

Board Member Message – 4.21.2020

This health crisis has presented tremendous challenges for our staff and students. We are proud of the way the district has stepped-up to support our district employees and families. Food service drop-offs, educational packets, and creative instructional methodologies are being developed by our many talented and caring employees. Our dedicated staff regularly demonstrates that our primary purpose is the safety and education of Aberdeen schoolchildren.

It saddens us that one result of this health crisis is a further disparity of funding between property-rich and property-poor districts. It seems especially cruel for struggling communities to have health scares as well as financial consequences. Add to this the real possibility of a reduction in force for our most vital asset, our staff. A predicted \$6.5 million dollar shortfall for a district our size is a travesty.

We commit to you that we will continue to look for help from our State and Federal government. We are confident our district administration and in particular Dr. Henderson will continue to push our local legislators to continue their fight for increased LEA dollars. We encourage all Aberdeen citizens to reach out as well. This reduction will affect our whole community.

As elected officials, school directors are responsible for safeguarding the school district as a community resource. We consider both public opinion and what we know about a given situation when making a decision. Sometimes the loudest voices are not representative of the larger community's opinion. We always weigh all competing interests – various public opinions, budget considerations, policies, potential impacts, and sustainability – to try to make the best decisions.

Please continue to contact us and district administration for clarifications and facts. It is every citizen's duty to find and share the truth.

Sincerely,

Sandra Bielski, President
William Dyer, Vice President
Jennifer Durney, Director
Jessica Jurasin, Director
Suzy Ritter, Director