

January 3, 2010

Dear Harney County Component School District,

In September, the component school districts were invited to meet with Harney ESD administrators to discuss the Local Service Plan for the 2011-2012 school year. While this meeting was poorly attended by the component school districts, only Crane and Burn-Hines attended, much was discussed on the present Local Service Plan and the direction the new Local Service Plan should follow.

It was the consensus by all who attended that Instructional Support, Curriculum and Professional Development continues to be areas of focus. This is a HESD service that is beneficial to all the component school districts and serves as an excellent example of how taxpayers' dollars can be used efficiently and effectively. The school districts in attendance were pleased with the Local Service Plan and did not see a need to change direction or to have further meetings. Emails were also sent out to solicit further input but no responses were received.

Technology is an area where costs are continually rising. HESD provides the following Technology Services thru the Local Service Plan – pays for ½ T1 lines for the rural districts, video conferencing, email, submits erate applications (Form 471, Form 486, and BEAR), School Master software licenses, and Data Warehouse services.

ORS 334.185 allows ESDs to provide entrepreneurial services to public and private entities. Additional technology services can be contracted through Eastern Oregon Technology. These services are not part of the Local Service Plan and are not funded with General Fund dollars. These contracted technology services are offered at a “cost recovery” rate and are exclusive to the component school districts. Component school districts may contract for connection, internet access, computer repair and basic maintenance. School districts should carefully evaluate what services they want, need and can afford before entering into a contract with EOT.

Enclosed please find the 2011-2012 Local Service Plan for your board to review. **Please return the enclosed ballot approval of the Local Service Plan by March 1, 2011.** A signed ballot indicates approval of the Local Service Plan. This year our annual survey will be online and distributed via email in mid January.

HESD appreciates the opportunity to provide educational services to our component school districts. We thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis B. Mills, Superintendent
Harney ESD Region XVII