

April 2016

## Southwest Schools

# 'Rider News

### From The Superintendent - R. Todd Porter

One of the things that is frustrating while working in the public sector are rumors or inaccurate information that is posted on sites like Facebook, Twitter, etc. , that may describe something about the school that may have some truth to it or none at all. I would encourage you to contact the office to determine if things are really what they are described as.

The example I would like to give is our progress on the gym floor refinishing. It was posted on Facebook that the floor refinishing was way behind schedule and that we were probably going

to have to have graduation outside. There is nothing further from the truth. The project is way ahead of schedule and will be completed in plenty of time for graduation. The company we are working with was well aware of our concerns if we let them complete this project at this time of the year, which was the only time they could have done this project unless we waited another full year. They knew when our graduation was and assured us that they would get the job done on time. Again, they are actually ahead of schedule, the floor will be

beautiful, and the damage that needed to be repaired has been fixed. Social media is capable of some great things, but unsubstantiated rumors are not one of them!

Check our website for any updates or look in the Cambridge Clarion, our new official newspaper, since the Indianola News has been sold to the Clarion. Hopefully you'll get a little better picture of what is going on. Projects don't always go as smoothly as we would like, but the gym floor is coming along well.

#### Inside this issue:

High School News	2
Elementary News	2
Counselor's Corner	3
Jr. High musical	3
Board Minutes	4
School Annual Oder Form	6

#### Special points of interest:

- April 4 - Jr/Sr High Spring Music Program @ 7:00 PM
- April 11 - School Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM in Indianola.
- April 15 & 18 - NO SCHOOL Spring Break
- April 23 - Prom
- April 25 - FFA Banquet at 7:00 PM
- April 28 - HS Awards Night at 7:00 PM

Elementary Field Day

May 4, Starting at 12:00 PM

Grades Kindergarten thru 6th

All Events Will Be Held At The High School



## High School News - Mr. Springer

We are now in our last month and a half of the school year and things are busy around the school. The students have been competing in interscholastic competitions. These are competitions that allow our students to show how much they have learned in their academic classes. Students are also given the opportunity to win scholarships to attend various college institutions.

The spring sport seasons have also begun. We have a high number of students involved in spring sports this year, as well as other school activities. One of the goals for the district was to en-

courage more students to become involved in school activities. Our percentages have been increasing each year since we implemented the JH sports program during the school day.

This year our students were tested in academic areas with the use of the MAPS test. The students have taken the MAPS test for the second time this year. Those results will be used to determine student progress and identify areas of weakness with individual students. This information can then be processed to help teachers design lessons to target the areas students need to im-

prove. Our overall test scores this year showed some large improvements. I feel that with our great staff working with the kids we have been able to ensure the students are steadily improving.

Currently our gym floor is being refinished and will have a new look next fall when activities resume.

If you have any questions or concerns please call the office so we can get you in contact with the person to help answer your questions.

## Southwest Elementary - Mrs. Latta

Hello Spring! Can it be that there are only six more weeks of school this year? We have a lot to do at the elementary before summer arrives. Each of our classes will have an educational field trip, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades have the Bike Rodeo, K-6 will participate in a theater workshop with Missoula Children's Theatre, and, of course, there's the testing.

Nebraska State Assessment (NeSA) testing will begin April 5 and continue through April 26. All of our 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to take the reading and math tests and our 5<sup>th</sup> graders also have the science test. It is vital that our students are well-rested, well-fed, and, most importantly, HERE on our testing dates as we must have 100% participation to meet the requirements of the state.

Although standardized assessments are important in developing educational programs that fit the needs of our students, there are many important things a standardized test cannot measure: resilience, wit, compassion, a sense of humor, intuition, kindness, motivation, fortitude, courage, empathy, work ethic, determination, manners, diligence, common sense, ingenuity, grit, character, creativity and effort, to name a few. Our hope at Southwest Elementary is for our students to grow in their *character* as well as their *academics*.

Book of the month is "Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses."

Pete the Cat wakes up feeling grumpy - nothing seems to be going his way. But with the help of some ROCKIN' magic sunglasses from Grumpy Toad, Pete learns that a good mood has been inside him all along. Groove and move with Pete as he helps Squirrel, Turtle, and Alligator discover that the sun is shining and everything's ALRIGHT! Read the book and see how it ends.

Fifth Grade Class

## Counselor's Corner - Mr. Loshbaugh

### SENIORS

During the month of April it is time for seniors and their parents to:

- ♦ Finalize the FAFSA and other financial related college decisions.
- ♦ Finalize housing contracts and pay housing deposits.
- ♦ Look for orientation days where the student registers for classes and purchases their books.
- ♦ Tell Mr. Loshbaugh about scholarships received for Graduation recognition.
- ♦ Tell Mr. Loshbaugh your plans are for next year so that final transcripts and year end surveys can be properly directed.
- ♦ Write thank you notes for all scholarships received.
- ♦ College English and College Algebra/Statistics students need to send their MPCC college transcripts to the college they are attending in the fall upon completion of the course. This can be completed online by visiting [www.mpcc.edu](http://www.mpcc.edu)

### JUNIORS

- Deadline for the June 11<sup>th</sup> ACT is May 6<sup>th</sup>. More information available at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- Please consider taking school visits this spring to have college choices narrowed to four (4) by the fall.
- Juniors interested in taking College English and College Algebra next year must meet the college's enrollment criteria by taking the ACT and/or COMPASS tests. Students who do not meet the criteria are not allowed to take these courses. For example, in order to take College Algebra, you must score 22 or better on the math portion of the ACT.

### SOPHOMORES AND FRESHMEN

- Get involved! As you move through high school, participation in a variety of extra-curricular activities, youth groups, volunteer work, and employment will all benefit you as you begin to apply for college admission and scholarships your senior year. **Your grades are important!** Consider taking the ACT several times –your best score on it will affect your scholarship dollars. As Tim Fargo said, "Who you are tomorrow begins with what you do today."

### **Seussical, Jr.**

The Jr. High Music class, with the help of a few others, will be presenting the musical, Seussical, Jr. on **Thursday, April 14th**, at 7:00. Don't miss out as Horton the Elephant tries to save the Whos, who are stuck on a dust speck. You'll see many Dr. Seuss characters and stories combined into an entertaining, energetic musical. Join us and see Alyse Foster as the Cat in the Hat; Johnathan Stritt as Horton the Elephant; Lanie Overton as JoJo; Johanna Sughrue as Mayzie La Bird; Suzanne Roggenkamp as Gertrude McFuzz; Kylea Stritt and Haylee Adams as the Sour Kangaroos; Elaine Roggenkamp as the Mayor of Whoville with Brie Shald as her sister; Jake O'Dea, Matt Van Pelt, Justin Brush, Malakye Brown, and Austin Adam as the Wickersham Brothers; and Emily Kircher, Johnette Hawke, Lillie Schultz, Allysha Fisher, Roxanna Carpenter, and Julia Holdcroft as Bird Girls. There will be lots to see and it will be loads of fun - I hope to see you there!

## Southwest School Board Meetings

### Board of Education Meeting

#### Southwest Public Schools

#### District 179

March 14, 2016

President Duane Teter called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m. on March 14, 2016 at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Duane Teter, Ondrea McConville, Jenni McConville, Steve Daffer, Principal Kathy Latta, Principal Matt Springer, Superintendent Todd Porter, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: Lynda Baumbach and John O'Dea.

Visitors: Mary Marsh, Cody Gerlach, Don & Donna Behnke, Mary Shirkey, and Jason Kloepping.

President Teter observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

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

Moved by Daffer, seconded by O. McConville, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: Daffer, O. McConville, J. McConville, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Baumbach and O'Dea. 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 informed the Board of the March 14 District Speech Competition in Gering and attendance of Southwest FFA officers at the Celebration for Agriculture Week with Governor Pete Ricketts, Nebraska Secretary of Agriculture Greb Ibach, and our local Senator Dan Hughes. FFA Officer Olivia Pollmann introduced the Governor to the audience at the Community Building in McCook.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by J. McConville, to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2016 board meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: O. McConville, Daffer, J. McConville, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Baumbach and O'Dea. Motion carried.

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

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by J. McConville, to approve the substitute teacher pay rate remain at \$100/day for the 2016-2017 school year. Ayes: Daffer, Teter, O. McConville, and J. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Baumbach and O'Dea. Motion carried.

Moved by J. McConville, seconded by Daffer, to approve the 2016-2017 school calendar as presented. Ayes: J. McConville, Daffer, O. McConville, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: Baumbach and O'Dea. Motion carried.

Principal Kathy Latta reported on the rating of the Department of Education preschool evaluation, which was higher than the state average. President Teter offered congratulations to the elementary staff.

John O'Dea arrived at the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by J. McConville, to accept the corrected quote from Decker Equipment not to exceed \$7,000 for a portable gym floor cover and storage system for the junior-senior high school gym. Ayes: J. McConville, O. McConville, Daffer, Teter, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Absent: Baumbach. Motion carried.

Principal Kathy Latta discussed the structure of the elementary classrooms and staffing needs for the 2016-2017 school year. Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Daffer, to approve hiring an elementary instructor to replace Karen Brown for the 2016-2017 school year. Ayes: Daffer, Teter, O'Dea,

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

Moved by J. McConville, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the extension of five additional days to the contract of Mary Shirkey for Special Education Director duties for the 2016-2017 school year. Ayes: Daffer, Teter, O'Dea, J. McConville, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Baumbach. Motion carried.

Moved by Daffer, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the contracts of Dennis Hengen and Rose Hengen for the 2016-2017 school year. Ayes: Daffer, Teter, O'Dea, J. McConville, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Baumbach. Motion carried.

Mark Searcey of the First Central Bank of McCook informed board members on the bank's history and distributed investment information should the district require future assistance.

Mary Marsh, owner of the Indianola News, reported she sold her business to Cody Gerlach and that the final edition would be March 17.

Superintendent Porter reported on the process and dateline for the junior-senior high school gym repair project, approval of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Grant for elementary students for the 2016-2017 school year as they met the criteria of more than 50% free and reduced lunch applications. Superintendent Porter reported on the April 13 district administrative lunch review and the March 22 RPAC Instrumental Clinic and Concert at the junior-senior high school at 7:00 p.m.

Principal Latta reported on the 97.2% participation rate for the February 16 Parent-Teacher Conferences, Level IV Crisis Training for Southwest Staff Members, MAPS testing, Kindergarten Round-up, and Grades 5 and 6 Farm Safety Day at Curtis.

Principal Springer reported on District Speech Finalists, new students' transportation arrangements, Chadron State College approval for the district to host a Family and Consumer Science student teacher during the 2016-2017 first semester, and revised senior high graduation requirements.

Moved by Daffer, seconded by O'Dea, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter,

J. McConville, Daffer, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Baumbach. 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, April 11, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Elementary School in Indianola.

# Order Your 2015-2016 Yearbook

*"Piece by Piece"*

Complete this order form and send it with payment to school  
Make checks payable to "Southwest Public Schools"  
Questions??? Please contact Mr. Bish at: [marcus.bish@swpschools.org](mailto:marcus.bish@swpschools.org)

*Order on or before April 25<sup>th</sup>*

		Quantity	Total Amount
Yearbook	\$35.00	_____	\$_____
NameStamp (additional) (Name printed on book cover)	\$5.00	_____	\$_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
As you would like it printed on Cover

*Order after April 25<sup>th</sup>*

		Quantity	Total Amount
Yearbook	\$40.00	_____	\$_____

*NameStamp is not available after April 25<sup>th</sup>*

## Contact Info

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## 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

NON-PROFIT  
ORG

US Postage

Paid

PERMIT No. 1

Bartley, NE

Address Service Requested

**United We Educate**

**[www.swpschools.org](http://www.swpschools.org)**

### Spring Music Programs

Jr./Sr. High Spring Program

April 4, 2016 at 7:00 PM

Elementary Spring Program

May 2, 2016

Pre K thru 3rd grade at 6:30 PM

4th grade thru 6th grade at 7:30 PM