



LRSP Status Report – June 2011

3.10 Supt 2011 Legislative Session SR 2011

Strategic Objective (SO):

3.10 During the 2011 Legislative Session, Bozeman Public Schools will continue to advocate for policies, procedures and resources needed to meet the high quality educational goals important to the community.

Department/School: Superintendent

Leader: Kirk Miller

Team Members:

Trustees, Executive Council

In a year, we hope to see the following progress on this strategic objective:

The Legislature understands the value of investing in the education of our children, and commits to adequate funding of K-12 education allowing BSD7 to continue accomplishment of initiatives defined in our LRSP.

PROGRESS SUMMARY

BSD7 estimated our state funding apportionment for the 2013 biennium based on current law and developed a communication plan that described the 2011-12 school year shortfall as being approximately \$2.4 million short of meeting district needs for student learning. The result of the Legislative session restored approximately 1% funding in 2011-12 and 1.6% in 2012-13. This is approximately .83% short of the inflationary factors outlined in law. The school election support of the community provided approximately \$320,000 of local funds to support the shortfall. This resulted in budget cuts to BSD7 in excess of \$800,000.

BSD7 continued communicating effectively with AA schools and are participated in developing common messages for the legislature reflecting the unique needs of large schools. AA Caucus was established in order to facilitate this process. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations have coordinated meetings with their AA colleagues to effectively communicate important issues. These messages promote a long term strategy to develop a sustainable, self-initiating strategy for supporting adequate resources for BSD7.

The LRSP was shared with Legislators and Legislative Candidates prior to the Session with discussion of the resources necessary to achieve elements of the plan. 9 of 11 Legislators attended the meetings which included tours of schools to observe programming and resources allocation.

During the session, the BSD7 Balanced Scorecard became a shining example of accountability and transparency for school districts across Montana. Significant time was spent with the Speaker of the House, Senate President and leadership of the House and Senate using our

Balanced Scorecard as an example of why we do not need to adopt other states' failed efforts to show accountability. BSD7 testified on education funding bills that would support a reduction in the identified budget shortfall.

Trustees prepared and passed a resolution for consideration of the MTSBA delegate assembly with the goal of optimizing resources. This resolution was written into SB 329, which became the K-12 school funding bill of the session. Trustees and the Superintendent worked with the 4 Rivers Optimization Group and the legislature to seek approval of the bill. SB 329 passed the legislature and was signed by the Governor with \$2 million in funding set aside for the formation of multi-district cooperatives. BSD7 was a leader of this legislation intended to improve student achievement and optimize resources now and in the future.

BSD7 effectively monitored bills affecting our schools and worked with the Lincolns for Levies (L4L) advocacy group to understand and advocate for bills that would be positive for our students.

Consistent with the past 2 decades, the support of K-12 education at the legislative level has decreased. BSD7 continues to understand and promote the efforts to develop an self executing sustainable funding formula that is adequate and equitable in meeting the future education needs of Montana's students.