

**Southwest  
Schools**

# Southwest 'Rider News

**October 2009**

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## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - Dave Hendricks

### Budget Process for the 2009-10 School Year

The budgeting process for the 2009-10 school year begins during the spring of the preceding school year and is not complete until the new budget and tax request is approved by the Board of Education in the fall. This year the board considered the two major phases of approval during special hearings: 1) to consider the budget of expenditures, and 2) to consider the district's tax request. After special hearings, the board took the following action at their September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- A. Adopted the budget of expenditures for the General Fund, Bond Fund, Depreciation Fund, Employee Benefit Fund, Activities Fund, School Lunch Fund, Special Building Fund, Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund, and Student Fee Fund.
- B. Approved the property tax request resolution and established a request of \$2,889,044 for the General Fund, \$505,000 for the Bond Fund, \$65,650 for the Special Building Fund, and \$146,072 for the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund.

### Comparing 2009-10 to 2008-09 Budget of Expenditures for Southwest Public School

|                        | <u>2008-09</u>    | <u>2009-10</u>   | <u>Inc./Dec.</u>   |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund           | 5,652,496         | 5,106,061        | ( 546,435)         |
| Bond Fund              | 999,628           | 993,323          | ( 6,305)           |
| Qualified Capital Fund | 1,269,626         | 1,359,081        | 89,455             |
| Depreciation Fund      | 466,468           | 423,082          | ( 43,386)          |
| Employee Benefit Fund  | 49,659            | 69,373           | 19,714             |
| Activities Fund        | 333,520           | 308,455          | ( 25,065)          |
| School Lunch Fund      | 344,502           | 257,745          | ( 86,757)          |
| Special Building Fund  | 5,138,431         | 1,100,000        | (4,038,431)        |
| Student Fee Fund       | <u>2,540</u>      | <u>2,984</u>     | <u>444</u>         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>14,256,870</b> | <b>9,620,106</b> | <b>(4,636,764)</b> |

### Classification of Funds

The Nebraska Department of Education has established the Program Budgeting, Accounting, and Reporting System for Nebraska schools. By using this system, school districts effectively collect and document financial data for educational management decisions. A Fund is a sum of money or is the money derived from certain sources and set aside for specific purposes and activities. The Fund accounts collectively constitute a

### **Special points of interest:**

- Oct. 2 - Homecoming Football Game 7:00 PM
- Oct. 3 - Homecoming Dance
- Oct. 15 - School Pictures
- Oct. 23 - NO SCHOOL Fall Break
- Nov. 1 - Volleyball Sub Districts in Holdrege

## Continued from page 1

complete record of all transactions encompassed by the fund. Funds used by the Southwest Public Schools include: General Fund, Depreciation Fund, Employee Benefit Fund, Activities Fund, School Lunch Fund, Bond Fund, Special Building Fund, Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund and Student Fee Fund.

### **General Fund**

The General Fund finances all facets of services rendered by the school district. General Fund receipts are analyzed according to source while its disbursements are classified according to specific functions. General Fund expenditures are limited by statute. The tax levy for this fund is restricted.

### **Depreciation Fund**

A Depreciation Fund may be established by a school district in order to facilitate the eventual purchase of costly capital outlay by reserving such monies from the General Fund. The school district may divide this fund into more than one account to allocate a portion of this fund for different valid purposes. The purpose of the Depreciation Fund is to spread replacement costs over a period of years in order to avoid a disproportionate tax effort in a single year to meet such an expense.

### **Employee Benefit Fund**

An Employee Benefit Fund may be established in order to specifically reserve General Fund money for the benefit of school district employees (unemployment compensation).

### **Activities Fund**

The Activities Fund is required to account for the financial operations of quasi-independent student organizations, inter-school athletics, and other self-supporting or partially self-supporting school activities. The financial operations of all school-connected activities are a legal responsibility of the board of education.

### **School Lunch Fund**

The School Lunch Fund is required to accommodate the financial activities of all nutrition programs operated by the school district. The School Lunch Fund shall reflect a record of all revenues and expenditures incident to the operation of all nutrition programs. If a deficit is incurred in the operation, the deficiency shall be covered by funds transferred from the General Fund.

### **Bond Fund**

The Bond Fund shall be used to record tax receipts, investment interest, and the payment of bond principal, interest, and other related costs. Revenue from a levy to retire bonds is retained in a separate fund. Funds shall be disbursed upon appropriate demand. Proceeds from a bond issue shall be deposited into the Special Building Fund to be expended on the actual building project.

### **Special Building Fund**

A Special Building Fund shall be established when a school board decides to acquire or improve sites and/or to erect, alter or improve buildings. The sale of bonds, the sale of property, or tax receipts will be the primary sources of revenue for the Special Building Fund. Special Building Fund accounting provides a more effective means of identifying those expenditures associated with construction activities and provides a complete and consolidated record of all costs of the building program at the conclusion of a project.

### **Student Fee Fund**

The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund that is not funded by tax revenue, and that will serve as a depository for all monies collected from students for: (1) participation in extra-curricular activities, (2) post-secondary education costs, (3) and summer school or night school courses.

### **Jr/Sr High School Building Update**

At their regular September meeting, the board of education was given October 9<sup>th</sup> as the date Sampson Construction is planning on completing the new Jr/Sr high school building. As a district we will do everything we can to then occupy the building shortly thereafter. The final approval before we can officially have classes will be through the state fire marshal's office. We do know that the final "punch list" corrections will take place as we are already in the facilities and that we will have to work around that work. We will try to make everyone aware of the exact date that the move will occur and how we will make the move. At this time we do not think that it will require losing any days of school. One situation that may occur is regular "hot lunches" from the kitchen. With new equipment and working areas, the cooks may have to serve sack lunches for a few days as they move the food and supplies from the old building. An official ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the occupation of the new facilities will be announced after the October board of education meeting.

### **From the PE Corner:**

**Parents: This is a reminder that your child(ren) will be required to wear "gym only" shoes for physical education classes when we move into the new Jr/Sr High School in Bartley. We want to keep the new floor as nice and clean for as long as possible. Students will not be allowed to participate on the floor in street shoes because they will track in dirt, rocks, and possibly leave scratches!**

### **JUNIOR CLASS FUNDRAISER**

**The Junior Class just finished selling magazines as a fundraiser for Prom. You can still go to the Online Store and purchase items through June to support the Junior Class.**

**The website is [www.gafundraising.com](http://www.gafundraising.com).**

**Click on the "Online Store Click Here to Support Your School". The school's ID is 1418789. If you have any questions, or if you would instead like to donate to the Junior Class for Prom, please contact Mary Shirkey or Ron Casper at the Jr/Sr High School.**

## High School Social Studies - Ron Casper

The Social Sciences staff are pleased with the addition of Mr. Scott Mollring to our discipline, teaching Am. Government and Psychology. We are now able to offer our students more elective choices including Sociology and Psychology for post-secondary opportunities. In Mr. Casper's classes we are studying the

development and expansion of the early English colonies as a foundation for a coming in depth exploration of the development of the American Nation in grade 8. Our 9<sup>th</sup> grade Geography students are beginning a unit on Human Geography and will be exploring U.S. Geography and Regions early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qt.

World History students are finishing our survey of Eastern Cultures and religions, and will be developing projects based on Greek Myths in the coming weeks. All classes will be expanding our use of new technologies as we move to our new facility.

## National Honor Society by Peg Rice

The Southwest National Honor Society is again having their Little Caesar's Pizza Kits fundraiser that helps support our Community Service Projects throughout the year. We will be selling until end of the school day on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. If you are not contacted and would like to buy some pizza (or cookie dough or pie!) please contact Mrs. Rice at the High School or one of the following students: Miranda Sheets, Jordan Brooks, April Guthrie, Tyler Leak, Mark Hauxwell, Erin Kelley, Ashlee Mindard, Danielle Blume, Sierra Deterding,

Shelby Hubbert, or Holly Wolfe.

The group has already started planning our trip in November to volunteer our time as well as needed supplies at the Ronald McDonald House and also the Rainbow House in Omaha. Both of these charities give the families of children who are being treated at the Children's Hospital and UNMC a place to stay. We will also be doing crafts with some of the children (both in-patient & out-patient) at the Children's Hospital that day.

The last week of November we will be setting up our Wish Trees once again. Feel free to choose a star and help those less fortunate in our school district have a Merry Christmas!

In December, the eleven members of NHS will be Christmas Caroling in Bartley and Indianola as well as delivering the gifts from the wish trees.

Once again, we want to thank everyone for your support of our organization and our projects throughout the year!

**There are Southwest Volleyball t-shirts available that the cheerleaders sold. Please contact Miss Shirkey at the Jr/Sr High School if you would like to buy one. They are white with navy lettering. Sizes available are M, L, and XL. The cost is \$10.**

## Lil 'Rider Preschool by Kimmie May

One of the units preschoolers learn in Social Studies is about communities and the people who help us in our communities.

At the beginning of the year we took a walking field trip through some neighbor-

hoods in Indianola to find out where Kimmie lives. During the last week of September we will go on a leaf hunt in the Indianola Park. As a culminating activity for our community helpers unit we will take a walking field trip around Indianola and meet the people that

keep Indianola running smoothly.

When you are out and about with your preschoolers, point out different businesses and the people who work there. Remind them that they help us in many different ways

## Good Friends - Jane Holmes

The "Good Friends" program is a part of the Third Grade Social Studies curriculum. We are excited to get the new year started and meet our new "Good Friends".

This program pairs a member of the community with a third grader. October-March we get together on the third Thursday and share a program the children have pre-

pared, some snacks and an activity. It is a real-life experience in which the children practice manners, social skills, and show off their talents and knowledge. It gets patrons of the school district into our building to witness the great learning that is happening at Southwest Elementary Building. The "Good Friends" often come to school during the month and listen to their friend read or practice

Math facts. Sometimes they just join us for lunch. It creates life-long friendships and special times that the Third graders and the Good Friends will never forget. It is just one more person in a child's life to help with the educational process. If you would like to be a Good Friend or fill in when one has to miss our monthly get-togethers, please call Mrs. Stritt at the Elementary office at 364-2613.

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## FBLA - Connie Barger

Southwest FBLA has set a goal this year to join the "green" movement by recycling several items at the school. They have placed boxes in the teacher workroom for magazines, newspaper, and scrap paper/junk mail. In the first month, one paper box of magazines was already taken to the recycling center in McCook. They are also working on setting up a receptacle for collecting empty plastic beverage bottles.

The FBLA is also participating in the statewide **Nebraska PBL Husker Football Ticket Raffle**. (PBL is the collegiate level of FBLA.) The first prize is two NU football tickets to either Oklahoma (November 7) or Kansas State (November 21) and \$100 cash (over a \$200 value). The second prize is two NU football tickets to the game not chosen by the first place winner and \$50 cash (\$150 value). At least 20 other prizes will be awarded. Tickets

are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Southwest FBLA will be selling tickets until Thursday, October 8. Contact an FBLA member or Mrs. Barger if you are interested in purchasing a raffle ticket.

The FBLA held a 50/50 raffle at the September 11 football game and thanks everyone for their support. Watch for upcoming information about their annual food drive in November.



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