

Surrey Public School

District No.41

Terry Voiles
Superintendent

RECEIVED

NOV 27 2017

VP Agricultural Affairs

David Gerding
Secondary Principal

Debbie Hansen
Elementary Principal

Twila Gantzer
Business Manager

Lyall Krueger
Athletic Director

11/22/17

To: Whom it may concern

I am writing this letter in support of continued funding for the Extension Service in North Dakota.

As a school administrator I have had opportunity to work closely with the Extension Service through two programs which have been extremely valuable to our students and families. We have been fortunate in past years to take part in the Gearing up for Kindergarten program. Having students and parents participate in this research based program has made a huge difference in the level of readiness as those students enter kindergarten in the fall. Time is always an issue in a school, so having a program that was so well planned and user friendly for teachers really was very much appreciated. We were able to access NDSU for questions and information, as well as to exchange data on effectiveness of the program. Additionally, funding such a program is a constant issue for schools, so to have that funding provided was truly a blessing. We feel that the program was so valuable to our school district that we are trying to provide something similar....however, having to do it without the help from the Extension Service will result in a very scaled down version....which may not provide the level of success we have had with the program in the past.

We also had our local Extension Agent facilitate the On The Move program for our 2nd and 5th grades. One of the missions of Extension is to provide science based education that improves the economic, health, and community conditions for North Dakotans. With our school district being part of a low income community, we share that mission with Extension and appreciate their efforts to support us and our students in that education. The Extension office also provides parenting classes and information to families in our communities. As we all are aware, the job of parenting is not always an easy job, and it is great to have resources available when parents have questions.

On a personal level as well, I have a lot to say in support of the Extension Service! I spent many years in the 4-H program in North Dakota. First as a member, then as a leader, then with my own children as members, and now my grandkids as members and my adult children as leaders. I hardly know where to start in talking about the value, and the absolute need, for this program to continue in our state! On one level it is the education 4-H provides. The amount of things kids can learn about through 4-H is amazing. No matter what their interest may be, they can learn about it and develop their abilities in that subject area. The next level includes the opportunities it provides...teamwork, competition, motivation, education, family time and support, travel, meeting new people, responsibility, career exploration, public speaking.....the list is endless. And for those kids who don't have the family support we wish they all did, 4-H can often provide a sense of support and belonging they may be missing.

All my children went on to be FFA members. In fact, my son, daughter, and daughter-in-law all went on to be Ag teachers in North Dakota...which I think was most definitely influenced by their beginnings with 4-H. All of them continue to work closely with NDSU, as well as with their local Extension Agents, and the Research Extension Centers across the state. I feel so fortunate to have them all working in the state....and again I strongly believe the roots they planted through 4-H, and the support they continue to receive through NDSU have played a huge part in that.

Surrey Public School

District No.41

David Gerding
Secondary Principal

Terry Voiles
Superintendent

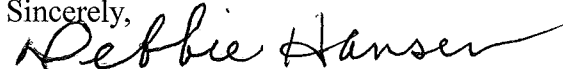
Twila Gantzer
Business Manager

Debbie Hansen
Elementary Principal

Lyll Krueger
Athletic Director

I encourage your continued support in funding of these programs in our state. As we see tighter funding and more budget cuts in education and valuable programs such as extension, the people who are really going to suffer are our children. And if our children suffer in educational opportunities, it is obvious that our state will suffer in the long run. Please consider providing the funding necessary to keep NDSU Extension and Ag Research programs an important part of the future of North Dakota.

Sincerely,



Debbie Hansen

