

Nordic Tribune

January, 2012

Postal Customer

Sinking Fund Millage

By: Angel Inglese

In February of 2012 the school will be asking voters to approve a 2 mil 10 year Sinking Fund Millage. Including the voter approved school debt levy last August, North Dickinson Schools still has the lowest debt levy in the County at 3.1391 mills. This compares to Iron Mountain Schools - 3.8 mills, Breitung Township Schools - 4.8 mills, Norway Vulcan Schools - 7.43 mills. The new Sinking Fund tax if approved in February 2012 will replace the current Sinking Fund millage that will expire in December 2012. Although the approval of Sinking Funds is a tax increase, it will not increase the amount that you are presently paying in property taxes. Property owners in Felch, West Branch, Breen and Sagola Township will still have the lowest property tax rates in the County.

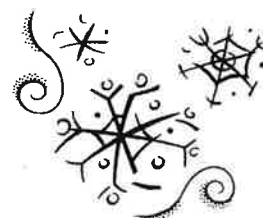
The voter approved debt last August allowed the school to borrow money by selling bonds. The major purchases made after the sale of the bonds were a school bus, replacement of classroom furniture, replacement of old computers, addition of new classroom technology and the replacement of kitchen equipment. By law, the money received from the sale of the bonds cannot be used to pay wages, employee benefits, and operational expenses such as the electric bill, phone bill, building im-

provements, or maintenance. It also cannot be saved for future use. The money must be spent within six months after the sale of the bonds.

Several years ago voters approved a tax increase for the capital improvements of the building and grounds. This tax increase is referred to as "Sinking Funds". Legally, Sinking Funds cannot be used to pay wages, employee benefits and operational expenses such as the electric or phone bill. Sinking Funds cannot be used to buy buses, furniture or technology. Unlike proceeds from the sale of bonds, laws do allow for Sinking Funds to be set aside for a rainy day. The district has set aside some funds in case of unforeseen building expenses. This past summer Sinking Fund projects included the replacement of a boiler, relocation of a boiler, replacement of piping, installation of new energy efficient domestic hot water makers, and the installation of new energy efficient lighting. The use of Sinking Funds coupled with significant private donations is the reason why the school furniture, building and grounds are in such good shape. The projects undertaken with Sinking Funds to improve efficiency will help to reduce the amount we pay out of the General Fund for electricity and maintenance costs. The General Fund is in the red because we experienced significant cuts to our per pupil allocation from the State this past year. Anything we can do to reduce expenses paid out of the General

Fund is needed.

Currently the Sinking Fund tax millage must be brought before the voters every five years for approval. The current Sinking Fund millage will expire in December of 2012. The school district is going to ask the voters to approve the Sinking Fund tax again during the February 2012 election for a period of 10 years. The district is asking voters to approve this in February because this election is paid for by the state. If the school waited and chose to have an election on this issue alone, then the school must pay the cost of holding the election. The cost of running an election is significant and those costs come out of the General Fund. And as stated earlier, the General Fund is in the red. The reason why the district is going to ask voters to approve this for a period of 10 years instead of five years is so that we don't have the expense of an election again in five years. Having a ten year approval will provide the school with the stability to do long range planning of building and grounds projects and it will allow the school to increase the amount we set aside for major expenses over a longer period of time.



Kindergarten News

By: Michelle Mattson

I can't believe how quickly this month has gone by. We have been busy learning all our letters and their sounds. And we started learning how to add numbers. When we get back in January we will really start to work hard on our reading and writing skills. Just wait and watch how far we can go. We are not only focusing on reading and writing. In math, we will begin to learn about telling time.

First Grade

By: Angie Mattson

We are working on geometry and fractions in math class and the kids really like it. We also continue to work on adding and subtracting every day. Please keep reading with your children at home. The stories are getting harder and it is important to keep up with them. We are really enjoying our new listening center and are rolling along with the accelerated reader program too! Please remember to send all outdoor gear every day!

Third Grade

By: Jennifer Slagle

We will be having our Third Grade Sale on January 19th and 20th. We will be collecting and selling used toys, games, videos, stuffed animals, children's books, and craft supplies to sell to the elementary students. Everything will cost between \$.25 and \$3.00. We will then be using the money to pay for our field trip in the spring. I could use a parent volunteer to help. If interested, give me a call at 542-9281. We have been learning about positive friendships in health. In math, we are learning multiplication. It is very important to practice them.



PTO

By: Angie Mattson

The PTO will meet in the elementary library on January 12th. Everyone is welcome. Thank you parents and grandparents for continuing to send in boxtops, milk caps and Super One and Econo receipts. It really helps our PTO do a lot of great things!

Art Room

By: Jeanne Johnson

December's ASA winner is Holly Thoune. Holly learned the art of calligraphy at the student workshop at the Chippewa Club. Her winning art work will be displayed at Northern Michigan Bank & Trust in Kingsford until mid-January.

Our first and second runner up in ND's Art Show Benjamin Reith. Lexi Steele and Dylan Dario tied for third place. Our next ASA Art Show will take place on January 19th and 20th, with the luncheon and workshop at the Chippewa Club for the winner the following Wednesday.

2011-2012 Yearbook

By: Jeanne Johnson

Our yearbook sale ended in December, but it is not too late to order a copy. The price is now \$30. Please bring in your order form to the office or to Mrs. Johnson. Extra order forms are located in the school office.

Pay to Participate Fee Due

Basketball season is now in full swing. High school boys and girls, as well as junior high boys, who are playing basketball are reminded to pay the \$40 fee in the school office.

Tutoring Available

Tutoring is available before school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:20 – 8:20 AM and after school from 3:20-4:20 PM.

Driving to the Technical Center:

By: Angel Ingles

Students who attend the technical center are not allowed to drive to voc unless they have a valid reason. The North Dickinson County School offers our students bus transportation to and from the tech center on a daily basis. Students are expected to ride this bus. If your child has other appointments prior to or after voc and will not be riding the bus, please write a note or call the school to inform us that they will be driving and list any students that will be riding with them. If your child will be riding with another student, they also need a note of permission.

Messages / Phone Calls for Students

Our school policy does not permit us to take a student out of class for phone calls, messages, etc., unless it is an emergency situation. We realize there are occasions when parents have to call the office to deliver a message to their children but lately we have had an increase in these non-emergency types of calls. If you are aware that your child is going to be getting off the bus at a stop other than their own, please send a note with them in the morning. Only under emergency situations can we take telephone calls to give students messages to ride the bus to stops other than their own. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Emergency Closings & Delays

If the school must be closed or the opening delayed because of inclement weather or other conditions, the school will notify the following radio and television stations:

WLUC TV6, The Bear 93.1, WMIQ 94.1, WIMK 94.3 FM, WZNL 1450 AM, WGLQ 97.1, WCMM 102.5, WGKL 105.5, WCHT 600, WYKX 104.7, WDBC 680 AM, ABC TV 10 (WBUP), WNMU 90.1, WMXG 106.3, WJNR 101.5 FM, WHTO 106.7, WOBK 100.7, WFXD 103.3, WRUP 98.3, WQXO 1400 AM, WKQS 101.9, WIKB 99.1.

North Dickinson's Bully Prevention Action Plan

N.D. has a Bully Prevention Team comprised of teachers, law enforcement, parents, spiritual leaders, and students. The Team has been planning school activities to educate students, faculty, parents, and community members. We'd like to make everyone aware that according to the law all Michigan schools must have a bully prevention action plan in place. Most importantly, the Team wants to encourage everyone with any bullying issue to report it. A concern can not be addressed if it is never reported. North Dickinson's bully prevention action plan is as follows.

Step 1) If a student tells a parent, guardian, or other adult about a possible bullying situation, then asks the child for details regarding the incident(s). Some questions may include who, what, where, when, why, and how the occurrence took place. This will give you a better understanding of the situation.

Step 2) The concerned adult can contact Principal Angel Inglese by e-mail (ainglese@go-nordics.com). Please mail a letter or call Mrs. Inglese if e-mail is not possible. Make sure you are able to explain what you learned from the child.

Step 3) The school will investigate the incident until all facts are learned or until the school is satisfied the incident has been investigated thoroughly.

Step 4) Please be aware that all reports are taken seriously and proper punishment will be given to those involved as the school sees fit. The school cannot share information or outcomes regarding punishment. However, the situation will be taken care of.

Boys Basketball Schedule Update

When our varsity boys basketball team plays Republic at home on Thursday, January 12th, our junior varsity will play the Kingsford Freshmen team. Game times are 5:30/7:00 PM. On Friday, February 10th when our varsity plays at Republic at 6:30 PM our junior varsity will play the Westwood freshmen team at 5:00 PM.

Reminder and Update: Financial Aid Nights By: Angela Jungwirth

All students planning to attend college should attend a financial aid night. The meetings will inform students and parents of different options available to pay for college. Bay is no longer coming to the school for a financial aid night, so everyone is encouraged to attend one of the workshops! Locations, dates, and times are as follows:

Location: Fornetti Hall at Bay College West, Iron Mountain
Thursday, January 12th, 2012
Time: 6:30pm cst

Location: Besse Center at Bay College, Escanaba Campus
Dates: Wednesday, January 11th, 2012
Tuesday, January 17th, 2012
Wednesday, January 18th, 2012
Time: 5:30pm cst

UPDATE: The financial aid night scheduled on February 15 at Iron Mountain High School has been cancelled.

Scholarships By: Angela Jungwirth

Seniors have been presented with several scholarship opportunities. Lists are handed out during senior English with scholarships, requirements, and due dates. If seniors are absent lists are kept in a folder in Mrs. Lindholm's classroom. Seniors are also encouraged to stop in to see Mrs. Jungwirth with scholarship questions.

ASVAB Test By: Angela Jungwirth

All students (mostly juniors) who took the ASVAB test in November were given their results in a presentation given by a representative from the ASVAB testing service. The students took an interest inventory and matched their interests with careers. Each student received a copy of his/her results. Please ask you child to see his/her ASVAB results.

Board Highlights – December 2011

-Accepted the resignation of Mattea Span as community band director effective November 8, 2011

-Accepted the resignation of Claude Siders as a member of the N.D. School Forest Commission effective December 31, 2011

-Discussed a trip request from Jeanne Johnson, art instructor, requesting a trip to Chicago with the art students in April

-Approved Neola policies #3213, 4213, 7540.04, 8330 and 8350 as a first reading

-Approved the Teen Serve Memorandum of Understanding between Cross-Walk Ministries and the District for a work camp to be held in July 2013

-Appointed Angel Inglese as superintendent of the district effective January 1, 2012 on an interim basis

End of 1st Semester / Report Cards Issued

Friday, January 20th is the end of the 1st semester for the 2011-12 school year. Report cards will be issued on Wednesday, January 25, 2012.

Walkers Welcome

Walkers are welcome to use the high school hall before school from 7:00 to 8:00 AM and after school from 3:30-5:00 PM. The weight room will also be open during these times.

Powerschool for Parents

Powerschool has changed to a single login. You will now have the ability to create an account that will allow you to access all your students from a single login. Instruction can be found on our webpage: www.go-nordics.com link "Powerschool Parent Instructions". If you want a hard-copy of these directions or if you have a kindergartener or new student and need a user ID, you will need to call the office to request this.

January, 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Boys Bball– Home– West Iron @ 5:30/7:00	3 School Resumes ***** Girls Bball– Away North Cen- tral @ 5:15/7:00	4	5 Jr. High Boys Bball– Home– Forest Part @ 6:00	6 Girls Bball– Away Stephen- son @ 5:30/7:00	7
8	9 Boys Bball– Home– North Central @5:30/7:00 ***** ** Jr. High Boys Bball– Away– West Iron @ 6:00 ***** *** N.D. Board of Ed @ 7:00– HS Library	10 Girls Bball– Home– West Iron @ 5:30/7:00	11	12 Boys Bball– Home–Varsity Republic, J.V. Kingsford Fresh- men @5:30/7:00 ***** Jr High Boys Bball– Away– Norway @ 6:00	13 Girls Bball– Away Mid Pen @ 5:00/6:30	14
15	16 Boys Bball– Away Norway @ 5:30/7:00 ***** Jr. High Boys Bball– Home– Florence @ 6:00	17 Girls Bball– Home Forest Park @ 5:30/7:00	18	19	20 Girls Bball– Away Norway @ 5:30/7:00 ***** Boys Bball– Away Kingsford @ 5:30/7:00 ***** End of 1st Semester	21
22	23 Girls Bball– Home– Kingsford @ 5:30/7:00	24 Boys Bball– Away Forest Park @ 5:30/7:00	25 Report Cards Issued	26 Girls Bball– Away West Iron @ 5:15/6:45	27 Boys Bball– Away– Mid Pen @ 5:00/6:30	28
29	30 Girls Bball– Away Rapid River @ 5:00/6:30	31 Boys Bball– Home– Rapid River @ 5:30/7:00				

Being that it is the middle of the school year; the high school teachers are giving final exams. The **tentative exam** schedule is below.

Wednesday 1/18	4th hour Exam	8:30 – 10:10	1 hr 40 min
	3rd hour Exam	10:20 – 12:00	1 hr 40 min
	LUNCH	12:00 – 12:30	30 min
	5 th hour	12:30 – 1:15	45 min
	5th hour Exam	1:25 – 3:05	1 hr 40 min
	5 th hour	3:05 – 3:15	10 min
Thursday 1/19	4 th hour (make-up exam time)	8:30 – 10:10	1 hr 40 min
	2nd hour Exam	10:20 – 12:00	1 hr 40 min
	LUNCH	12:00 – 12:30	30 min
	6 th hour	12:30 – 1:15	45 min
	6th hour Exam	1:25 – 3:05	1 hr 40 min
	6 th hour	3:05 – 3:15	10 min
Friday 1/20	1st hour Exam	8:30 – 10:10	1 hr 40 min
	7th hour Exam	10:20 – 12:00	1 hr 40 min
	LUNCH	12:00 – 12:30	30 min
Possible in the library	Make-up exam time	12:30 – 3:15	2 hr 45 min
	5 th period class		
	6 th period class		
	7 th period class		

As you can see, there is no exam scheduled for Friday afternoon. Therefore, I am giving the high school students permission to leave school Friday at noon under the following conditions: (1) all exams have been taken, (2) Pay to Play has been paid for all sports, (3) all lunch bills have been paid, (4) all library fines are paid and books returned, (5) there are no discipline issues and (6) the student does not need to make up any time.

There will be no bussing at this time so if your child has your permission to leave they will need a ride. If rides are not available, they are more than welcome to attend their regular afternoon classes until the bus is available to bring them home at their regularly scheduled time.

I will have permission slips that will need to be signed if your child is allowed to leave. They will be provided to the students prior to exam time.

January 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3 Chicken Nuggets Tater Tots Carrot Sticks w/Ranch Dip Fruit	4 Corn Dogs Buttered Noodles Peas Fruit	5 Raviolis Mozzarella Bread Stick Green Beans Fruit	6 Pepperoni Pizza Subs Salad Fruit
9 Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Peas Fruit	10 Chicken Noodle Soup Turkey/Cheese Sandwich Carrot Sticks w/Ranch Dip Fruit	11 Pizza Burger Tater Tots Salad Fruit	12 Pasties Cole Slaw Strawberry Shortcake	13 French Bread Cheese Pizza Salad Fruit
16 Sloppy Joes Smiley Potatoes Tuna Macaroni Salad Fruit	17 Spaghetti Garlic Bread Stick Green Beans Fruit	18 Chicken Fajita Corn Salad Fruit	19 Cheeseburger Tater Tots Carrot Sticks w/Ranch Dip Fruit	20 Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza Salad Fruit
23 Corn Dogs Buttered Noodles Peas Fruit	24 BBQ Ribs Tater Tots Corn Fruit	25 Ham & Cheese Sub Potato Chips Salad Fruit	26 Chicken Nuggets French Fries Carrot Sticks w/Ranch Dip Fruit	27 Tony's (4x6) Sausage Pizza Salad Fruit
30 Tacos Corn Salad Fruit	31 Chicken Sandwich Buttered Noodles Cooked Carrots Fruit			

Grades 6-12 have a choice of pizza or third choice of Chicken Sandwich. Students must order their choice with the first hour teacher. All milk served in the cafeteria is 1% or Fat Free. This Menu is subject to change. Meals include condiments, milk, and bread.

Breakfast- Monday: Cereal Fun Box, Tuesday: Egg Patty Homemade Biscuit, Sausage Gravy, Fruit, Wednesday: French Toast, Sausage, Fruit, Thursday: Egg Patty, Homemade Biscuit, Sausage Gravy, Fruit. Friday: Egg Cheese and Sausage Taco, Fruit and Juice.

Programs Prohibit Discrimination on the basis of race national origin, sex and/or handicap. If you feel you have been discriminated against write to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington DC 20250