

School Board Update

The Cedar Mountain School Board met on Tuesday, February 20. At the meeting, the School Board continued planning for the 2018-19 school year and beyond. Much of the meeting was spent on two agenda items – planning for the 2018-19 school year and discussing the need to look at an operating referendum in November.

Our planning for the 2018-19 school year includes making about \$200,000 in reductions. There are several reasons that we need to make these reductions, including fewer students, state aid that is not keeping up with inflation, and the need to improve employee pay and benefits. The administration has worked hard to reduce spending in areas that do not directly affect students and student programs. Some of the reductions include a reduction of 1 classroom teacher, moving to a half time superintendent (that would be me), and looking at how we can more effectively use staff. This includes adjusting our custodial and maintenance staff, reducing summer hours for 12 month employees, and eliminating membership in the North Collaborative, which provides staff development opportunities to our teaching staff.

Even while making these reductions, we hope to enhance what we are offering our students and families. A college level Art class is planned for next year, and a work-based learning class will be offered through our Ag department. Afterschool programs are being developed in both the elementary and MS/HS for next year, and we are planning to offer summer child care for students in grades K-5 beginning in June of 2018.

In addition to reductions, the Board discussed the need to increase revenue. This would be done primarily by increasing the District's operating referendum. It has been many years since the Cedar Mountain school district has asked voters to approve an operating referendum. Farmland is not included in an operating referendum. Operating referendums raise revenue based on the value of a house, garage, and up to 1 acre of land. Because Cedar Mountain currently has a very low operating referendum, the District would receive state aid up to a certain level. The Board is looking at what level of funding they feel is necessary to maintain a quality educational program at Cedar Mountain.

Upcoming Dates

Here are some upcoming dates and events at Cedar Mountain:

- March 9 – No School
- March 11 – Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 15 – Kindergarten Connection in Franklin
- March 20 - Kindergarten Connection in Franklin
- March 23 – Early dismissal at 12:10
- March 23 – End of the 3rd Quarter