

MASS Spring Conference 2016

School Size Caucus Talking Points



Class A Breakout Caucus

March 15, 2015

Western Star Room Great Northern Hotel

Facilitator: Ross Faber

1. Greatest success story facing your district this year?
 - Polson: 91 % graduation rate (30 % native population)
 - Columbia Falls: Evaluating all teachers
 - Randy Cline: 17 new teachers all recommend for renewal (97.5 %)
 - Lewistown: Replacing principal and assistant principal. Key positions.
 - Whitefish: State A Football Champions, unanimous CBA
 - Belgrade: Bond passage 3.4 Million, getting the wrong people off the bus through the new Humans Relations Department
 - Dr. Redburn suggested 2 professional organizations American Association of School Administrators and SHERM Certifications for Human Relations
 - Dillon: MBI team platinum status, ODR down 50%, Technology Director hired with very little experience, Supes boys played and won state basketball championship
 - Laurel: Facilities Planning
 - Havre: Blue Pony Band will be marching in Washington DC 4th of July parade
 - Glendive: old school building replacement bond
 - Frenchtown: \$750 K levy passed by 10 votes; \$700K replacing flooded gym floor in high school
 - Glendive: Steam leak under gym floor. Insurance will pay.

2. Greatest challenge faced by your district this year and what solutions have been developed?
 - Laurel: Student Suicide (mentioned Livingston)
 - Laurel: Hate group on social media (Frenchtown as well)
 - Dillon: 1938 HS High School Built (Facilities Assessment)
 - Whitefish: LTW Architect Steve LaRue concerns about a building reserve
Speaking about drugs and guns for teachers to carry weapons in the school during the day
 - Lewistown: Facilities and Funding. Operating levy failed last year. Focus on building reserve. HS 31 years old. Added a kindergarten class. Corn Beef and Cabbage and moving teachers out of their rooms.
 - Frenchtown: 20 million project 2006-2009. Mill closed and lost 100 students. Families can't afford to live in Missoula so they live in Frenchtown. Low income sweat income houses pose problems. 64 new students (25 in HS) Passed building reserve levy. 386 K in back taxes owed Stuart Title. Reserves are being hit.
 - Laurel: The Denver Effect is happening. 250 trailer houses will be installed.
 - Columbia Falls: Family Foundation. Behavioral Issues (11 autistic in the elementary)
Students coming in too early. Lowered age to 6 years old.
 - Frenchtown: Starting transitional kindergarten next year. HS principal hit three times

this year.

- Laurel: Can teach behaviors out. Parenting issue.
- Polson: Declining enrollment. Passed Building Reserve Levy. Sale of cur Dam 600 K shortfall with the sale (not \$350 K) people are leaving because they can't find jobs. Educationally doing very well.
- Havre: Bullying, Facilities, Newest Building 50 years old. Dr. Barron presentation Keep focused on what needs to be.
- Lewistown: Budget cuts - Supe does a weightlifting class zero hour. No compensation but is reminded why we got into education. Wouldn't give it up.

3. What is the status of recruiting and retaining quality educators for your district? (Better or worse than previous years). What innovations have you put in place to increase recruitment and retention?

- Glendive: Teacher evaluation instrument. Union lawsuit unfair labor practice because of Rocky Mountain Evaluation EPas Chapter 55. Claiming management
- Frenchtown: Court Case in California teachers fearful that teachers won't have to join a union.
- Glendive: Active Union. Reviewing CBA to see other pitfalls. Grant money to build houses to house teachers. Union grieved because earlier teachers did not have housing allowance.
- Glendive: Bonner Case has been expanded upon. Bonner case of transferring within their certification. Teachers have right to have language in CBA to contest transfers. Management rights are disappearing rapidly.

Ross Faber voted 3 votes to have him do this permanently (Havre, Lewistown & Belgrade)

10:26 am meeting adjourned