



'Rider News

From The Superintendent - R. Todd Porter

I would like to extend a big "thank you" to all parents or guardians of students who attended our recent parent-teacher conferences. It is extremely important to keep in contact with your child's teacher(s) and this is certainly just one of the avenues you can make that contact. As a parent I know that you always can't get a feel for the entire picture when you only rely on report cards to know how your child is doing. There are many circumstances that can affect how your child is doing. In my experience, I know that parental involvement in their child's education is at the top of the list of positive influences in the academic success of a child. Asking about homework, taking a look at what your child is working on, having them read aloud to you, or taking a look at their school planner and seeing how full (or empty) it is can be a help. I have always tried to

stress the importance of approaching school work seriously, since knowledge ends up being so influential to the success of an individual later in life. How a child approaches learning is an indicator of how they could end up approaching their adult working life, as well. Establishing good habits like good attendance, listening to and following directions, treating your co-workers in a respectful manner, being honest and trustworthy, and wanting to do their job in the very best way they can are things we can all relate to. It is what makes people successful in all areas of life. It is good preparation for the workplace and college.

It is my desire to address our need to improve our overall standardized test scores in a positive manner, but do stress that we will all need to work harder, focus better, and keep our eye on the task at

hand. The state of Nebraska has established learning standards that students are required to become proficient in and the goal is that 100% of our students are proficient. It will mean refining our curriculum, involving our staff in workshops and involving them in Professional Learning Communities with staff members from all over our Educational Service Unit and all across the state. We will exchange ideas and methods and come up with the very best practices that will move our school and students forward. It will be hard work, but the payoff is priceless. If it makes our students become successful, productive citizens, we will find a way to do it. Thanks again for your tremendous support of our school district and students.

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Special points of interest:

- Oct. 11 - Homecoming Football game @ 6:30 Homecoming Dance to follow
- Oct. 14 - School Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- Oct. 17 - Good Friends @ 2:00 PM
- Oct. 25 - NO SCHOOL
- Oct. 28 - NO SCHOOL

High School News - Mr. Springer

The school year is now in full swing with students going in every direction. We have successfully finished the MAPS testing for the fall. These are very intense tests with four parts. (Reading, Language, Science, and Math) The students were very focused and did a great job working to complete these test. The test is used to evaluate our student growth each year plus shows us areas that we may need to expand on. The scores from those tests can be evaluated by subcategories in each subject area. The data then is given to the classroom teacher to us as a tool for improving our student's education.

On September 17th the junior and senior high students and staff

went to the Fox Theater in McCook to watch a play on bullying and life challenges. It was a great opportunity for our students to get a chance to see a high production film. Thank you, to the theatrical group for inviting us to attend and covering the cost for all of our students.

Some of you may have received a voice mail, text, or email that your students lunch account is low or at a zero balance. School protocol is students must have money in that account in order to eat the school lunch. We will no longer be sending out letters when your child's account is low. Instead we will send a weekly reminder on Sunday evening if your child's account is low. I would also like all parents to please

consider filling out the free and reduced lunch application even if you don't feel you would qualify. It only takes a second and it could save you money. It also helps out our federal funding for those who do qualify. If you have not filled out the form please contact the school office and they can get a form sent to you. The results are confidential and you are not required to take advantage if you do not wish to.

Fall sports will begin to wind down this month as we prepare for districts and state events. I hope to see you at the events supporting our youth. Please take a second and look at our web site to see all of the upcoming events.

Elementary News - Mrs. Baumbach

We have been busy with many special events. On Tuesday, Sept. 17 we attended a play titled "What the Wind Taught Me". This was sponsored by the Lied Center's Arts across Nebraska Program and the Fox Theater. It is funded by the Richard P. Kimmel and Laurine Kimmel Charitable Foundation with support from the Nebraska Arts

Council, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment and Friends of the Lied.

On Thursday, Sept. 19, all students attended a program "Kids on the Block" that was sponsored by the Nebraska Elks Association and on then Friday, fourth and fifth grade students attended the FFA Farm Safety Program in McCook. It was

a busy week! October 2 fourth grade students attended the Fitness Day in McCook.

At this time we are preparing to complete the MAPS testing. Please encourage your child to do their very best on everything they do at school.

Life Skills - Mrs. Wyatt

Life Skills is a busy place this year. We have 7th math and reading, 8th math, reading, and life skills, and 9th English and algebra. Besides Basic English, the 9th grade is being introduced to American Litera-

ture. They aren't sure if they are going to enjoy it or not.

We are still in charge of cleaning. The 9th graders do an excellent job. The 7th grade students will be doing their part soon. They aren't

sure they want this job. It sounds like too much work to them.

Consumer Science - Mrs. Foster

There are many activities going on in the Family and Consumer Science room this fall. The Human Development class is traveling to the elementary every Wednesday to observe various classrooms and to help with the activities. The students really enjoy working with the elementary students. They are also going to start the "Baby Think It Over" unit next week, which means there

will be crying babies around the school. Intro to Medical Technology is a new class this year. The first few weeks were spent discussing medical careers and the legal/ethical responsibilities associated with the medical field. We are starting to memorize the many medical terms that need to be learned for this class and at some point during the year students will hopefully be able

to do some job shadowing. Another new class addition this year is a junior high cooking class which teaches the basics of nutrition and cooking. The students in Textile Art are also looking for fabric remnants that could be used for quilting, if anyone has some remnants that they would like to donate it would be greatly appreciated.

FFA - Mr. Roggenkamp

Southwest FFA will be taking a contingent to the National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY October 30th-November 2nd. Nineteen FFA members; plus sponsors, advisor, and American Degree recipients will have the opportunity to attend the 85th annual convention. Former members Mattie Uerling, Bret Neel, and Katelyn Sughroue will all receive the American FFA Degree on Saturday, November 2nd. Stops at the Archway in St. Louis, Indiana Caverns, and the World's Toughest Rodeo will supplement the trip.

Fruit Sales will begin in October as well. The annual sale of fresh fruit, turkeys, hams, and beef stix will take place in late October. Items will be pre-sold in October and early November with the delivery of the items to be in the weeks prior to Christmas break. Fruit Sales is the primary fundraising activity of the chapter and the FFA members would like to thank the community for its tremendous support of the chapter.

The Southwest FFA chapter was able to work with the McCook FFA

chapter in hosting a Farm Safety Day in Kiplinger Arena September 20th. Southwest's 4th and 5th grade students were able to attend the safety demonstrations that covered animal handling, PTO safety, lawnmower and ATV, seatbelt protection, grain handling, and tractor safety. It was the first joint safety project between the two chapters and over 220 students in Southwest and McCook schools attended the training.

Dig Pink - Mrs. Barnett

The Southwest volleyball team will be hosting a "Dig Pink" night to raise awareness of breast cancer and to raise funds for the Side-Out Foundation that supports breast cancer research, patient support services, and educates communities. Wear pink to the vol-

leyball game on October 10, 2013 and receive a free bag of popcorn. Sponsored by the State Bank of Bartley. Our pink shirts have already been ordered but it is not too late to help our cause. Make a donation on our campaign page, <https://www.side-out.org/cb/>

[campaigns/campaign/7425](https://www.side-out.org/cb/campaigns/campaign/7425) or make a donation at the volleyball game. Please make checks to The Side-Out Foundation and reference Southwest Public Schools, NE in the memo. Please help our event be a success and see you at the game! **Go Roughriders!**

Jr. High Volleyball - Mrs. Wyatt

Junior High Volleyball played Dundy County/Stratton on September 12th. A team lost in two sets with scores of 15 - 25 and 18 - 25. B team won in three sets with scores of 25 - 18, 21 - 25, and 15 - 13. C team lost in three sets with scores of 15 - 9, 14 - 16, and 9 - 15.

On September 19th, we played Cambridge. A team lost in two sets with scores of 16 - 25 and 10 - 25.

B team remained undefeated with scores of 25 - 17, 18 - 25, and 25 - 12. C team lost 25 - 14. D team had a victory with a score of 25 - 12. E team won 27 - 25. It was a fun afternoon for B, C, D, and E teams. During the D and E team games, players from B and C team played different positions that they weren't used to. Setters became hitters and hitters became setters. The girls had fun and did

a great job.

On September 23rd, we traveled to Cambridge with 14 girls for their tournament. We played Arapahoe for our first game. We lost in three sets with scores of 16 - 25, 25 - 17, and 6 - 15. Next we played Cambridge and lost in 2 sets with scores of 16 - 25 and 15 - 25. We have 5 games and a tournament left in our volleyball season.

Southwest School Board Minutes

Budget Hearing

Southwest Public Schools

District 179

September 9, 2013

Vice-President Tom Sughroue called the budget hearing to order at 7:30 p.m. on September 9, 2013, at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

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

Absent: Duane Teter and Steve McConville.

Visitors: Mary Marsh, Cody Gerlach, Mary Shirkey, Nick Brost, Don and Donna Behnke, Marilyn Walz, and Bruce Leflor.

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: Sughroue, Potthoff, O. McConville, and Daffer. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and S. McConville. Motion carried.

The Board was available to listen to support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the proposed budget of expenditures for all district funds for the 2013-2014 school year and to consider amendments relative thereto. No comments were made, and no action was taken.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by Potthoff, to adjourn the hearing at 7:34 p.m. Ayes: Sughroue, Potthoff, O. McConville, and Daffer. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and S. McConville. Motion carried.



Hearing to Set Final Tax Request

Southwest Public Schools

District 179

September 9, 2013

Vice-President Tom Sughroue called the hearing to set the final tax request to order at 7:35 p.m. on September 9, 2013, at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

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

Absent: Steve McConville and Duane Teter.

Visitors: Mary Marsh, Cody Gerlach, Bruce Leflor, Mary Shirkey, Nick Brost, Don and Donna Behnke, and Marilyn Walz.

Vice-President Sughroue observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

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

The Board was available to listen to support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request at a different rate than the prior year tax request. No action was taken.

Moved by Daffer, seconded by O. McConville, to adjourn the hearing at 7:38 p.m. Ayes: Sughroue, Potthoff, O. McConville, and Daffer. Nays: None. Absent: Teter and S. McConville. Motion carried.

Board of Education Meeting

Southwest Public Schools

District 179

September 9, 2013

Vice-President Tom Sughroue called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:41 p.m. on September 9, 2013 at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

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

Absent: Steve McConville and Duane Teter.

Visitors: Mary Marsh, Cody Gerlach, Mary Shirkey, Nick Brost, Don and Donna Behnke, Marilyn Walz, and Bruce Leflor.

Vice-President Sughroue observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

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

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

School Board Minutes Continued

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by Potthoff, to approve the August 12 and 26, 2013 board meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Potthoff, Daffer, O. McConville, and Sughroue. Nays: None. Absent: S. McConville and Teter. Motion carried.

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

Steve McConville arrived at the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Bruce Lefler of Ameritas Investment Corporation discussed the process of redeeming the balance of the Series 2008 Limited Tax Obligation Bonds on November 12, 2013 and authorizing the issuance of Series 2013 Limited Tax Obligation Refunding Bonds on October 16, 2013, thus reducing interest rates and saving the district \$54,927 over the life of the bond.

Moved by S. McConville, seconded by Potthoff, to approve a resolution to authorize the redemption of the Series 2008 Limited Tax Obligation Bonds on November 12, 2013. Ayes: S. McConville, Sughroue, O. McConville, Potthoff, and Daffer. Nays: None. Absent: Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by Daffer, to authorize issuance of Series 2013 Limited Tax Obligation Refunding Bonds Series 2013 dated October 16, 2013. Ayes: S. McConville, Sughroue, O. McConville, Potthoff, and Daffer. Nays: None. Absent: Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by Potthoff, seconded by S. McConville, to approve the final Payment Application from EAD Constructors, Inc. for \$1,000.00 as advised by W Design Associates. Ayes: Daffer, Sughroue, S. McConville, Potthoff, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by S. McConville, seconded by O. McConville, to approve the published budget of expenditures for the 2013-2014 fiscal year for all district funds as presented during the budget hearing. Ayes: Sughroue, S. McConville, O. McConville, Potthoff, and Daffer. Nays: None. Absent: Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by Daffer, seconded by O. McConville, to approve the resolution to set the property tax request of \$4,123,153.04 for the General Fund, \$486,581.79 for the Bond Fund, \$497,613.29 for the Special Building Fund, and \$257,648.48 for the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund for the 2013-2014 fiscal year as published and presented. Ayes: S. McConville, Sughroue, O. McConville, Potthoff, and Daffer. Nays: None. Absent: Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by Potthoff, seconded by S. McConville, to approve the preliminary design services of \$2,500.00 for a concession and restroom storage building with W Design Associates, Inc. to include track and field runways, pads, and pits. Ayes: S. McConville, Sughroue, O. McConville, Daffer, and Potthoff. Nays: None. Absent: Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by Daffer, seconded by O. McConville, to approve the ratification of Jessica Houser as a part-time after-school daycare employee. Ayes: Daffer, Sughroue, S. McConville, Potthoff, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Teter. Motion carried.

Duane Teter arrived at the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Moved by S. McConville, seconded by Potthoff, to approve the ratification of Dianne Kelley as an elementary paraprofessional. Ayes: Daffer, Sughroue, S. McConville, Potthoff, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Abstained: Teter. Motion carried.

Marilyn Walz of Swanson Signs of McCook discussed proposed costs and details of signs and building lettering for the junior-senior high school.

Moved by Teter, seconded by O. McConville, to approve 15" lettering for "Southwest" and 12" lettering for "Junior-Senior High School" to attach to the junior-senior high building. Ayes: Daffer, Sughroue, S. McConville, Potthoff,

School Board Minutes Continued

The Building and Grounds Committee will meet to further discuss the sign project and propose a final design for consideration at a later date.

Superintendent Porter reported on the request for information from the Nebraskans for Founders' Values. A response was made according to the district attorney's guidelines. Mr. Porter recommended the Americanism Committee meet to discuss the topics requested by the organization.

Superintendent Porter reviewed a report showing negotiation settlements for Nebraska schools and discussed the teacher negotiation timeline changes for the Negotiations Committee.

The recently completed annual safety inspection was reviewed with particular needs being addressed.

Superintendent Porter thanked Brooks Construction for another donation of dirtwork labor. Superintendent Porter discussed the Board's recommendation for a quote from Culligan Water Conditioning to replace the teacherage water softener and discussed the water-damaged flooring in the teacherage kitchen. The Board recommended contacting Lord's Inc. to obtain a price for a softener. Board member attendance at the NASB State Education Conference on November 20-22 was also discussed.

Principal Baumbach reported on the planned grades 4-6 attendance at "What The Wind Taught Me" on September 17 at the Fox Theatre in McCook commissioned by the Lied Center for Performing Arts. She also discussed upcoming activities such as "Kids on the Block", FFA Safety Day and Fitness Day. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on September 24 and 25 at the elementary building. Instructors will be reviewing NeSA and MAPS data scores of individual students in reading, writing, and math to examine ideas for increasing student performance. Principal Baumbach and board members commented on the success of elementary student adherence to activity rules.

Principal Springer reported on the attendance of junior-senior high students at the Fox Theatre presentation, Pink-Out Night for Breast Cancer Awareness to be held on October 10 during the volleyball game versus Cambridge with free popcorn being donated by the State Bank of Bartley for attendees wearing pink apparel. Principal Springer also discussed the hiring of a substitute custodian, progress on completion of NSSRS reports and meeting attendance, and NeSA standards.

Moved by Teter, seconded by S. McConville, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Ayes: Daffer, Sughroue, S. McConville, Teter, O. McConville, and Potthoff. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

Book of the Month - Mrs. Young

October Book of the Month is "Clifford's First Halloween".

It's Clifford's first Halloween, and Emily Elizabeth dresses him up as the cutest little ghost ever. Clifford wants to try everything: trick-or-treating, candy apples, and homemade haunted houses. Discover Halloween with everyone's favorite red puppy! You may find the book in our school library and check out Clifford's Halloween adventure.



Southwest Public Schools

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www.swpschools.org

Join us at the Pinpoint Tailgate
October 11th starting at 5:00 pm
in the Bartley Park before the
Homecoming Football Game!