

Highland Families,

Financial Audit

This week the Board of Education accepted the district financial audit completed by Lauer, Szabo & Associates. Our school district is in solid financial condition. The assessed value of our district increased significantly this year which means 65% of our funding comes from local taxes, approximately 32% from the state, and only 3% from the federal government. Our general fund budget for the year is approximately \$12 million dollars, and 72% of our expenses are on salary and benefits. The full audit report is 97 pages so I can provide additional information if you are interested. We also have a financial transparency tab on our website that provides useful information.

Covid-19

We have had an increase in Covid activity in the last two weeks. We have been forced to quarantine about seventy (70) students as a result of positive test results or direct contact with a person who tested positive. During this time, we have also had our first positive test at the middle school and staff out with illness at the elementary. Data from Weld Health Department shows an increase throughout the county. Their data is based on a 14-day snapshot of cases. The latest report was released on November 17th and we had 4 cases in ages 5-17 which was the second lowest of the eleven districts that are monitored. Of course, one can find all sorts of data regarding this virus. The good news is that the number of students or staff hospitalized for covid is still zero (0).

Faculty & Staff

I have unofficially changed all employee job descriptions for this year to three words, "whatever it takes". Our employees have stepped up and embraced the challenges in front of us. Everything from para-professionals getting sub licenses to principals covering duties and teachers reaching out to online students and on and on. I promise that this has not been the case in all districts. I appreciate all of you who have thanked them for their efforts to be here for our students.

In-Person Instruction

Apparently, the rumor circuit has it that we are moving to remote learning at some point in the future. While it is easy to imagine circumstances that would cause that to happen. This rumor is false. We have invested a bit of time planning in case we were forced into remote instruction but we have every intention of continuing with in-person instruction throughout the school year. A big part of our success has been a continued effort by parents to keep sick students' home and accept the return to school procedures from our nursing department. Thank you and enjoy a great thanksgiving.