

September 2015

Southwest Schools

'Rider News

From The Desk Of Todd Porter - Superintendent

This is the time of year that the budgeting process for 2015-2016 gets finalized. With valuations beginning to stabilize (although we aren't there yet), my hope is that this year the Unicameral will be able to come up with a more equitable form of generating revenue for entities such as schools that will relieve property owners of such a substantial burden of the taxes paid. I am happy to say that we have been able to propose a budget that substantially reduces the levy while still allowing for Southwest Public Schools to operate in the fashion it needs to. The board and I will continue to come up with a plan of maintaining facilities and meeting the requirements of the

state and federal departments of education in every area that we are obligated to do so. All of the budgeting process is carefully monitored by the state and there are budget limitations that are adhered to, as well as limits on what we can hold in reserve. Our district's budget and reserves are well under what is allowed by the state and the district is financially strong. We're committed to remain that way. The year is off to a great start and we are excited to dive into the activities that come along with the fall season. Please remember that parents are responsible for their children before, during and after games. Safety and consideration of all of our

patrons attending events is of the utmost importance. Cheer and support all of the students participating, let the coaches coach and the officials officiate. It shows good sportsmanship and sets a good example for our young people. Activities are a great place to learn all sorts of lessons. Sometimes that includes success and other times it includes disappointment, but it all influences how we deal with things later on in life. Thank you for your continued support of our students.

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Special points of interest:

- Sept. 3 - VB Tri vs Rawlins County at Maywood @ 5:00 PM
- Sept. 4 - Cross Country at Cambridge @ 2:00 PM
- Sept. 4 - Football at Elwood @ 7:00 PM
- Sept. 7 - NO SCHOOL Labor Day
- Sept. 14 - School Board Meeting in Bartley at 7:30 PM
- Oct. 1 - School Picture Retakes

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 year we have also opened up on-line college classes for those students who are on track to graduate. Students can now potentially have 20 credits for college prior to graduation. 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.

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 multiple 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.

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

Paula Newhouse (paula.newhouse@swpschools.org)

If you can help us out. Thank you!

Roughriders Booster Club

Will be serving Hamburgers and Hot Dogs

At all home football games.

Serving before and during the game.

Come and support your team!

To become a booster club member

See Kathy Lord

Book Of The Month - Mrs. Young

This year fifth grade will be hosting "Pete the Cat". The first book we have chosen is "Pete the Cat Construction Destruction".

When Pete sees that the playground is in bad shape, he gets a totally groovy idea - make a new one! Pete calls in construction worker and cement mixers, backhoes and dump trucks to build the coolest playground ever. But when his plans goes wrong, Pete learns that no matter what, you have to dream big.

You need to read the book to see how Pete completed his goal.

Fifth grader Kady Ramsey

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 24th test is September 18th. The December 12th test registration deadline is November 6th. These two tests are your final chances to improve your scores to increase your scholarship opportunities. More information is available at www.actstudent.org. Seniors should begin college applications and submitting transcripts to their top college choices in October. On October 21st, seniors will have a chance to participate in an Apply2College event at the high school. More information coming soon.

JUNIORS

On Wednesday October 14th 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 will be presented in Mrs. Slaten's English 11 class. This will lead up to the February 6th 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 and seniors should also take advantage of the opportunity to meet with college representatives that will be visiting Southwest throughout the year.

SOPHOMORES

Sophomores will be taking the ASVAB test on Wednesday, September 23rd. This test is helpful in career exploration, including recommendations for careers based on students' interests, strengths, and aptitudes.

Information about this test was distributed to sophomore students during the first week of school.

Fifth Grade - Mrs. Ramsay

We are off to a great start in 5th grade this year! This year there are two fifth grade classrooms, and students are traveling between those for math and science. Mrs. Young teaches science to both groups, and Mrs. Ramsay teaches math to both groups. Students are learning that top priorities in fifth grade include taking everything with you that you will need for class, following directions, starting assignments right away, and handing work in on time. Even though it is the beginning of

the school year, NeSA tests are not that far away and we have a lot to cover. Every week we look at the standards and practice for the test.

The students are excited to begin band. They have been experimenting with different instruments and made a selection of what they would like to play. As of now, twenty-five fifth grade students have joined band!

Another new item for these students is a school email account. These accounts will be used to ac-

cess online math, reading and science programs, as well as complete and turn in assignments.

We are looking forward to a fabulous year!

Board of Education Meeting
Southwest Public Schools
District 179
August 10, 2015

President Duane Teter called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:37 p.m. on August 10, 2015 at the Southwest Elementary School in Indianola.

Present: Duane Teter, Ondrea McConville, Jenni McConville, Lynda Baumbach, John O'Dea, Steve Daffer, Principals Kathy Latta and Matt Springer, Superintendent Todd Porter, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: None.

Visitors: Mary Marsh and Kris Marotta.

President Teter observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Moved by Daffer, seconded by Baumbach, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes:

O. McConville, Baumbach, J. McConville, O'Dea, Daffer, and Teter. Nays: None. 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.

Jenni McConville thanked the Board and Administration for allowing the Old Settlers Alumni Volleyball Games to be played at the junior-senior high school building.

Moved by J. McConville, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2015 board meeting. Ayes: Daffer, Baumbach, O. McConville, J. McConville, O'Dea, and Teter. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by J. McConville, to approve the claims as presented. Ayes: Teter, O'Dea, J. McConville, Daffer, Baumbach, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

The Board reapproved Board Policy 5018 – Parental Involvement in Educational Practices with no changes.

Board Policy 5045 – Student Fees was reapproved by the Board of Education with no changes.

New Business Action Item 4 was tabled due to the receipt of no detailed bids for the addition of electrical service to the elementary building.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Daffer, to approve the quote from Wyoming Wood Floors and Irwin Seating Co. to repair the junior-senior high gym floor and sand, seal, and paint the elementary gym floor. Ayes:

J. McConville, O. McConville, Daffer, Baumbach, Odea, and Teter. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Board members discussed the replacement of the practice gym ceiling, and gave approval to Mr. Porter to solicit bids for painting the teacherage and contacting a vendor to research current plumbing issues.

Board members discussed the 2015-2016 budget and levy to be approved in September.

Superintendent Porter thanked Mark's Pharmacy for their \$1,500 donation and discussed the progress of the improvements to the interior and exterior of the elementary building and grounds. He updated the board on the bus barn project and the installation of the football scoreboard. He discussed upcoming August events and thanked the summer maintenance crew for their hard work on the district's buildings and grounds.

Principal Latta reported on elementary student enrollment, attendance at the PLC Response Intervention and Reading Mastery Inservice, Elementary Open House, continued Good Friends Project, and the need for instructor and daycare substitutes.

Principal Springer discussed staff members' preparations for the school year, the increase of number of participants on the football team, changes in the number of bus routes, projected junior-senior high school enrollment, and student laptop software updates.

Board Minutes Continued:

The Board of Education will meet on Monday, August 24, 2015 to pay remaining 2014-2015 invoices, approve transfers, and preview the 2015-2016 budget.

Moved by J. McConville, seconded by Daffer, to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter,

J. McConville, Baumbach, Daffer, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Board of Education Special Meeting**Southwest Public Schools****District 179****August 10, 2015**

President Duane Teter called the special meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education, School District 179, to order at 7:35 p.m. on August 10, 2015, at the Southwest Elementary School in Indianola.

Present: Steve Daffer, Duane Teter, Ondrea McConville, Lynda Baumbach, Jenni McConville, John O'Dea, Principals Kathy Latta and Matt Springer, Patricia Smith, and Superintendent Todd Porter.

Absent: None.

Visitors: Mary Marsh and Kris Marotta.

Superintendent Porter discussed current Board Policy #5045 Student Fees, pursuant to Neb. Stat. §§ 79-2,125 to 79-2,135 (the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization). The purpose of the hearing was to hear support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of district patrons relating to the current student fees policy.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by Baumbach, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Ayes: Teter, O. McConville, Baumbach, J. McConville, O'Dea, and Daffer. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Board of Education Special Meeting**Southwest Public Schools****District 179****August 10, 2015**

President Duane Teter called the special meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education, School District 179, to order at 7:30 p.m. on August 10, 2015, at the Southwest Elementary School in Indianola.

Present: Steve Daffer, Duane Teter, Ondrea McConville, Lynda Baumbach, John O'Dea, and Jenni McConville, Principals Kathy Latta and Matt Springer, Patricia Smith, and Superintendent Todd Porter.

Absent: None.

Visitors: Mary Marsh and Kris Marotta.

Superintendent Porter summarized current Board Policy #5018 Parental Involvement in Educational Practices, originally adopted in 2005. The purpose of the hearing was to discuss, consider, receive input, and suggest modifications from district patrons relating to the current parental involvement policy.

Moved by Daffer, seconded by J. McConville, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. Ayes: Teter,

O. McConville, Daffer, O'Dea, Baumbach, and J. McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Southwest Public Schools

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Elementary News - Mrs. Latta

We are off to a great start in 5th grade this year! This year there are two fifth grade class rooms, and students are traveling between those for math and science. Mrs. Young teaches science to both groups, and Mrs. Ramsay teaches math to both groups. Students are learning that top priorities in fifth grade include taking everything with you that you will need for class, following directions, starting assignments right away, and handing work in on time.

Even though it is the beginning of the school year, NeSA tests are not that far away and we have a lot to cover. Every week we look at the standards and practice for the test.

The students are excited to begin band. They have been experimenting with different instruments and made a selection of what they would like to play. As of now, twenty-five fifth grade students have joined band!

Another new item for these students is a school email account. These accounts will be used to access online math, reading and science programs, as well as complete and turn in assignments.

We are looking forward to a fabulous year!