

## **A Message from the Superintendent – Sandra Pommerening for Kellogg Joint School District #391**

---

### **Community Financial Forums**

We would like to thank those patrons who attended one of the five financial presentations given in the community and for their questions and suggestions. If you missed the forums, the information is still available at <http://www.ksd391.org/budgetcomm.htm> or by copies at the district office. A public survey is now available on this same webpage or you can pick up a paper copy at any school office or the district office, 800 Bunker Avenue during the week of January 25 through January 29. Surveys must be returned by 8 AM on February 1 in order to be considered in the results. Please help us make quality decisions by participating in a forum and the survey.

### **Frugal Management of District Funds**

The Board of Trustees has worked diligently to manage funds carefully. An example of the four-year accomplishments in avoiding increases in cost and reducing costs wherever possible is shown in detail on our web site at [http://www.ksd391.org/budgetcomm/4yrhist\\_reductions011110.pdf](http://www.ksd391.org/budgetcomm/4yrhist_reductions011110.pdf) In summary, the four year savings achievement is at least \$862,022. Areas of savings include restructuring the alternative school at \$20,000; changes in activities and sports at \$24,392; administration changes/reductions at \$82,128; teacher changes/reductions at \$391,517; classified staff changes/reductions at \$216,343; and other changes at \$127,642.

Additional Savings to taxpayers (not to district) was made when the district successfully completed a bond refinance of our 1998 bond series retiring \$4,460,000 and reissuing \$4,060,000 of outstanding bonds and obtained a \$195,459 interest savings to the taxpayers over 10 years.

Our district has also taken other general cost savings measures to reduce costs by participating in cooperative agreements with other school districts. Examples of these savings measures include: agreements with Wallace for ROTC, Alternative High School and Choir; agreements with Wallace, Mullan and Harrison for Special Education Services, Vocational Services, and from time to time on various sports; food services purchasing cooperative; cooperative agreements with Wallace, Mullan, Lakeland, and Post Falls for vocational classes; participation in the Oregon Educational Technology cooperative for technology purchases; agreement with Idaho School District Council for insurance purchasing; and we also investigated a possible cooperative with Wallace for transportation but the costs would be too great for Kellogg.

Other quality business practices include the practice of continually investigating and upgrading for lowest cost, quality and durability through bids: for fuel, food, milk, and bus purchasing. We buy print cartridges in bulk and shop for discounts in shipping and quantity for items such as paper and textbooks. We also use a Dell as a uniform platform for technology as a savings in costs for repairs, quantity discounts, etc.

Our staff members regularly write for grants, which help supplement programs or required services. We successfully apply for Medicaid support for eligible special

education services, technology discounts through e-rate, after school and summer school grants, college preparation programs such as Gear-up, fruits and vegetables grants, technology equipment grants, pre-school grant and a variety of other smaller grants.

### **Energy Bond Savings**

We now provide a monthly report on our Financial Advisory Committee webpage [http://www.ksd391.org/budgetcomm/avista\\_report.pdf](http://www.ksd391.org/budgetcomm/avista_report.pdf) to show a comparison at each school between the base line year 2005 and current energy costs. The Energy Bond allowed us to install the biomass boiler, upgrade boilers at the high school and Pinehurst, install energy efficient lighting and controls, and install energy efficient windows in the high school. You can follow these reports and see the difference. Some differences in energy use will be affected by weather and that we have added air conditioning in some classrooms, but for the main part, we are seeing an avoidance of the huge cost increases that we would have had due to fuel costs going up.

Thanks to the Shoshone News Press for this opportunity to share information about our school district. Remember to visit our website at <http://www.ksd391.org/> .