK today
April 19 - No PK today
April 24 - Spring FAST testing may begin
April 26 - Secretaries Day
April 28 - No School – InService Day



Julie Theulen Special Education

On Saturday, March 11, several members of the Special Olympic team competed in events in Iowa City. Joslyn Puntenev came home with a silver medal in basketball skills. Matthew Killpack was part of a 3-way tie for the bronze medal in basketball skills. Cole Osbahr came home with the gold medal in the bench press. Cole also came home with a gold medal in the dead lift with a personal record of 135 pounds. Way to go team!



Tri-Center Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

Tri-Center Scholarship Foundation's annual theme luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 8, 2017 in the Tri-Center High School gym. Make plans to attend as you won't want to miss this annual fundraiser for Tri-Center High School 2017 graduates. This will be the 20th Anniversary of the first theme luncheon! This year's overall theme is "Light The Way To Your Success"!

The doors will open at 10:00 a.m. for viewing of the theme decorated tables. Hosts and hostesses decorate their table with a theme of their choosing and invite guests to sit at their table. Don't know anyone hosting a table? Don't worry, just call any of the board members listed for a reservation. Or if you are interested in hosting a table of your own, let one of the board members know! Board members to contact are: Kathy Mark – [712-485-2423](tel:712-485-2423), Abbie Benning – [402-312-4502](tel:402-312-4502), Roger Hall – [712-485-2245](tel:712-485-2245), or Heather Turner – [712-310-3214](tel:712-310-3214).

The start time for lunch this year is 11:30 a.m. The cost to attend the luncheon (including viewing of tables) is \$10.00 and is by reservation only. Payment can be made at the door the day of the luncheon.

Lunch consists of turkey salad sandwich, lettuce salad, fruit salad, ice cream, cupcakes and of course iced tea, coffee or water. Entertainment will follow lunch and will be provided by Tri-Center High School music students. A raffle will also be held during the luncheon.

Although Tri-Center Scholarship Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization that was formed in July of 2013 to award scholarships to qualifying Tri-Center graduating seniors for post-secondary education, they were previously a chapter under a national scholarship organization and the group is celebrating their 25th year of awarding scholarships to Tri-Center students.



Junior Class
Bryanna Zmolek

Juniors are currently working on their Yankee Candle Fundraiser for prom. The sales are due on March 9th, 2017. Students receive 40% of their total sales toward their prom contribution. The \$100 obligation for prom per junior is due on March 15th, 2017 to Mrs. Zmolek.



ART & BOWLING BUZZ
Kelly Alfery

Color soon should be returning to our landscape but it is always in full bloom in the TC Art rooms. It is hard to believe we are entering our last quarter of the year. We have been displaying lots of talent in the jr high hallways and HS display cases as well as various places. Five students were selected out of 10 submitted to the Youth Art Month contest: Brandan Ryan, Paige Skow, Jaxson Alfery, Nathan Holtorf, and Courtney Chapman. Their artwork has been on display at

Grand View University all the month of Feb. and March. Their exhibited Artwork will be given back to the winners at a ceremony March 25th. The conference art show will be held in Underwood this year and all artwork must be completed for submission by April 27th. The conference show will be open to the public Friday April 28th- Monday May 1st. No entrance fee required to come view the displays.

BOWLING is BACK at TC. We had a very successful 1st year back. Success is not measured by what you accomplish, but by the opposition you were up against & the courage with which you maintained the game against overwhelming odds. That being said, our boys struggled with 0/6 season competing against boys with over 225 pin averages, synthetic alleys and years of Jr. league training using their own gear. Our boys held their own, and was still very impressive for their 1st year, and are ready to return and conquer. The girls finished 4th in Districts and Olivia Maassen finished 4th overall individually, with a 3/3 record losing to Harlan by only 3 pins!! The JV boys bowled a 233 pin bakers game! Which earned them a coaches pizza party. They finished their season with 3/5 record, losing to Harlan by 5 Pins! The girls team had a 4/5 record bowling their best with bakers games also. A bowling banquet was held 2/28 in the HS cafetorium where following awards were given:

Highest Average Colten Brink 145 Nicole McPhillips 137

Most Improved Jordan Ring Olivia Maassen

Most Turkey's Noah Dickerson (14 turkey's) Olivia Maassen (11 Turkeys)

Most Games bowled Jordan Macias, Olivia Maassen

Bowling Spirit award Dylan Williams, Tillie Heim

Most unique Technique Noah Dickerson, Emma Tessmer

200 Club Award bowling over 200 pin game! Nicole McPhillips 211, Dylan Williams 214, Olivia Maassen 214, Jordan Macias 211 , Jake Wohlers 211

Manager Awards Maggie Nelson, Erika Kline
Coach **Kelly Alf**ers

Jake Wohlers, Limwell Clevenger, Colten Brink,
Dylan Williams, Jacob Raine, Trevor Heinen, Adia
Brown, Karly Smith, Nicole McPhillips, Christine
Hess, Jordan Macias, Noah Dickerson, Wes
Kramer, Aiden Hess Tillie Heim, Alyssa
McDermott, Carlie Lange, Jessica Dea, Emma
Tessmer Caroline Sondag, Ken Chapman, Jordan
Ring, Sidney Stowe, Chaeli Moir, Olivia Maassen,
Paige Skow, Dean Robinson, & Joey Wohlers

