



The vision of FCSD #2 is to develop a community of enthusiastic, responsible learners.

Chairmen Sommers and Kinsky,

Thank you for participating in the Small School Coalition via Zoom on Tuesday, November 17. As a small district, we greatly appreciate your consideration of our unique needs. The Fremont County # 2 School District in Dubois is the fourth smallest district in the state with only 150 students and 42 full time equivalent staff. Our ADM has fallen by 25% since 2010 and we have the third highest poverty rate in the state. A 10% reduction in Block Grant Funding would equate to a \$400,000 loss to our operating budget and would decimate our ability to provide a quality education for the students of Dubois.

With our High School ADM falling below the average model of 50 students, we've experienced a significant funding deficit come to be known as the infamous "funding cliff" in the school foundation program evidence based model. That would have equated to a loss of \$350k but was reduced to \$250k with the hold harmless cap in place. At any rate, that amount in a small budget of just over 4 million dollars, is a significant loss to absorb all at once.

In anticipation of that cliff and the effects it would have on our small district, our Board, in 2011 began the process of intentionally and carefully reducing operating costs.

As resignations and retirements came up among employees, we chose not to fill the following positions and reassigned those responsibilities to our remaining staff:

- Principal
- Instructional facilitator
- Facilities director
- Administrative assistant
- Middle school language arts
- Middle school social studies
- Middle school math
- Middle school science
- Two custodial positions
- Six paraprofessional positions

We changed our hiring practices to include only those candidates with multiple endorsements so that we could combine classes or assign extra duties as needed.

OUR GOAL



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We have not raised our teacher's base salary since 2014, but have chosen to keep up with the rising cost of health insurance and retirement benefits for all employees. *We are only able to do this because of the block grant model which allows our Board the flexibility to use funds where they are needed in our District.*

There comes a time when cutting your way through a deficit is no longer possible without changing the entire mission and purpose of an organization. We find ourselves at the very bare bones of what it takes to fulfill our moral duty and legislative mandate to educate the boys and girls of Dubois.

We have been fiscally responsible with our block grant funding and do not believe there is any "fat" in our budget. On the contrary, we are currently hard pressed to fund a state mandated basket of goods that legislatures continue to add to without removing anything and without providing additional funding.

You have asked for our suggestions on how to solve this issue.

We ask that the legislature do what you were elected to do; protect our children and provide them with the funding needed to receive a quality education.

We suggest that you raise revenues, by whatever means you deem appropriate, to adequately fund the schools so that we can do what we were elected to do: provide the students of Dubois with an education that enables them to be successful adults in the State of Wyoming, the United States and around the World.

Sincerely,

Peggy Miller, Chair
Fremont County School District #2
Board of Trustees

OUR GOAL