



'Rider News

From The Desk Of Todd Porter - Superintendent

As we begin this school year, the budget season looms for all school superintendents across the state. We all have different scenarios to deal with. One common scenario for many rural school districts is the fact that valuations, especially agricultural land, has risen rapidly over the past few years, with this year seemingly the highest of all. It is a double-edged sword for districts. For districts that have been battling with levy limits and not being able to cover expenses, it is vital that valuations rise to allow for districts to cover costs. There are districts that borrow money each year to cover costs (these costs are mandated, by the way.) It is a very bad situation to be in, living month to month not knowing if you can make payroll or cover the other bills of your district. We have not been there and don't want to be there. You need to

prepare for unexpected costs and be prepared for the worst case scenario. On the other end of the spectrum is the land owner, dealing with rising tax bills while their operating costs rise, as well. Yes, the land is more valuable than ever. You hope that your land does rise in value, but when it comes in big jumps it makes paying the bills just that more unpleasant. One thing you don't like to do as a district is have wild swings in the tax levy where taxpayers don't know what to expect. There is no question, however, that the levy itself will drop dramatically this year. At this writing we are still discussing the final budget for the 2014-2015 school year. We know that we have staff pay raises, insurance increases, fuel volatility, electrical rate increases, huge food price increases, and other annual supply increases that we have no

choice but to pay. We have projects like bathroom updates and heating and cooling issues that are currently in progress and must be done. There is no choice. Again, you try to plan ahead, putting funds away to deal with these things, and a smart district does just that. This school board has been very good at making sure that we can operate without issues that other districts run into. That is a very, very good thing.

This is my ninth budget season, and it is definitely a unique one. One must be very careful that while you respond to the burden that land owners carry, I do my job as a school superintendent to protect the financial position of the school district and provide the best possible situation for our students. That is the bottom line. Taxpayers will see a much lower levy, and the tax rate for property valued at \$100,000 (a com-

Inside this issue:

Elementary News	2
Band Instruments	2
Tailgate Time!	2
Counselor's News	3
High School News	3
Board Minutes	4
Parent Teacher Confer- enc	6

Special points of interest:

- Sept. 1 - NO SCHOOL Labor Day
- Sept. 5 - Tri Valley Tailgate at football field 5:00 to 7:00 PM.
- Sept. 8 - School Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- Sept. 12 - Pinpoint Tailgate in Bartley City Park 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- Sept. 17 - Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30 until 8:30 PM

Continued From Front Page

valued at \$100,000 (a common comparison method) will drop dramatically. The final overall tax request has not

been finalized, but I feel that this budget will be responsible and show an effort of fiscal responsibility that

ensures that our district runs efficiently, safely, and we can look forward to many years of educational stability.

Learn To Read/Read To Learn - Mrs. Latta

We used to say children in kindergarten, first, second and third grade were learning to read, while those in fourth grade on up were reading to learn. Now we know it's not as simple as that. Every day, our 4th, 5th and 6th grade students are learning to decode multi-syllable words, practicing reading with expression, and discovering challenging vocabulary words in addition to honing their compre-

hension skills.

Boys and girls in K-3 also read to learn. In addition to teaching sight words and decoding skills, we teach comprehension skills at all levels using read-alouds, read-alongs, and text appropriate for each level.

One of the most important things kids need to become better readers is practice. We need them to put down the video game, smart

phone, or tablet and pick up a book, newspaper, or magazine. Read the menu out loud at the drive through. Read the billboards along the highway. Read, read, read!

On another note, our 5th grade students have chosen their band instruments and are on their way to learning a life-long skill of making music. Thank you for supporting our school bands and choirs!

Extra Band Instruments?

Do you have any band instruments in good condition that you don't know what to do with?

Consider donating them or selling them at a reasonable price to the Southwest Music Department! You can use it as a tax deduction. We are looking for good students instruments that can be played right away, without a lot of maintenance.

Please contact

Donna Roggenkamp (donna.roggenkamp@swpschools.org) or

Mark Wilson (mark.wilson@swpschools.org)

If you can help us out. Thank you!

Book Of The Month - Mrs. Young

Pete is going to school, and he sings this song: I'm rocking in my school shoes, I'm rocking in my school shoes, I'm rocking in my school shoes. Pete tackles each new experience. Never been to the library? Does Pete worry? " Goodness, No!" He just reads in his school shoes. From the lunch room to the playground, Pete eats, sing, paint, add and writes. As Pete would say, "It's all good,.... "If you would like to see how this story ends - you may find the book in the school library. Welcome back to school.

Tailgate With The Roughriders!

September 5th from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM

At the football field Sponsored by

Tri Valley Health . Also September 12th

from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM in the Bartley

City Park sponsored by Pinpoint

Everyone Welcome!!

Mrs. Harris would like to offer an introductory Spanish class for parents who have students in Spanish. They will see what the students are learning and will be able to help the students study. The class would be on Monday evenings at 6:00. If you are interested would please contact Mrs. Harris at lynn.harris@swpschools.org .

Counselor's Corner

SENIORS

The John Baylor ACT Test Prep Course is under way in Mrs. Harris's English classes. This 12 session course will help prepare you for ACT tests this fall. The deadline for registering for the October 25th test is September 19th. The December 13th test registration deadline is November 7th. These two tests are your final chances to improve your scores to increase your scholarship opportunities. More information is available at www.actstudent.org

As a general rule, college applications should be completed and transcripts requested and sent to your top college choices by October 15th.

Most of the scholarships in the fall will come directly from the colleges to which seniors apply. Local scholarships generally become available starting in January.

Senior students should also be compiling a professional resume. This includes all activities (community and school) and work related items. These can be given to teachers and community members when they seek references and letters of recommendation for upcoming scholarships and employment opportunities.

JUNIORS

On Wednesday October 15th at 8:00 A.M. the PSAT/NMSQT test will be given. This test is given to all juniors at no cost to the student. It will be completed prior to lunch. High scores on this test can result in students being nominated for National Merit Scholar status.

Starting in January 2015 the John Baylor ACT Test Prep Course consisting of 12 sessions will be administered in Mrs. Slaten's English 11 class. This will lead up to the February 7th ACT Exam which I hope all juniors will consider taking. ACT test requirements are available at www.actstudent.org. More information including cost and test centers are also available on the website or in the counselor's office.

Juniors should also take advantage of the opportunity to meet with college representatives that will be visiting Southwest throughout the year.

High School News - Mr. Springer

The school year has begun and the students are settling in to their new class schedules. We are very fortunate to be in a school district that is able to offer this many advanced classes as well as elective classes. This allows our students the opportunity to become very well prepared for a vocational college or a four year academic college.

The new building and sight around the building is changing every day as the custodians have

spent a lot of time getting the facilities ready for the start of school. You will notice the change in some painted areas in the building as well as the school grounds. Hallways and some classrooms have a new look. This has helped make the building not look like a Prison, according to some of our students.

The fall activities are underway and activities will start in a week or so. There have been some new coaching changes and that always seems to bring a

change to the programs or activities involved. Please introduce yourself to the new staff and help welcome them to our district. Along with new staff we have had twelve new students enroll this year at the high school. That is helping to increase our numbers every year. Some are option students from other districts and some have moved into our district.

Hope to see you at the school activities throughout the year.

Board of Education Meeting
Southwest Public Schools
District 179
August 11, 2014

President Duane Teter called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:46 p.m. on August 11, 2014 at the Southwest Elementary School in Indianola.

Present: Kevin Potthof, Tom Sughroue, Steve McConville, Duane Teter, Ondrea McConville, Principals Matt Springer and Kathy Latta, Superintendent Todd Porter, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: Steve Daffer.

Visitors: Mary Marsh, Cody Gerlach, John O'Dea, Julie Ellis, Jenni McConville, and Buck Haag.

President Teter observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Moved by Sughroue, seconded by S. McConville, to excuse absent Board Member Steve Daffer. Ayes: Teter, O. McConville, Potthoff, Sughroue, and S. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by Potthoff, to approve the board meeting agenda with the addition of discussion of the bid and a possible motion from CBS Contractors for practice gym bleachers during Old Business, Approval of Claims. Ayes: Sughroue, Potthoff, O. McConville, S. McConville, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by the board-approved method of meeting notice. Notice of the meeting was given in advance to all members prior to the meeting date.

Superintendent Porter expressed gratitude for the cast members donated time in preparation for the melodrama on behalf of the Foundation Board as the proceeds are used for scholarships to Southwest graduates.

Moved by S. McConville, seconded by O. McConville, to approve the July 14, 2014 board meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: O. McConville, Teter, S. McConville, Sughroue, and Potthoff. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by Potthoff, seconded by S. McConville, to approve the claims as presented and accept the bid from CBS Contractors for \$5,358.00 with the stipulation the company visits the site to take measurements prior to placing an order. Ayes: S. McConville, Potthoff, Sughroue, O. McConville, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by Sughroue, seconded by O. McConville, to approve the 2014-2015 Elementary Student Handbook as presented. Ayes: S. McConville, Potthoff, Sughroue, O. McConville, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by Potthoff, seconded by Sughroue, to approve the 2014-2015 Junior-Senior High School Handbook as presented. Ayes: S. McConville, Potthoff, Sughroue, O. McConville, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by S. McConville, seconded by Potthoff, to approve the 2014-2015 Staff Handbook as presented. Ayes: Potthoff, S. McConville, Sughroue, O. McConville, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by S. McConville, seconded by Sughroue, to reapprove Board Policy 5018 – Parental Involvement in Educational Practices. Ayes: S. McConville, O. McConville, Sughroue, Potthoff, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by Potthoff, to reapprove Board Policy 5045 – Student Fees. Ayes: S. McConville, O. McConville, Potthoff, Sughroue, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by Sughroue, seconded by S. McConville, to reapprove Board Policy 5054 – Bullying Policy. Ayes: S. McConville, O. McConville, Sughroue, Potthoff and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by S. McConville, seconded by Sughrue, to reapprove Board Policy 5018 – Parental Involvement in Educational Practices. Ayes: S. McConville, O. McConville, Sughrue, Potthoff, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by Potthoff, to reapprove Board Policy 5045 – Student Fees. Ayes: S. McConville, O. McConville, Potthoff, Sughrue, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by Sughrue, seconded by S. McConville, to reapprove Board Policy 5054 – Bullying Policy. Ayes: S. McConville, O. McConville, Sughrue, Potthoff and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by S. McConville, seconded by Sughrue, to approve the bid from Esslinger’s Home Improvement Co. in the amount of \$12,772.19 to replace the windows at the teacherage. Ayes: S. McConville, O. McConville, Daffer, Potthoff, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

No action was taken on teacherage roofing bids until more bids are received.

Moved by Sughrue, seconded by Potthoff, to approve the bid from Nebraska/Central Equipment, Inc. for a 2015 Blue Bird Vision 36 + 1 Passenger School Bus in the amount of \$80,309.00 to be purchased with Depreciation Funds. Ayes: S. McConville, O. McConville, Sughrue, Potthoff, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by S. McConville, to approve the purchase and installation of two bus cameras by Nebraska/Central Equipment, Inc. at a cost of \$4,044.52. Ayes: S. McConville, O. McConville, Sughrue, Potthoff, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by Potthoff, seconded by S. McConville, to approve the addition of Bob Loshbaugh and Linda Clark as members of the Southwest Public Schools Foundation Board. Ayes: S. McConville, O. McConville, Sughrue, Potthoff, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Superintendent Porter reported on the progress of the elementary restroom renovation and preparation of the 2014-2015 budget. Board members were informed of the NASB Labor Relations Conference on September 10 and 11 in Lincoln.

Principal Latta discussed the excellent summer custodian work, teacher inservice, the attendance at August summer school, and air conditioner/heating unit installation in two rooms.

Principal Springer discussed changes in junior-senior high enrollment and the Back-to-School Board-Staff Picnic scheduled for August 26 at 6:30 p.m.

A special meeting will be held on August 27, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley to pay additional 2013-2014 bills, make transfers, and preview the 2014-2015 budget.

Moved by S. McConville, seconded by Potthoff, to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m. Ayes: S. McConville, Sughrue, Potthoff, O. McConville, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Agenda for meetings will be kept continually current and available for public inspection in the office of the Superintendent.

High School Cheerleaders - Mrs. Burton

Happy September! Cheerleading is getting ready to start into full swing and we have some changes this year. We have decided to split mini-cheer camp this year to better provide an enjoyable experience for our mini-cheer campers. The older children, 3rd through 6th

grade, will have their camp on September 12th and perform during half time of the football game against Loomis. The younger children, Pre-K through 2nd grade, will have their camp on December 6th and perform during half time of the girls' basketball game.

We have five cheerleaders this year: Jane Reiners, Megan Helberg, Karlie Swink, Kaylie Fimple, and Stevie Wadle. They are looking forward to an exciting and fun packed sports season. They hope to see everyone at the games and standing and cheering along with them!
Go Roughriders!

Southwest Public Schools

Southwest High School
900 Coke Street
PO Box 187
Bartley, NE 69020

Phone: 308-692-3223
Toll Free: 855-692-3172
Fax: 308-692-3221

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG

US Postage

Paid

PERMIT No. 1

Bartley, NE 69020

United We Educate

www.swpschools.org

Attention parents of students in grades 7-12:

Your student has the opportunity to be issued a school laptop. Before a student receives the computer, a parent or guardian must attend a 1:1 parent meeting to go over the appropriate use of the device.

The dates for the meetings are:

- Friday September 12 at 6:00 in the High School Auditorium and
- Wednesday September 17 at 7:00 in the Elementary Music Room (this is during Parent Teacher Conferences).

Please make plans to attend one of these meetings.

Parent Teacher Conference is on September 17th, at Southwest Elementary School from 4:30 to 8:30 for Grades K-12. There will be a Hot Dog Feed for those parents who attend. Hope to see you there!