

**Reed City Area Public Schools:
Supporting Our Community Financially**
by Steven Westhoff, Superintendent

Supporting the community in which you live, work and do business is extremely important. We want you to know that we do everything we can to support our community financially; in other words, we work hard to keep the dollars that you give us at home through support of other businesses – the businesses where some of you work and that others own.

We currently employ 195 people on a full-time basis and another 25-30 part time. Of all of our employees, 81% live within the school district earning in salaries and benefits \$10,097,304. Now, that's a lot of money going back to our community. But that's not all. We also purchase all kinds of goods and services locally. During the last school year, we purchased a total of \$96,049 from 31 different local businesses, and we'd like to be able to do more.

As a school district, we always look for the best deal possible when we spend your tax dollars. We even have a policy that allows us to purchase more expensive local products (up to five percent more in cost) when we go through the bid process. We consider local service, the cost of service out of town along with warranty work and response time. Sometimes, however, the amount we can save out of town warrants that we purchase other places. As a consumer, I'm sure if you could save \$3,000 or \$4,000 on an item that may be available 50 to 60 miles away, you'd probably be headed in that direction. This results in some of our local folks being upset, and I want you to know that we don't like it a whole lot either; however, we need all the dollars we can find to spend on our kids – the reasons we're here.

Our entire budget for the 2007-08 school year in terms of revenue is \$14,059,340. That means that at least 72.5% of every dollar we brought in went right back to the local community. I think that's pretty good community support. Of course, our community does an outstanding job of supporting us, too. We thank all of you for your outstanding support; we'd be nothing without you! I guess the key words here are support and community; you're the reason for our success.