

Greetings,

Albert City-Truesdale Community School's Board of Education met in a work session on Saturday, February 11, 2006. In the five-hour retreat, board members affirmed their commitment to a quality elementary school in Albert City and continued support for the shared middle and high school programs at Sioux Central.

The meeting opened with a report from Principal, Dave Baker. Mr. Baker outlined the results of student testing, with detailed information presented regarding the results of the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. AC-T students meet the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind law. Plans are underway to monitor the achievement level of students by grade, by groups of students as they move through the system, and for each student individually. Teachers will review an item analysis of the Iowa tests to determine the areas of strength and areas needing improvement in various curricula. Examples of items for review include: spelling, punctuation, reading comprehension, math facts, fractions, and decimals.

Board members held a preliminary discussion on the topic of the AC-T preschool. Board members suggested that the preschool policies offer more parent choice, by providing both full-day and half-day programs. Final action on this proposition will take place in a future board meeting.

Board members took time to look over current and projected enrollment. Enrollment in the AC-T Elementary School is expected to remain fairly stable over the next few years. The number of students opting to open enroll out of the district is going down. A plan for conducting a census of preschool children was discussed. In the coming months, board members hope to have these data available.

Because the AC-T building houses only an elementary school, there are portions of the building that are not occupied. In December, board members approved the initiation of a facility study to determine how the district could save utility costs and use the building in the most efficient manner possible. Board members began their review of the report. The report offers several options for reducing utility and maintenance costs. In the months to come, board members will continue their review to determine the best direction for the district.

The district enjoys a fairly strong financial condition; however, with future changes in the school funding formula, the district will need to monitor receipts and expenditures.

Before adjourning board members expressed their appreciation to the staff and community for supporting the students of Albert City-Truesdale. Board members are working hard to ensure that AC-T students receive an education that is unsurpassed anywhere.

-Martin Lode, Supt.