

Presentation to North Dakota's Legislative Management interim Education Funding and Taxation Committee (Representatives RaeAnn G. Kelsch, chair; Bette Grande; Craig Headland; Bob Hunsakor; and Senators Dwight Cook, Tim Flakoll, Joan Heckaman, and Gary A. Lee)

Respectfully submitted by Superintendent Tamara Uselman, Bismarck Public Schools, Bismarck, ND

One p.m. on 07/26/11 Harvest Room, State Capitol

Flood Related Information

As a result of the 2011 flood event, Bismarck Public Schools worked with city, state, and federal personnel to take action in protecting facilities that were in immediate danger of flooding. BPS then designed and implemented contingency plans for schools on the south side of Bismarck.

This report is a summary of impact of the flood impact on BPS including damage to real property, loss of personal property, staff displacement, student enrollment numbers, and accommodations that are being made for the 2011-2012 year:

- 1) Students: it is the goal that all schools will be open and ready for the first day school. In the event that this is not possible, contingency plans are in place. Please see below.
 - a. In the event of a levee failure, these school buildings would be affected at the following water levels and the district would likely request permission to delay the start of school for those students assigned to attend impacted schools.
 - i. Prairie Rose (16');
 - ii. Solheim (17'-18');
 - iii. Wachter (17'-18');
 - iv. Myhre (18');
 - v. Facilities and Transportation (18').
 - b. Please note: Moses (19') and Riverside (19') are no longer in flood danger with today's water level. Several other schools become safer by the day.
 - c. BPS had in place emergency contingency plans to evacuate summer school students and staff, if a levee break occurred. Student records, technology, and critical equipment/supplies were relocated to safe locations and shall be returned when the danger has passed.
 - d. Prairie Rose Elementary continues to be the school most threatened by flood waters. Prairie Rose students and staff shall likely be integrated into Rita Murphy elementary, beginning school on time. Classrooms will be shared and crowded. However, given the top consideration of the physical and mental / emotional safety of our children, sharing space was a better option than a delayed start or split schedule. Equipment and supplies were ordered as nothing is accessible at Prairie Rose except by canoe;
 - e. Overall enrollment in the district continues to grow, with kindergarten numbers increasingly daily.

2) Expenses incurred during the flood work:

- a. City Related Expenses (100%): We are working with the city for reimbursement of flood related expenses. These are the expenses that were incurred to help the city with the flood fighting effort. We currently have a mutual aid agreement with the city to allow BPS to be reimbursed for the following (because the flood waters haven't receded, this list is not be exhaustive of all efforts):
 - i. Solheim Elementary School – Clay material borrow site for levee construction; will need field reconstruction (dirt, fence, irrigation) and parking lot reconstruction;
 - 1. Bid after water recedes.
 - ii. Horizon Middle School – Sand bag fill site; will need parking lot reconstruction;
 - 1. Bids due 7/27/11.
 - iii. Facilities and Transportation – Sand bag staging site; will need parking lot reconstruction;
 - 1. Bid within next three weeks.
 - iv. Labor for operations, including miscellaneous expenses (refuse removal, portable bathrooms, etc...), Prisoner transport;
 - v. Total to date = \$33,673.14 / expect this figure to increase substantially by flood's end.
- b. District Related Expenses:
 - i. Labor and supplies related to flood control costs to date = \$17,404
 - ii. Prairie Rose Site Repair (estimate) = \$20,000;
 - iii. Additional classrooms costs = \$10,000.

3) Perspective on property tax reduction efforts and initiated measure Number 2.

- a. Verbal report by Superintendent Uselman