



April 24, 2018

Missoula County Public Schools
Attn: Mark Thane

Dear Mark:

Thank you for visiting with the Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors at the April Board meeting. We appreciate your willingness to come share what the Missoula County Public School District is working on as well as answering questions from board members.

The Chamber Board expressed an interest in having you visit more regularly to give updates on projects within the district and to discuss opportunities for increased collaboration between the school district and the business community. The Chamber's Workforce Development, Education and Recruitment committee works to identify areas for cooperation and improve the connection between businesses and schools. We hope you will consider making yourself available a few times per year to visit with the Chamber Board and further discuss identified opportunities.

The Chamber would also like to work with you and your staff to develop a program where district counselors attend a workshop put on by the Chamber to highlight the many opportunities that exist for students beyond the traditional 2- and 4-year post-secondary degree. We have heard from members that students are not aware of all the opportunities that exist in our community for students who may not want to pursue a traditional degree.

As you're aware, the Chamber Board of Directors and staff have heard from several large and small employers in the community about the need for increased access to affordable, high-quality child care. This has been identified as a significant hurdle for many employers in attracting talented workers in Missoula. The Chamber has been exploring options for securing a site for a community child care center. It was the hope of the Chamber Board that Missoula County Public Schools would work with the Chamber and other Missoula organizations to identify potential locations as well as identify child care industry needs in terms of training and recruitment. This is an important issue for the community and fits well with the district's mission of educating our youth. This also helps parents return to the workforce.

After discussion, the Board of Directors, voted to support the upcoming Elementary and High School levy requests. The Missoula business community needs an educated work force and supporting these levies will help ensure students are ready to enter the workforce and contribute to the community. We recognize the importance of these levies for the district and hope our support will help secure them for the future of Missoula's public schools.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clint B".

Clint Burson
Director of Government Affairs
Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce