



Potomac Elementary School

School Board Minutes

for

December 8, 2014

Phone (406) 244-5581

Fax (406) 244-5840

www.potomacschoolmontana.us

*“Potomac School equips each student for his/her future
within a culture of excellence that values the small community experience.”*

Call to Order

Board Chair Cliff Vann called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm by leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those trustees present were: Gary Long, Craig Nelson and Jason Nordberg. Jill Thornton, clerk, and David Allen, Principal, were both in attendance.

Public Input (for issues not on the agenda) None.

Consent Agenda

Gary moved to approve the consent agenda. Craig seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0**

Class of 2015 8th grade Trip Report

Cliff started by saying the 8th grade class needed to bring the trip to the school board for approval, and the board needed to understand what the trip would entail - is the trip educational?

Some of the things learned from planning the 2014 8th grade trip was 1) shared responsibilities, 2) the students needed to find something that was engaging which allowed them to learn more from it, 3) how to present – which also turned into a presentation to the 21st Century Grant folks, understanding and deciding who needed to go on the trip (parents – teachers – etc?). He also said the students gained maturity through the steps necessary to plan and fundraise, as well as the trip itself.

Cliff listed some tasks that would help the 2015 8th grade class plan and present the trip. 1) Research the trip options, 2) set an itinerary, 3) plan for an educational trip, 4) develop a budget, 5) present choices to classmates, 6) decide which trip to take, 7) figure out how much time off is required from school, and 8) fundraise. He also said a good starting point is to set a goal that all 8th graders will go.

Kyle H. and Trenton C. were present from the 8th grade class. They said the trips they are currently discussing are either or both the 1) Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) in Portland which has eight hands-on science labs, the USS Blueback submarine, the Kendall Planetarium, The Empirical Theater and other exhibits, and 2) the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport. They were also thinking of stopping at the Silverwood Theme Park on the way back if they went to one or both of these 2 destinations.

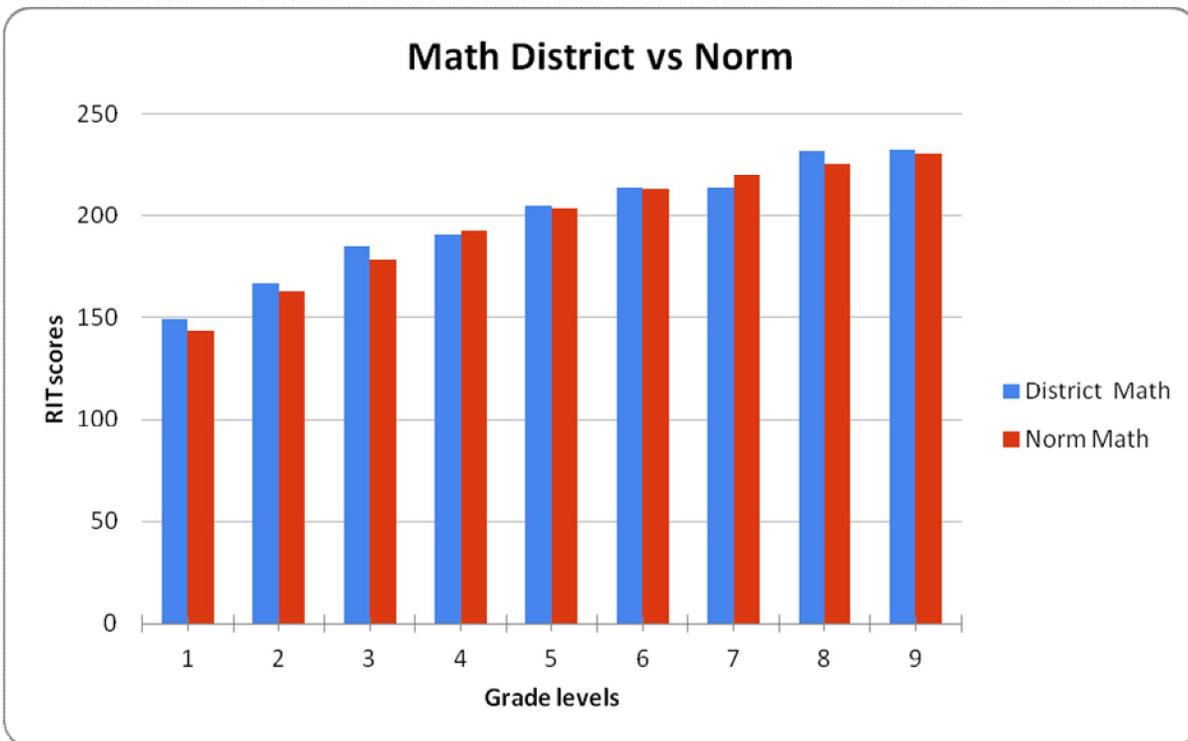
Gary said he thought the Aerospace Museum in Oregon was also a great place to go.

Cliff said when the 2014 class went on their trip; it cost about \$1,000 per student. With a similar trip, that would be \$10,000 for this 8th grade class to fundraise. He also said the board would like to hear if they can help. Gary commented that the students should plan to raise the full amount.

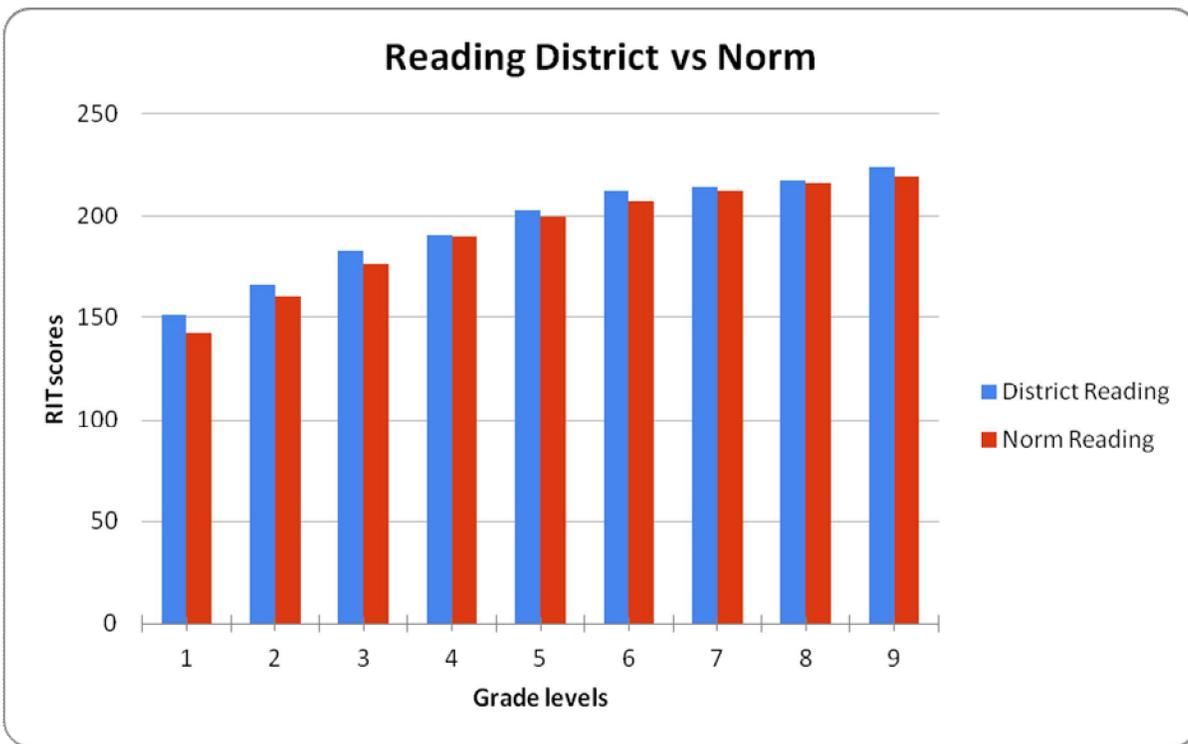
Teacher Presentations

Kristina Davis presented information from our MAP testing. The results show that in most grade levels, Potomac's students score above the rest of the country in both Math and Reading. The scores and graphs are:

	District Math	Norm Math
K	149.6	143.7
1	167	162.8
2	184.7	178.2
3	190.3	192.1
4	205.1	203.8
5	213.5	212.9
6	213.8	219.6
7	231.6	225.6
8	232.3	230.2



	District Reading	Norm Reading
K	151.3	142.5
1	166	160.3
2	183	175.9
3	190.6	189.9
4	202.9	199.8
5	212.1	207.1
6	214	212.3
7	217.4	216.3
8	224.4	219.3



Kristina had a second presentation showing students ‘Rube Goldberg’ devices. Rube Goldberg was a cartoonist who became well known for depicting complicated devices that performed simple tasks in indirect, convoluted ways. The students ‘Rube Goldberg’ devices needed to incorporate 6 simple machines – a lever, a pulley, a wheel and axle, a wedge, a screw and an inclined plane, and use their device to pop a balloon. The videos of their machines were great!

Sarah Schmill presented what she does in middle school Social Studies. In 5th and 6th grades, the students study US History, 7th grade studies Ancient Cultures, and 8th grade studies US History. With the 7th and 8th grades, she watches CNN Student News. Its format has world affairs, local stories, character studies and then something funny. At the end of the student news broadcast, each student writes one question or comment and she picks from these to help garner class discussions on what they saw. This helps the students think outside of themselves, Potomac and Montana to the rest of the country and world. By having them write their questions or comments, each student has a voice even if they don't raise their hands.

Cliff asked Kristina and Sarah what the board can do to help the teachers. Both said technology again, especially fixing the issues that keep happening with the system. Sarah also would like to have current Social Studies textbooks.

Principals Report

School

- 91 students
- Lights are up

Formal Evaluations

- Mrs. Linnell is currently on sick leave. David is working with the substitute teacher on lesson plans, and Nancy is directing the tasks to keep the class up to date.
- The continuity of the staff is in good shape. I continue to be even more impressed when I have the opportunity to witness their work ethic, care for the kids, having each other's back, amazing.
- Food Drive
- Behavior is on a positive rise
- Writing Collaborative

Activities

- Boys Basketball finished strong tonight. Successful season in the sense of learning.
- 8th graders went to Bozeman for the Science Olympiad
- The Holiday Program is on December 17th at 6:30 pm.
- No more explorers until January

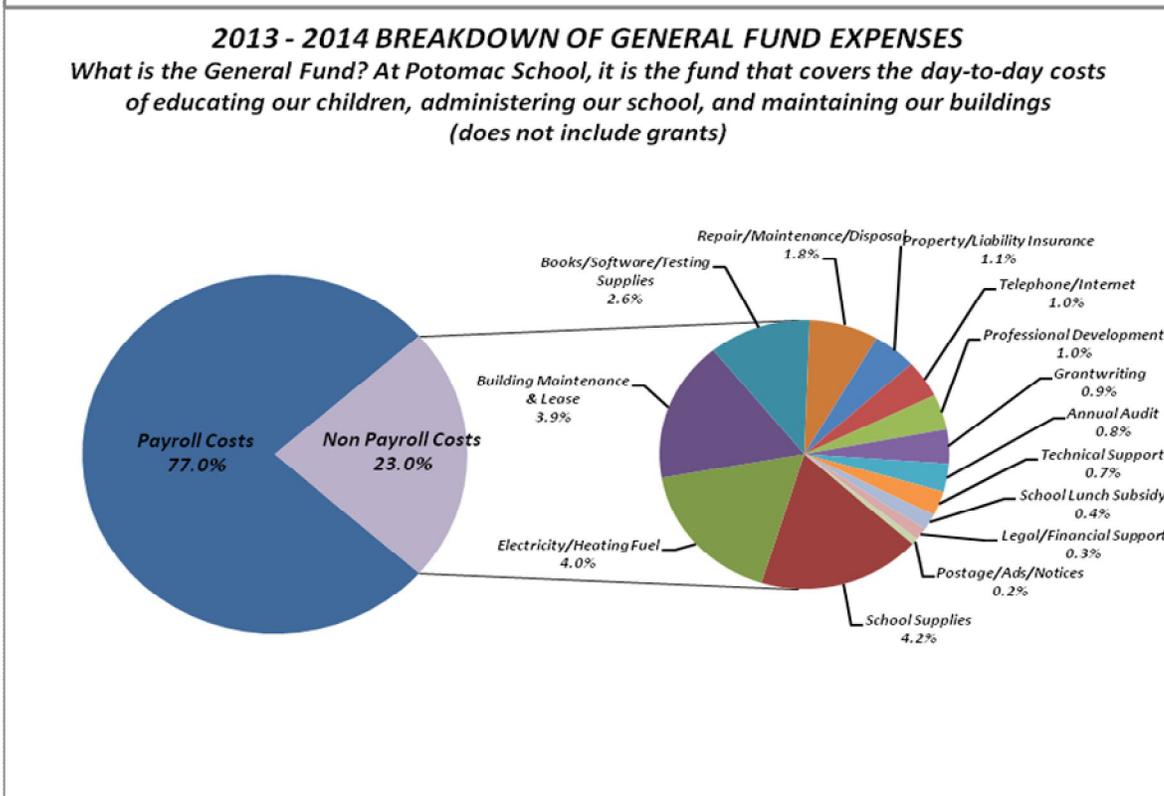
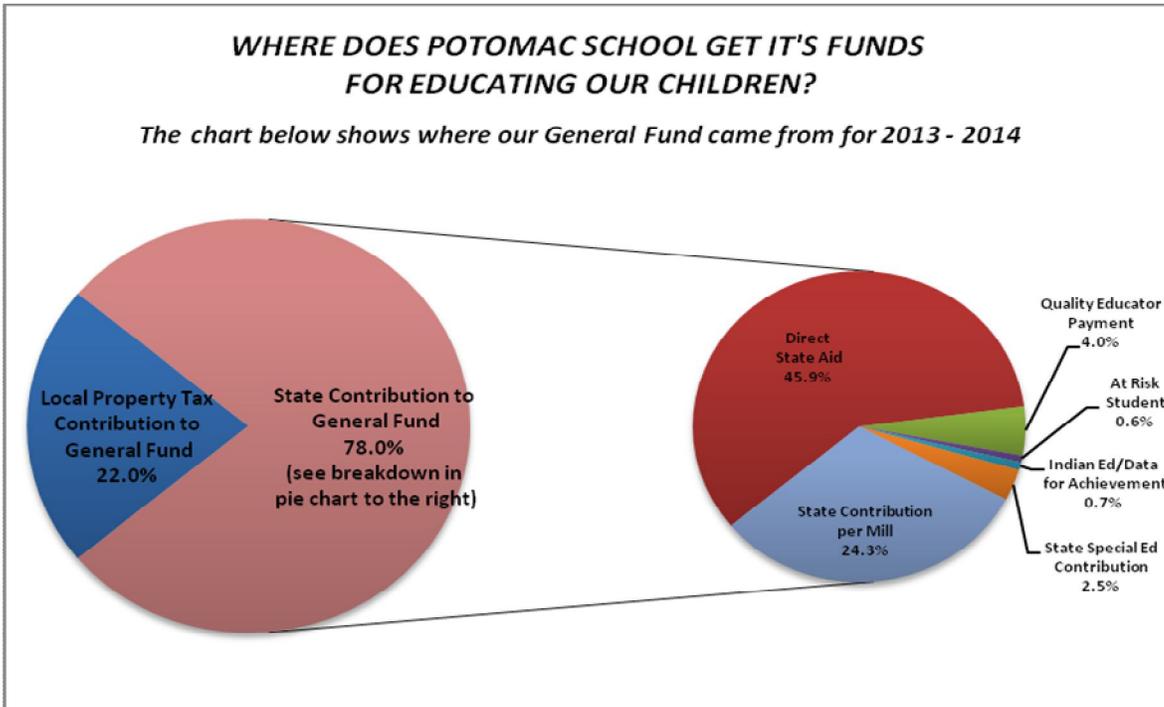
Grants

- Two teachers, Justine Luebke and Kristy Pohlman, have received the One Class at a Time Grant within the last month
- We received the Electronic Educational Equipment Program Grant (EEE) and will use it to purchase classroom projectors.
- I'm currently working with our Superintendent, Erin Lipkind, and OPI on TEAMS data and e-grants input.
- Conversations are in the initial stages with Mr. McDonald concerning future grants.

Cliff asked David to have a tech plan for the next meeting.

Board Professional Development Reports

Jason worked with Jill on developing a way to communicate the schools budget to the community. A graph was developed starting with expenditures. Then Jason felt the communication needed to include where the money comes from. After developing the graphs, he felt it was important for the community to understand the main funding source for the school was not local, but state. These are the graphs that were developed.



Athletic Complex Update

Gary stated that the temporary fence is up. David has called both the PPL and Missoula Parks Grant donors to see if some of the grant money can be used for a fence. There has been no information received yet.

The skating rink is being filled. The rest is on hold until the weather lets up to allow us to level out the field. He feels we probably need to have a professional direct the field work so it can be completed smoothly.

Personnel – none

Adjourn

Board Chair Vann adjourned the Board meeting at 9:48 pm.

Cliff Vann, Chair

date

Jill M Thornton, Clerk

date