

Dear Community Members, Parents, Staff and Students,

After reviewing our School District's strategic plan that was created last year and evaluating educational goals, the Sherman County School District Board of Directors has defined some specific district priorities and points of emphasis for the 2012-2013 school year. Student achievement remains at the core of all district priorities; from supporting additional educational opportunities through virtual/on-line course options to working with Sherman County residents to foster an outstanding environment for the success of all Sherman County students. Given our dedicated administration and highly qualified teachers and staff, we feel confident, and optimistic about meeting our goals and achieving another successful year for our Sherman County students.

One of the toughest challenges continues to be funding. Dollars per student paid by the State remains relatively flat while enrollment has steadily declined in the Sherman County School District over the past 12 years. In the year 2000, 379 students were enrolled; in 2005, 281 students were enrolled; and in 2011 the school year ended with 231 students enrolled.

Since 2000, the District has experienced a decrease in enrollment of 148 fewer students, or almost 40 percent. With this reduction in funding, it is increasingly more difficult to provide the same opportunities for our students each year.

Concerns over reduced enrollment, funding and opportunities, have led the School Board to reconsider a K-12 single campus option. With input and support from administration, teachers and staff, the School Board has adopted the following priority:

"By November 20, 2012, the Sherman County School Board will make a decision whether to

1. develop a comprehensive plan to consolidate the District into one campus in Moro and report these findings to the Sherman County community or

2. continue with the current configuration. These findings might also include specific triggers."

The agenda for the next School Board Meeting that is scheduled for Monday, October 8, 2012 will include an input session regarding discussion of K-12 School Consolidation. All community members, parents, staff and students are welcome and encouraged to attend. The School Board is interested in hearing your ideas concerning creating a plan for a possible consolidated single campus at the high school site in Moro.

Thank you,

Ken Melzer
School Board Chair