

**Beaver Dam Unified School District
Board of Education Minutes**

Planning Committee Meeting

January 20, 2014

A meeting of the Planning Committee of the Beaver Dam Unified School District Board of Education was held on the above date at the Educational Service Center at 6:30 p.m. Board members present: Bev Beal-Loeck, Jim Jansen, Marge Jorgensen, John Kraus, Jr., Laura Lerwick, Lisa Panzer, Chad Prieve, Gary Spielman, and Joanne Tyjeski. Administration present: Bob Avery, Director of Business Services, Mark DiStefano, High School Principal, Steve Rottmann, Network Administrator, and Steve Vessey, Superintendent.

Mr. Avery reviewed the impact of a reduction in SAGE state aid compared to potential savings in personnel costs. The loss of aid more than offsets potential savings. At this point, it is most advantageous financially to maintain SAGE. However, this does impact class sizes in non-SAGE schools, driving them upward. The consensus of the committee was to maintain the status quo.

Mr. Rottmann provided a demonstration of using laptops for board meetings. There would be no additional cost associated with these laptops. These were previously used in elementary carts and could be used elsewhere if needed. These would not be assigned to Board members, but are available for checkout, though potentially subject to recall if needed elsewhere. They would be available to members at each meeting. Committee members commented that they liked the file storage, data sharing, and eliminating printed documents. The consensus of the committee is to pursue using laptops for board meetings. The laptops will be ready for the March or April regular board meeting so individual board members can get acclimated to this environment. Mr. Vessey will send out a timeline to all board members and ask what they want and need to move forward.

Mr Avery presented a new lease proposal for 105 laptops and 40 personal computers. The lease is for three years and is at 4.9%. The principal amount is \$99,950, which will incur \$4,902 in interest costs over the term of the lease. The computers are for the Middle School, so that each house has one 30-unit cart and there will be a smaller one housed in the library. The remaining computers will be reserves to replace broken machines or to meet new needs as they arise. The committee discussed the ratio of devices to students, which is currently approximately 1:2.5 at the K-8 grade levels. The consensus of the committee was to take this item to the full board.

The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Marge Jorgensen, Committee Chair.