It's rare when a Class D-1 school has the means to gain more by spending some money than they do by holding onto it.

That's the case at Wauneta-Palisade right now, and it's a position of which we can be quite proud. Superintendent Nelson Dahl said it best when he quoted during a recent special meeting wherein board members perused a plan to improve the school's properties:

"Prudency in the past left us with the ability to self-finance this project."

The project? An extremely well-designed renovation of existing structures, a couple of much-needed additions, and some reorganization to maximize space at the Wauneta and Palisade Attendance Centers.

It's been in the works, and on the backburner, for about 10 years now, and we at the Breeze fully endorse its completion during the next two years.

Here is exactly why:

The Wauneta-Palisade district has so much money in reserve, $2.5 million to be exact and expected to grow by nearly $300,000 this year. Those reserve funds will likely hinder the district in the next few years, as more state aid is doled out to districts without ample reserve funds — districts that can't rely on tax receipts quite as well as we can.

In order to maximize the amount of state aid received by the district in the next couple years — afterall, patrons of the WP district pay state and federal taxes, too — the board is in an enviable position. They can improve the schoolhouse AND work as prudent stewards of our funds.

For a change, we can actually have our cake and eat it too. How many districts our size can

boast that?

Dahl hit the nail on the head when he gave credit to past board members and administration, but we don't think our current board members and administration should be quite so modest.

Time and time again, the current board has acted in good faith with the tax monies provided by the good, hard-working folks of Chase, Dundy, Hitchcock and Hayes counties.

It's no small feat to keep a school almost sustainable by tax receipts alone, and for that we thank them for their continued sound judgment.

We also want to give a shout-out to Cristy Joy of Architecture Etcetera of Lincoln and her crew, who took the board members' ideas and turned them into a plan — a remarkable plan to turn WP into a place of which we can be even more proud.

We salute the board members — Jon Anderjaska, Brenda Anderson, Bill Bischoff, John Jutten, Stuart Bartels and Allison Sandman — and thank them for their wisdom. We offer them our encouragement to get the project going soon and to see it through to completion.

We fully support the completion of the Wauneta Attendance Center's Areas A, B and D this year (see the board meeting story on pages 1 and 2 for more information), with Area C (the weight room addition) to be completed during the following fiscal year.

We also encourage the board to vote to revamp the locker rooms and complete the office/cafeteria remodel at Palisade using a local bid process. We would also like to see the Palisade gym floor replaced this year with the snap-in flooring being proposed. Next year, we'd like to see the bus barn erected in Palisade, also using the local bid process.

Those are our humble recommendations, but we are aware the board will do what is in the best interests of the district and its patrons.

“Prudency in the past left us with the ability to self-finance this project.”

Let’s hope ongoing prudency, like the kind we’re seeing from our current board, will enable us to be in the same position in the future.