

'Rider News

From The Desk of Superintendent Todd Porter

Inside this issue:

As winter weather approaches we need to become more cautious of road conditions and keeping children safe. Our bus drivers need to plan accordingly when making adjustments for departure times if need be, so be sure to keep an eye on weather conditions and the notifications that come along with snowy or ice-covered roads. Notifications of school delays or cancellations will be available to parents and students as soon as they can be transmitted through the Blackboard message system, so a text, e-mail

and call will be sent out. The school will try to make this decision as early as possible, but as you all are very aware, weather situations in our part of the country can change rapidly. Weather closing information is released to local radio and television stations immediately, as well, although we have no control over the time it takes for that information to get on the air. Handling multiple closings and cancellations accurately by media sources makes for a difficult situation.

Weather closings or cancellations are always made with the best

interests of our students in mind. We do understand that there are times when schools may be closing, but workplaces are not. That makes it difficult for parents on those days. Please keep in mind that at any time if you feel that you would rather keep your child home due to poor weather conditions you may do so. We want your children to be safe at all times. If your children drive themselves to school, urge them to be cautious and not hurry. Being a little late is not a problem on those winter days that warrant a little extra driving time.

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Something to Tweet about!!

Parent: "How was your day?"

Child: "Fine"

Parent: "What did you do?"

Child: "Nothing much."

Do you ever wonder what is happening at school? Technology gives you so many ways to stay in touch with your child's academic life. Our school website has up-to-date happenings and information to keep you informed. Our teachers have e-mails to keep you connected. Now, Ms. Ruggles and Mrs. Overton have added



class Twitter accounts also. If you have a Twitter account and would like to follow them, search for: Ms Ruggles (@msrugglessw) or Mrs Overton (@MrsOvertonSW, it has an art picture on it).

Ms. Ruggles lets you know what her students have been learning and discovering in their classroom. Mrs. Overton shares what her art students have been creating.

Special points of interest:

- Nov. 2 - Daylight Savings Time Ends Turn Clocks Back.
- Nov. 10 - School Board Meeting at 7:30 PM
- Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day Program at Bartley @ 9:30 AM
- Nov. 26 - Early Dismissal Elementary @ 2:30 PM HS @ 2:40 PM
- Nov. 26 & 27 - NO SCHOOL

High School News - Mr. Springer

Making up homework for days missed!

The students at Southwest School now have the ability to work with the teachers from home if they are ill. This has been a great success this year as students can get notes and assignments for the classes they miss. We have also found kids are emailing teachers if they are going to miss a class to get the info sent to them. If your child is ill please remind them to email their teachers to get the assignments.

Reminder to all parents that students grades and missing assignments are available via the internet. If you have questions on how to check the status of your child, please contact the school and we will help you get logged on to the web page.

The year seems to be flying by quickly! With the nice weather the past couple of months. We are bound to have an unprepared day when the weather shows it flurries. With that in mind please be sure to check out the school closings or late start information that can be found at the following sites. We will also utilize our phone system to send info as soon as we make a decision.

In-climate weather is always a threat living in Nebraska. The school has a large list of places we post school information. These include NTV, 10/11, KHAS-TV, KRVN, KICK, KIOD, Weatherthreat.com and the school's new blackboard message system. Please check those places for information, if you are in question as to our school closings. We will try to determine the plan based on the weather by 6:30 a.m. as that is when most bus routes are starting. Calling the school early will usually result in no information as we are busy out driving roads or calling people that can help us make a qualified decision on conditions in our district. Since the district is so large the weather and road conditions may differ significantly. Once the call has been made the media is alerted right away so people can plan for the day. If you are not on the calling system and would like to be please contact Natalie in the high school office.

Parents, the winter conditions always have the potential of getting a bus stuck or having a breakdown. The buses are monitored by radio and help is usually a few minutes away. However, in the event a bus fails to run the temperature can drop very quickly due to the lack of insulation. This is why it is important to ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the cold. Please help remind them that flip flops and shorts are not proper clothing for winter. It is also important that they are wearing a coat when riding the bus on those cold days. Thank you for your help ensuring your child is properly prepared for the weather conditions.

Red Ribbon Week - Mrs. Frecks

Students at Southwest Elementary celebrated Red Ribbon Week October 27 - 30. Red Ribbon week began in memory of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena who fought diligently against the marketing and use of illegal drugs. He was killed. Citizens of his hometown in California wore red ribbons in his honor. Now we celebrate Red Ribbon Week to discourage the use of drugs. The weekly theme selected by the Rockin Riders was "These Paws Don't Touch Drugs" but each day

we had a different slogan for our dress up days. The slogans included, sleep away the drugs, go crazy against drugs, oppose drugs, and hugs not drugs. The Rockin Riders awarded some prizes for great participation in dress up days, making posters, presenting skits, and coloring sheets. It was a great week!



Elementary News - Mrs. Latta

Let's READ! It's so exhilarating to see the progress our students are making. As I go from room to room, I can see and hear the learning taking place. And the data the teachers regularly submit show evidence of the students' growth in their reading skills. Our students are excited about reading!

Our third grade students welcomed their Good Friends on Thursday, October 23, with a few songs, some snacks, and a game of "I Have...Who Has" the synonym

game. It was a thrilling day for the students as they love to share their talents and time with such an attentive audience.

On November 6, staff from Game On! will be here to help us with Family Game Night. Families are encouraged to come to the elementary gym 6:00-8:00 p.m. to play board games and have a snack. Our elementary staff will also be helping to teach and play the games. Board games are a great way to learn patience, sportsmanship,

problem-solving, and so many other life skills. And they're FUN!

In November, we traditionally give thanks for all of our blessings. This month, I'm especially thankful for our Southwest Elementary family of teachers, paras, office staff, custodians, cooks and bus drivers. Our students are blessed to have so many adults at school who care for not only their education, but for their all-around well-being, too.

Southwest Jr. High Football - Mr. Loshbaugh

The Junior High Roughrider football team finished their season on Thursday, October 23rd, with a 64-36 win at home over Wauneta-Palisade. The team finished the year at 5-1.

Eighth graders on the team included Ty Bennett, Victor Blackman, Walter Fitzsimmons, Kaden Guer-

rero, Dylan Hofman, Kyle Jackson, Logan Kircher, Paul McConville, Simon Moore, Tyler Payton, Jay Porter, Raven Redden, Harley Remington, Caleb Shald, Grant Slater, Brett Soderlund, Blake Williams, and Zach Wright.

Seventh graders included Austin Adam, Matthew Asbury, Corinne

Baker, Malakye Brown, Joel Costello, Cody Hardy, Isaiah Lammie, Jonathon Morquecho, Coltin Redden, Jonathan Stritt, and Caleb Wineland.

Board of Education Meeting

Southwest Public Schools

District 179

October 13, 2014

Vice President Tom Sughroue called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m. on October 13, 2014 at the Southwest Elementary School in Indianola.

Present: Kevin Potthoff, Tom Sughroue, Ondrea McConville, Steve Daffer, Principal Matt Springer, Superintendent Todd Porter, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: Duane Teter and Steve McConville.

Visitors: Mary Marsh, Kris Marotta, Don and Donna Behnke, Jenni McConville, and Jason Kloepping.

Vice President Sughroue observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Moved by Potthoff, seconded by Daffer, to excuse absent Board Members Duane Teter and Steve McConville. Ayes: 0.
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McConville, Potthoff, Sughrue, and Daffer. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and S. McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by Potthoff, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: Sughrue, Potthoff, O. McConville, and Daffer. Nays: None. Absent: S. McConville and Teter. 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 reported Lanie Overton was selected to participate in the Sing Around Nebraska Honor Choir and eighteen junior-senior high male students have been selected to participate in the All-State Barbershop Boys' Choir.

Moved by Daffer, seconded by Potthoff, to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2014 board meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Daffer, O. McConville, Sughrue, and Potthoff. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and S. McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by Daffer, to approve the claims as presented. Ayes: Potthoff, Sughrue, Daffer, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: S. McConville and Teter. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

The football scoreboard agenda item was tabled until quotes could be obtained.

Duane Teter arrived at the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Moved by Potthoff, seconded by Daffer, to approve the Plan B bid from Welding Plus to install railings on both sides of the junior-senior high school gymnasium with a possible change in design to reduce material costs, if approved by OSHA. Ayes: Sughrue, O. McConville, Potthoff, and Daffer. Nays: None. Abstained: Teter. Absent: S. McConville. Motion carried.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by Teter, to approve the ratification of Gary Newcomb as a full-time junior-senior high school custodian. Ayes: Daffer, Teter, Potthoff, Sughrue, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: S. McConville. Motion carried.

New Business Action Items 4 and 5 were tabled until after the Administrators' Reports.

Superintendent Porter reported on a January ESU board member workshop in North Platte, the adjusted valuation report, area enrollment comparison, the upcoming Legislative Round Table Forum in Kearney, and the November Annual Federal Yearly Progress Report.

Principal Springer updated the board on the delivery status of the new bus, football concession heating options, Dig Pink Cancer Awareness volleyball game, district cross country, and the selection of a high school student to National FFA Choir.

Moved by Sughrue, seconded by Teter, to go into closed session to discuss deployment of security personnel and the Superintendent evaluation according to Board Policy 4057 to protect the needless injury to the reputation of an individual at 8:30 p.m. Vice President Sughrue repeated the motion, and the Board voted. Ayes: Teter, Sughrue, Daffer, Potthoff, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: S. McConville. Motion carried.

Vice President Sughrue declared the end of closed session at 9:10 p.m.

No action was taken on Action Items 4 and 5 of the agenda.

Moved by Potthoff, seconded by Sughrue, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Ayes: Daffer, Sughrue, Potthoff, Teter, and O. McConville. Absent: S. 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, November 10, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Counselor's Corner - Mr. Loshbaugh

SENIORS

November 7th is the regular deadline for the December 13th ACT test. Seniors, this is the last ACT test that will count for scholarships.

Seniors who know where they would like to attend should complete the application process to that school if they have not done so. This will allow you to apply for college specific scholarships.

Seniors are asked to continue working on their resumes. This requires going back and remembering all of your school activities, work experiences, and volunteer experiences in order to compile a professional resume. Students will be able to use these when applying for local scholarships beginning in January.

Reminder that students get two days during their Senior year to go and visit colleges, the military, etc. These days do count against your ten absence days a semester.

Scholarships

Information about The Hagan Scholarship can be found at haganscholarships.org. The Purpose of the Hagan Scholarship is to provide each scholarship recipient with the opportunity to obtain a four year college education and graduate debt free. The preferred recipient of a Hagan Scholarship will be a high achieving and self-motivated student with traditional employment experience who aspires to obtain a college education in order to realize his or her full potential. Application deadline is November 15th.

The Townsend Scholarship is a local scholarship valued at \$16,000 plus \$1,200 for a personal computer. It is only for students at McCook and Southwest High Schools. Applications for this year's award are available in Mr. Loshbaugh's office. Deadline is March 7, 2015.

The University of Nebraska's Collegebound Nebraska guarantees that students who meet admissions requirements and who are awarded a federal Pell Grant can attend the University of Nebraska and pay no tuition. This year, approximately 6,700 students at the University of Nebraska -- almost a quarter of Nebraska undergraduates at the university -- meet the Collegebound Nebraska promise. Visit collegeboundnebraska.com to learn more.

Peru State College has four nursing program seats available through the Rural Health Opportunities Program. Application deadline is December 1st.

Twin Valleys Public Power District offers a scholarship each year to one student who is interested in becoming a lineman. The application process is quite easy; see Mr. Loshbaugh if you are interested. The deadline for applying is January 1, 2015.

Titan Machinery sponsors a scholarship to Central Community College's diesel technology program which pays all costs other than room and board. See Mr. Loshbaugh for the application, which is due by March 1, 2015.

Don't forget about all of the resources at Education Quest - www.educationquest.org - that you can access for information on colleges, programs, and scholarship opportunities available to you.

College Representative Visits

Rachel Montgomery from Fort Hayes State University Southwest on Wednesday, November 4th at 3:00. Sign up with Mr. Loshbaugh if you would like to meet with her.

Southwest Public Schools

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www.swpschools.org



Veteran's Day Program

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

9:30 AM

Southwest High School Gym

Everyone is encouraged to attend