

Alvord ISD Family –

I have some highlights for you from the August 19 and August 29 school board meetings.

Enrollment Report – we currently have 854 students enrolled, we finished last year with 843 students. We have 229 students at the high school, 184 at the middle school, 122 at the intermediate school, and 319 students at the elementary school. If we had not renovated and opened the intermediate campus we would have 441 students at the elementary, which would be well over the practical capacity of 345 students for the elementary school building.

Student Transfer Report - 60 students are enrolled as transfers, which is down from 72 students last year and 104 students three years ago. 21 of this year's 60 transfer students are children of Alvord ISD employees. We expect the number of student transfers to continue to decrease as we have restricted new transfers due to our enrollment growth.

Facilities Update – The Intermediate School Gym HVAC project is almost complete, the units are functioning and cooling the gym now. We expect the project to come in about \$53,000 under budget. The board also heard an update on some plumbing issues with the Intermediate School Gym restrooms, the restrooms will be shut down until the issues are resolved which we expect to take a few weeks. The students in PE are using the restrooms in the locker rooms for now.

Budget – the board approved a balanced budget for the 2024-2025 school year which includes \$11,558, 658 for general operations, \$681,805 for food services, and \$748,600 for debt service. Thanks to the hard work of our staff and school board this is a balanced budget, but we had to make some painful decisions to do so. The budget does include a much needed and well deserved 3% of midpoint pay increase for all employees. The budget does not include a retention incentive that we have been able to give employees in November in recent years.

Alvord ISD will be one of the few school districts in the area and state to adopt a balanced budget this year. We will have to make more painful decisions in the future unless our state legislators help us and allocate available funds to public education. The next legislative session begins in January, we expect public school finance to be an important legislative issue.

Tax Rates – the board approved an M&O tax rate of \$.7552, an I&S tax rate of .1247 for a total tax rate of \$.8799 for the 2024-2025 school year.

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The Alvord Way