

May 2015

Southwest Schools

'Rider News

From The Desk Superintendent Todd Porter

As we come to the close of another school year, I'd like to show my deep appreciation to those members of our community that go out of their way to show their support for our children. With your help our district lifts up our students in so many ways, from tremendous support for our "backpack program" to raising funds for scholarships. Businesses provide services for us because they are supportive of our kids. Individuals ask to help in our elementary classrooms through the "Good Friends" program. People look out for our students outside of school, as well, making sure that they are safe and protected. It is much appreciated that so many members of our public attend games, concerts, meets, and other activities that

show our students that they care.

I would like to re-emphasize the need for some students to make use of the summer school program available for them this summer. Many concepts that students may struggle with during the school year can be re-taught and allow that student to pick up some needed knowledge for the upcoming school year. It is also such a tremendous opportunity for those students who need to catch up on credits they may not have earned during the school year. Summer school goes quickly and students can gain so very much from attending.

At the end of the year we see "changing of the guard," when one group of seniors graduate and another class takes their

place. 8th graders become high school freshmen, 6th graders become junior high students. They all step up and assume a new role. It is an exciting time for students and teachers alike. We look forward to seeing new faces and meeting the challenges of a new year. Helping students adapt to that change is a huge part of helping students prepare for life.

Yearbooks can still be purchased for \$40. If you need an order form please contact Mr. Bish. Money and forms can be returned to the elementary or the high school offices.

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Special points of interest:

- May 4 - Elementary Music Program PK-3 @ 6:30 PM
4-6 @ 7:30 PM
- May 9 - HS Graduation @ 10:30 AM
- May 11 - School Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- May 18 - 19 - HS Semester Tests
- May 20 - Last Day Of School
Elementary dismissal 12:45 PM
High School 1:00 PM

High School News - Mr. Springer

The 2014-15 year has been a great educational success at the Junior/Senior high school. The staff and the students have spent a lot of time working toward reaching the goals they set back in August.

The month of May is a short month in terms of school. These are a few dates that you may want to keep open on your calendar. **** May 9th Graduation. **** May 20th is also the last day of school for 2014-15 school year. Teachers will be in and out the following week as they get their rooms ready for summer cleaning.

Summer school will once again take place this year to help students catch up on credit recovery. In the Junior High the sum-

mer school program is designed to get the students who may be low in English or Math skills extra help. This will hopefully ensure they are ready for the next level of course works when school starts. We will be posting the times and information about summer school prior to school being let out for summer.

The class schedule for next year is being finalized. We have spent a lot of time working to ensure students are able to take the classes they wish. If you have not visited with your child I would encourage you to ask them what they signed up for in the fall semester. The schedule is designed to fit the request students made earlier this year. So when the fall term hits it is hard to make changes and still

get the classes they want. We currently have 98% of the students in the classes they chose. The other two percent seem to be students that are trying to make up a class they failed.

We are again hosting the elementary field day this spring. It was a great success last year and the kids really made a lot of good memories. They are very excited again this year to see if they can improve from last year. We are always looking for volunteers to help run the events. If you are available May 6th please contact Les Roggenkamp at the high school to volunteer your services.

If you should have any questions please call or stop in.

Art Department - Mrs. Kelley

This spring has been a busy time for the Southwest art department. On April 8, eleven students attended the Fort Hays State University Art Day in Hays, Kansas. They set up an art exhibit of our students' work, participated in a sidewalk chalk drawing competition, and watched demonstrations in various departments in the art building. Eleven of our students' artworks received recognition in the art show. After leaving Hays, we also toured Sondra Jonson's sculpture studio in Cambridge.

On April 10, seven students participated in the McCook Community College Paint-In. Students were given a theme and worked as a team to create a painting in 2½ hours. This year's theme was the

song "Radioactive." In the art show held in conjunction with the paint-in, Southwest students received four Judges' Choice awards: Jane Reiners, mixed media; Ashlee Morosic, printmaking; Sean Anderson, pottery; and Lance Kelley, sculpture.

Students are finishing projects for the year, and each student will show at least one project in a

display on awards night. They are also working on art history projects to create an art history timeline which will be put up in the art room next year.



Counselor's Corner - Mr. Loshbaugh

SENIORS

- Any scholarships you receive should be viewed as gifts and treated as such. Please express your gratitude by writing thank you notes promptly. Also, be sure to make a list of all scholarships you receive to give to Mr. Loshbaugh for the graduation ceremony program.
- At graduation seniors will receive a packet containing many items needed to claim their scholarships and a final transcript. Please do not lose this packet.
- Be aware of orientation days at your selected college.
- Start a list of dorm room items.
- Check out the "Students Transitioning to College" section at EducationQuest.org.
- Tips for college loans: borrow wisely and borrow only what you need even if it is less than the amount offered in your award letter. File the FAFSA at fafsa.gov each year you attend college, continue to look for scholarships while you're in college, and keep track of your student loan debt throughout college at nslds.ed.gov.

JUNIORS

- ♦ Continue campus visits and try to have your college choices narrowed to four (4) by the fall.
- ♦ Pay attention to the scholarships and awards this year's seniors are receiving. This will help prepare you for applying next year.
- ♦ This year's seniors had 4 students make RPAC all-conference Academic team by scoring a 24 or higher on the ACT. This is a nice award and makes it much easier to find scholarships.
- ♦ Please remember all college bound students should take the ACT 3-4 times by January 2016 in order to maximize scholarship opportunities.
- ♦ Register by May 8th for the June 13th ACT

Elementary News - Mrs. Latta

It's hard to believe this school year is almost over. My first year as the principal at Southwest Elementary has been filled with new discoveries. I've discovered playground wood chips are very slippery on a chilly morning after the lawns have been watered. I've discovered four restrooms are better than two. I've discovered eating the homemade bread, cakes and cookies in the school lunch program makes my clothes shrink. I've discovered a staff who truly care about the education and well-being of our students. And, most importantly, I've discovered a group of children who work hard, do their best every day, and make me laugh every day. As summer vacation approaches, I hope all our students will have opportunities to keep learning, keep reading, and keep discovering until school begins again in August.

Elementary Quiz Bowl

The Southwest Elementary Quiz Bowl team finished 1st at the ESU 15 competition on April 9, 2015 at the Southwest High school in Bartley. There were 9 schools participating. Chase County finished 2nd and Hitchcock County finished 3rd. Southwest had a 5/1 record. The last meet of the year will be the Maywood invitational on April 27, 2015. Those participating in this competition were Alyssa Springer, Elaine Roggenkamp, Jake O'Dea, Julia Holdcroft, Justin Brush, Kassidy Wilcox, Kirkland Nicholson, Lanie Overton, Matt VanPelt, and Rachel Moore.



Board of Education Meeting**Southwest Public Schools****District 179****April 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 April 13, 2015 at the Southwest Elementary School in Indianola.

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

Absent: John O'Dea.

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

President Teter observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

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

Moved by Baumbach, seconded by Daffer, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: Daffer, O. McConville, Baumbach, J. McConville, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: 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.

John O'Dea arrived at the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Superintendent Porter informed the Board of recent elementary, junior-high, and high school quiz bowl results, Unicameral senior government field trip, State FFA Team and Individual Contest results, art students' awards at Fort Hays State University Art Day and the McCook Community College High School Art Show, Cambridge Music Contest results of elementary and junior-high students, junior-high girls' volleyball team championship in the Bronze Division at the Ogallala Midnight Madness Volleyball Camp, individual and team results at the State FBLA Conference, and track meet results.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by J. McConville, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2015 board meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Daffer, Baumbach, O. McConville, J. McConville, O'Dea, and Teter. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by J. McConville, to renew contracts of certified staff for the 2015-2016 school year, as recommended by Superintendent Porter, with the exception of Mark Wilson. Ayes: Teter, Daffer, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by O. McConville, to accept the resignation of Mark Wilson effective at the end of the school year. President Teter thanked him for his service to the district. Ayes: O'Dea, O. McConville, Baumbach, Daffer, J. McConville, and Teter. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by J. McConville, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the contract of Caleb Chesterman as Grades 7-12 Language Instructor and Speech and Drama coach for the 2015-2016 school year. Ayes: Teter, Daffer, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Baumbach, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the bids from Brooks Construction in the amount of \$2,760.00 for the removal of the asphalt elementary driveway and from Hegwood Concrete Contractors in the amount of \$23,800.00 for the elementary sidewalk project. Ayes: Teter, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, Daffer, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by O'McConville, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the quote from Cleary Building in the amount of \$9,702.00 for the replacement of an elementary storage building. Ayes: Teter, O. McConville, J. McConville, Daffer, and O'Dea. Nays: Baumbach. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Daffer, to approve the quote from XL Doors in the amount of \$15,033.75 to install three

commercial overhead doors at the previous band classroom in Bartley to expand vehicle parking. Ayes: Teter, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, Daffer, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Baumbach, seconded by J. McConville, to approve the quote from Yanda's to upgrade the junior-senior high school gymnasium sound system not to exceed \$13,930.00. Ayes: Teter, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, Daffer, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Baumbach, seconded by J. McConville, to approve the quote from Video Communication System in the amount of \$3,715.00 to utilize monitors in both buildings to recognize students' achievements. Ayes: Teter, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, Daffer, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Daffer, to approve the quote from Bernie Jones Auto LLC in the amount of \$14,469.00 to purchase a mower for the district. Ayes: Teter, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, Daffer, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Superintendent Porter updated the Board on gym floor work to be completed this summer. Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Baumbach, to approve the purchase of two junior-senior high school gymnasium banners from Kim Schilling for no more than \$1,920.00 for two Roughrider banners. Ayes: Teter, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, Daffer, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Superintendent Porter discussed the UNL College of Education Program Input meeting, NRCSA Spring Conference topics, upcoming seminars and conferences, and bids being taken for elementary entry carpeting.

Principal Latta reported on attendance at the NRCSA Convention and Early Childhood Workshop, free Glen Miller Orchestra Concert attended by Grades 4-6, the March 26 Camp Read S'More Night with Cowboy Poet Dick Haag, results of the Elementary Quiz Bowl Team, completion of the restroom renovation, NeSa Testing, Cambridge Music Contest, and upcoming activities consisting of field trips, the State Farm Bike Rodeo, and Grade 6 Orientation at the junior-senior high building.

Principal Springer discussed the AQuESTT Conference, which will update administrators' on the new school evaluation process, upcoming activities consisting of prom, commencement, and elementary field day, and the current status of the bleacher end covers.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Daffer, to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter, J. McConville, Daffer, Baumbach, 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, May 11, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Elementary Field Day - Mr. Kennedy

The elementary field day will be held May 6th at the football field in Bartley. Elementary students will eat lunch in the high school commons area at 11:00 and the events will begin around 12:00. Each event will last for approximately twenty minutes. There will be concessions available.

The field day is not only a great way to get children excited about track, it's also a great way to get them excited about being active during the summer. Research suggests that an active childhood leads to a healthier lifestyle later in life, and builds the foundation for the social, psychological, and mental skills needed to succeed as an adult. Experts recommend that children get at least sixty minutes of vigorous activity every day. A study published in 2007 in the American Journal of Public Health reported that the body mass indexes (BMI) of more than 5,000 kindergartners and first graders increased by almost twice as much during summer break as compared with the school year. Below are some ideas for creating an active summer for your child:

- Turn off the tube: Be sure to limit your child to two hours of television/electronic use a day.
- Make exercise a family affair: Children learn by example so make time to be active with your child.
- Create structure: Set a schedule for your child and make sure that it is followed.
- Check out local activities: swimming pool, tee-ball/baseball, and the YMCA offers a number of summer activities for children.
- Get friends involved: Children always have more fun doing things with their friends.

Southwest Public Schools

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Physical Education - Mrs. Barnett

Southwest students have been active all year long in Physical Education classes. We have participated in the traditional sport activities of volleyball, football, and basketball along with some not so traditional activities. Some of these nontraditional activities include handball, Frisbee golf, bocce, kite flying, and archery. One of the most favorite activities is archery. Students that are not as successful at traditional sport activities can be successful at archery. This sport, in a way, evens the playing field among all students because strength and speed are not necessary for success.

Pictured here are Lance Kelley and

Junior Morquecho after shooting a nice grouping in the center of the target.

May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month: a great time to renew your commitment to a healthy, active lifestyle. According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans Midcourse Report: Strategies to Increase Physical Activities Among Youth*, youth need 60 minutes or more of physical activity each day where they live, learn, and play. In addition to physical health benefits, regular activity provides cognitive health benefits as well. Research shows that when

children are physically active, they achieve higher grades, record better attendance, and their behavior improves. Put simply, **active kids do better** <http://fitness.gov/news-highlights>

SO GET OUT AND BE ACTIVE !!!

