

'Rider News

From The Superintendent - Todd Porter

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year. It is my privilege to begin the 2015-2016 school year with a fine staff of administrators, teachers, and support staff that truly care about the well-being of all of our students. Children at Southwest Public Schools have the opportunity to obtain an excellent education. We encourage all parents and care-givers to be supportive of their education and help them understand just how important it is to do well in school. This can be done by encouraging daily attendance, monitoring homework (which contributes to their overall learning and your understanding of what your child is doing in school) and require that your students learn and follow the rules of the classroom and the school. This is part of learning to be a good citizen and is vital to building a strong community, state and country. I would like to reemphasize the importance of attend-

ance. Data tells us that kids who attend school and miss less than ten days a semester do substantially better than those student who miss that much or more. Students who have involved parents that check to make sure homework is completed and follow-up with teachers about missing assignments or poor grades do better. At the Junior High/High School level, a parent can access grades and assignments online for most classes. You can tell what is missing, what kind of grades your child is getting on assignments or tests, and what is due next and precisely when. No parent should be "out of the loop" when it comes to grades and attendance. Letters are sent out weekly about performance and if there is an attendance issue. E-mail addresses for all of our teachers are readily available and it is an excellent way to get feedback quickly. Finally, I would like to make sure that parents under-

stand that if weather becomes an issue and you do not feel that travel is safe, you can make the decision to keep your child home. For those students who live a long distance away, it is always better to be on the safe side. Often times a couple of hours make a huge difference and things clear up. When the decision to delay school or call school off is made we will send out a text message, a phone call and an e-mail to all parents and guardians. We will do this as soon as possible, although weather situations can change rapidly. There will be notices on local radio and television stations that work with the Weather Threat network. All of the vital weather, safety and security contact information is placed prominently on the school website. Please familiarize yourself with this information.

Welcome back. We are looking forward to a successful school year. It is a great time to be a Southwest Roughrider!

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Special points of interest:

- Aug. 6 - Fall Sports Parents Meeting @ 6:00 PM
- Aug. 13 - First day of school 8:00 AM -
- Aug. 18 - Open House at the elementary 6:00—7:00 PM
- Aug. 20 - School Pictures
- Aug. 27 - Football Scrimmage @ 7:30 PM
- Aug. 28 - Magazine Sales begin for Jr. class

High School Notes - Mr. Springer

The summer has been very busy with all of the changes, as we work toward opening the JR/SR High School building. There is a lot of accommodations that teachers and staff will be making to help get through the first few weeks of school. With the one to one computers that were implemented last year we have found some software upgrading that needs to be finalized. This is quite a process and with over 250 computers in the district it takes some time. With

that being said students will not have the lap tops the first couple weeks of school.

Communication is a great tool that makes any job easier. This is especially true in the area of education. All of our staff members have email and are willing to communicate in any way that is helpful if you find your child struggling. It is very difficult for staff at the school to answer phone calls during the day as they are working with students. I would encourage you,

however, to call and leave a message. They can get back in touch with you as soon as time permits. It is very important as a parent that you are involved in your child's education. One way to do that is to sign up for the online parent option to their grades and attendance.

Please feel free to stop by the school if you have questions or concerns. By working together, we can create a great learning environment for our students.

Birth Certificates

Nebraska State law requires students entering school for the first time, or transferring from out of state, to present certified copies of their birth certificates (the copy from the hospital DOES NOT meet this requirement). The official form bears the raised seal from the state and is issued by the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Lincoln. The form for requesting a birth certificate can be obtained at the County Clerk's office, the school office, or you may write to: Bureau of Vital Statistics, State

Department of Health, PO Box 95007, Lincoln NE 68509-5007. You may also access a copy on the internet by going to web site www.hhs.state.ne.us/ced/nevrinfo.htm. There is a fee charged for this service. Other reliable proof of a child's age and identity accompanied by a notarized affidavit explaining the inability to produce a certified copy of the birth certificate may be used in lieu of a birth certificate

STUDENT INSURANCE

Parents will have the opportunity to purchase a student accident policy if they so desire. Your child will receive a brochure from Student Assurance Services, Inc. the first day of school. If you are interested please read over the coverage carefully and send the form with the premium enclosed, back to school with your child. **THE SCHOOL IS NOT THE AGENT.** All claims must be filed directly with the company as outlined in the brochure

ATTENDANCE

As we begin a new school year we would like to stress the importance of regular attendance and request your cooperation in maintaining up to date and accurate records for attendance. Parents need to notify the school by **8:30 AM** if their son or daughter is going to be gone for part or all of the school day. Please be sure to indicate when and why they will be gone, and if they are absent for medical reasons, have them return with a note from their doctor. Students are reminded that school policy requires homework to be turned in before leaving for a planned absence or activity. Organization and planning are an important part of school success, as well as future success. Parents and teachers need to work together to assure that our students develop good habits and a sense of responsibility toward their commitments.

Southwest School Lunch

Lunch prices were evaluated this summer in accordance with the Equity in School Lunch Pricing Guideline established by the federal government. In order for Southwest to meet the regulation, the lunch will increase slightly for the 2015-2016 school year. Our breakfast and lunch program meets all state and federal regulations, and the majority of students participate on a daily basis. The breakfast and lunch prices for the 2015-2016 school year were set at the July school board meeting at the following:

Breakfast (PK-6) \$1.80; Lunch (PK-6) \$2.70; (7-12) \$3.30; and (Adults) \$3.60

The reduced price for lunch will be \$0.40 for families who qualify and \$0.30 for breakfast (set by the state). Milk price remains \$0.30.

Money for school lunches may be sent in at any time and your account will be credited. If you have questions about your account balance, they can be directed to Nanci at (855) 364-2067 or (308) 364-2613 or Natalie at (308) 692-3223 or (855) 692-3172. Parents and guardians are reminded that all breakfast, lunch, and milk purchases must be prepaid with no family allowed to have a zero or negative account balance.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO FILL OUT YOUR APPLICATION FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH. As you may know the more students we have qualify for free and reduced lunch, the easier it is to qualify for state and federal grants. PLEASE SEND IT WITH YOUR CHILD on the first day of school or DROP IT OFF IN THE OFFICE.

Elementary News - Mrs. Latta

Although it still feels very much like summer outside, the school calendar says summer is almost over. Did you accomplish everything you wanted to do this summer? How many books did you read? How much outdoor fun did you have? How many projects did you complete around the house? At Southwest Elementary, we've been very busy with our summer list: Our teachers are finishing up

summer classes and workshops to improve their skills. Our custodians are working very hard to get all our classrooms and offices deep-cleaned before the children return. The sidewalk project is almost complete. The red tile in the main hallway has been covered with beautiful blue carpet. And the classrooms on the west side of the building are sporting new HVAC units.

We welcome three new staff members for the 2015-2016 school year: Paula Newhouse will teach elementary music and 5th and 6th grade band, Diane Deselms is our new Guidance Counselor, and Gene Hasenkamp joins our custodial staff. I'm looking forward to the beginning of a new school year at Southwest Elementary

Fall Sports Parent Meeting

Thursday, August 6th, 2015 at 6:00 PM

Southwest High School

Vision Test Requirements

Students entering school for the first time, including kindergarteners and transfer students from out of state, will be required to provide proof of a vision evaluation taken within six months prior to the student's entrance. A certificate or form stating results of the evaluation must be signed by an optometrist, physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse.

According to the Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision, statistics show that 80% or more of all learning during a child's first 12 years depends on vision, yet one of every five children entering kindergarten has an undetected vision disorder significant enough to impact the child's ability to learn. The Foundation notes that symptoms of vision problems often are not evident to parents or educators at early ages and young children often cannot self-identify abnormal conditions.

Typical vision screenings test only for distance vision and are not designed to assess many of the common vision disorders in young children. The new state law will now help assure that more students get a broader assessment of conditions that could adversely impact their learning ability. Forms can be obtained from the school offices.

ACTIVITY TICKETS

Activity tickets are on sale now. They are good for free admittance to all home school activities with the exception of tournaments, and district or state contests.

The cost will be:

- \$20 for a student pass
- \$45 for an adult pass
- \$85 for a family pass

They may be purchased at any home athletic event, or by contacting the High School office at 308-692-3223 or 855-692-3172 (toll free).

Without a pass, admission prices for games are set at:

- \$3.00 for students
- \$4.00 for adults

STUDENT INSURANCE

Parents will have the opportunity to purchase a student accident policy if they so desire. Your child will receive a brochure from Student Assurance Services, Inc. the first day of school. If you are interested please read over the coverage carefully and send the form with the premium enclosed, back to school with your child. THE SCHOOL IS NOT THE AGENT. All claims must be filed directly with the company as outlined in the brochure

PLEASE LABEL STUDENTS' CLOTHING

Each year we have a number of items that are unclaimed. It is easy for students to misplace their jackets, PE shoes, and other equipment brought to school.

**PLEASE USE PERMANENT
MARKERS AND PUT YOUR
CHILDREN'S NAMES ON ALL
ARTICLES BEFORE THEY TAKE THEM TO
SCHOOL.**

It will make it much easier to return lost items to their rightful owners.

back to
School



SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

The school lunch and breakfast program for Southwest Schools is a computerized system. Each student is issued a four digit number that the student will keep year after year. Lunches are deducted from the family account and can be paid for at any of the school offices.

Letters concerning the lunch program have been mailed out. Please fill out these forms and return them to the school ASAP. If you need help filling out your form or additional information please contact the office at 308-364-2613. We will be happy to assist you.

Southwest Public Schools encourages patrons to apply for free or reduced hot lunches. Local patrons do not directly subsidize the free and reduced price meal program. The school receives more payment from the federal government than is charged for the hot lunches. Free and reduced lunch counts are a major factor in determining state aid to our school, as well as what funds are available for our Title I program. All applications for free or reduced price hot lunches are kept confidential.

LUNCH PRICES FOR 2014-2015 will be as follows:

- BREAKFAST – Elementary – (PreK-6) \$1.80
- LUNCH
 - Elementary (PreK-6) - \$2.70
 - Jr. and Sr. High School (7-12) - \$3.30
 - Adults - \$3.60

One milk is included with the meal, but an additional milk may be purchased for an extra \$.30 cents, even for free and reduced families.

ALL LUNCH PROGRAM ACCOUNTS MUST BE PAID FOR IN ADVANCE.

No Breakfast/Lunch Charges to be Allowed

The Southwest Board of Education approved and authorized the administration to no longer allow families to charge lunch/breakfast/milk purchases. All purchases must be prepaid, with no family being allowed to have a zero or negative account balance. In no case will students be allowed to charge meals. Money may be sent in at any time and your account will be credited. You may also ask for a report of your account balance at any time by calling Nanci Stritt at the elementary school (308) 364-2613, as all accounts are stored on the district's computer at the elementary building.

Breakfast at the elementary will be served beginning at 7:30 a.m. each day. Students that walk or are dropped off early and plan to eat breakfast should do so when they arrive or NO LATER than 7:50 a.m. Students that ride the bus will have the opportunity to have breakfast or milk after their bus arrives.

LABELS and BOX TOPS

Our school continues to participate in the fund-raising program by collecting General Mills Box Tops for Education and Campbell's product labels. We also collect Schmick's cash register receipts. We are now collecting Our Family Labels as well. Please bring any labels you collect to the school office. Thank you for your help!

Sports Physicals must be completed

BEFORE the start of practice for both Jr. High and

Senior high students.

The first day of practice is

August 10th for football and August 17th for volleyball

Physical forms can be picked up at either school office.

HANDICAPPED CHILD FIND

Public Law 94-142 and Rules 51 and 54 mandate that a free, appropriate public education is available for each handicapped child age 0-21.

Handicapped children are those defined as handicapped physically, visually, speech, orthopedically, medically, specific learning disabled, behavioral, multi-handicapped, home or hospital bound and whose handicap requires special services or education. If you know of any child in our district who meets any of the above criteria and is not presently being served, please contact Superintendent Todd Porter at 692-3223 or toll free at 855-692-3172.

ASBESTOS

Current Federal regulations require all schools inventory asbestos containing materials (ACM) and develop a management plan to identify and control ACM in their buildings. Under the law, we must maintain an asbestos management plan for the school and assign a designated asbestos coordinator to ensure no asbestos is introduced into the school. This plan is available for inspection in the school during regular school hours.

The presence of asbestos in a building does not mean that the health of building occupants is necessarily endangered. As long as asbestos-containing material (ACM) remains in good condition and is not disturbed, exposure is unlikely. When building maintenance, repair, renovation or other activities disturb ACM, or it is damaged, asbestos fibers are released creating a potential hazard to building occupants.

We will continue to insure that a healthy, safe school environment is maintained. Any inquiries may be directed to The Snyder Engineering Company, Inc., the designated asbestos coordinator, telephone number is 402-563-2236.

Notice Of Non-Discrimination

Southwest Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

R. Todd Porter, Superintendent,
900 Coke Street, PO Box 187
Bartley, Nebraska 69020-0187
Phone: (308) 692-3223

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481

School Physicals

Nebraska State Law requires that all Kindergarten, seventh graders, and students transferring from another state to Nebraska (in all grades) must have physical examinations by a doctor before school starts, or they must have a waiver signed by their parents asking that their child be excluded from this requirement. A physical examination form is available in either school office for anyone who needs one.

Athletic physicals are required for all students, grades 7-12, who will participate in organized sports throughout the year. The physical form must be turned in to the office before students may participate in any sport. The athletic physical examination form will count for the state required form FOR STUDENTS NEW TO NEBRASKA AND SEVENTH GRADERS, but it will not count for students entering Kindergarten

Family and Adult Passes for Home Events

The cost of athletic passes for the 2015-2016 school year which will cover the cost of admission at school-sponsored home athletic events will be as follows:

Student - \$20.00, Adult - \$45.00, and Family \$85.00

Passes will be sold at all home games, available by calling (308) 692-3223 or (855) 692-3172 toll free, or by visiting the high school office in Bartley. As a reminder, these passes are not valid at tournaments, conference, district, and state sporting events or non-athletic home events.

Senior citizen passes are also available for those who are at least 65 years-old. If you currently have a senior citizen pass, please call or visit the high school office so your new pass can be printed before the first game. Passes will be printed on a hard plastic card this year and will be required at the gate.

Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations

Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	<p>4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine,</p> <p>3 doses of Polio vaccine,</p> <p>3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age,</p> <p>3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine,</p> <p>1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age,</p> <p>1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted.</p> <p>4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age</p>
Students from Kindergarten through 12 th Grade, including all transfer students from outside the State of Nebraska and any foreign students	<p>3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4th birthday,</p> <p>3 doses of Polio vaccine,</p> <p>3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age.</p> <p>2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month,</p> <p>2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.</p>
Additionally, for 7 th Grade Only	1 dose of Tdap (must contain Pertussis booster)

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, 2011. For additional information, call 402-471-6423.

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/reg/t173.htm> (Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)
Updated 1/2012

Board of Education Meeting

Southwest Public Schools

District 179

July 13, 2015

President Duane Teter called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m. on July 13, 2015 at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

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

Absent: Steve Daffer.

Visitors: Mary Marsh, Jolene Miller, and Don & Donna Behnke.

President Teter observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Baumbach, to excuse absent Board Member Steve Daffer. Ayes: O. McConville, Baumbach, J. McConville, O'Dea, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by J. McConville, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: O. McConville, Baumbach, J. McConville, O'Dea, 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.

John O'Dea reported on his son, Jake's, placing in two events at the Nebraska Junior Olympics in Omaha and participation at the six-state regional meet in Ames, Iowa.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2015 board meeting. Ayes: Baumbach, O. McConville, J. McConville, O'Dea, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

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

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by O'Dea to approve an increase of \$.50 in breakfast and lunch prices for the 2015-2016 school year. This motion died to lack of a second.

Moved by J. McConville, seconded by Baumbach, to approve an increase of \$.25 in breakfast and lunch prices for the 2015-2016 school year. Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 6 lunch prices will be \$2.70, and breakfast prices will be \$1.80. Grade 7 through Grade 12 lunch prices will be \$3.30, and adult lunch prices will be \$3.60 per Nebraska Department of Education Nutrition Services recommendations. Milk prices will remain at \$.30 cents per carton. Ayes: O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, O'Dea, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

After a discussion by board members, no action was taken on New Business Action Item 2. Activity pass prices will remain at \$20.00 for student passes, \$45.00 for adult passes, and \$85.00 for family passes for the 2015-2016 school year.

Moved by Baumbach, seconded by O'Dea, to adopt the revised Board Policies named in New Business Action Items 3-15 which includes Board Policy 2005 - Conflict of Interest, Board Policy 2006 - Complaint Procedure, Board Policy 2008 - Meetings, Board Policy 3003 - Bid Letting and Contracts, Board Policy 4025 - Superintendent, Board Policy 4058 - Confidentiality in Counseling and Guidance, Board Policy 5014 - Homeless Students, Board Policy 5023 - Student Illness, Board Policy 5026 - Sex Equality in the Education Program, Board Policy 5027 - Sexual Harassment of Students by Other Students, Board Policy 5050 - School Wellness Policy,

Board Policy 5057 - Parental Involvement in the Title I Program, and Board Policy 6008 - Class Rank. Ayes: Teter, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by Baumbach, seconded by O'Dea, to adopt new Board Policy 6009 - Grade Placement of Transfer Students. Ayes: Teter, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Current Board Policies - 5001 Compulsory Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism, Board Policy 5054 -Student Bullying, and Board Policy 6020 - Multicultural Education were reviewed and discussed by the Board.

Moved by Baumbach, seconded by O'Dea, to adopt new Board Policy 5066 - Bed Bugs. Ayes: Teter, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by Baumbach, seconded by J. McConville, to approve the 2015-2016 Elementary Student Handbook with changes presented by Principal Latta. Ayes: Teter, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by O. McConville, to approve the 2015-2016 Junior-Senior High Student Handbook. Ayes: Teter, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by Baumbach, to approve the 2015-2016 Employee Handbook with updates to the staff and lunch prices. Ayes: Teter, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

New Business Action Item 22 was tabled until more detailed information could be gathered from the bid submitted by K-C Motor & Electric for the addition of electrical service to the elementary building allowing more service options in the classrooms. Board members offered names of additional vendors to contact regarding the submission of bids.

Moved by Baumbach, seconded by J. McConville, to approve the extension of the position with Natalie Meyers from an 11-month to a 12-month employee as Building Secretary to Building Secretary and Administrative Office Secretary for the 2015-2016 school year. Ayes: Teter, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Daffer. Motion carried.

Superintendent Porter discussed his attendance at the PLC Convention in San Antonio, Texas, installation of some carpet in the shop area to prevent slippage, attendance and implementation of information obtained at a workshop by PCH & G Attorneys-at-Law concerning the Affordable Care Act, gym floor refinishing, needed repairs to damaged flooring in the gym, the status of re-construction of the former band room at 103 W. Nebraska Street to a bus garage, anticipated pour of concrete for elementary sidewalks, delivery of building materials for the elementary storage building, quotes for sod installation at the elementary site, and upcoming NCSA Administrators' Days and NASB Membership Workshops.

Principal Latta reported on the enrollment of six elementary students.

Principal Springer discussed the decrease of a bus route for the upcoming school year and new instructor orientation.

Moved by Teter, seconded by O'Dea, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter, J. McConville, Baumbach, and O. McConville. 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.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, August 10, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Elementary School in Indianola.

Southwest Public Schools

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

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

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Bussing Schedule

The bus drivers will be contacting families about pickup times.

If there is anyone who didn't ride last year, who will be riding this year, please contact the school as soon as possible.



Welcome Back!

The first day of school is August 13th.

- Elementary 8:00 - 3:30 PM
- Jr. & High School 8:00 - 3:40 PM