



September 2023

'Rider News

From The Desk Of Superintendent Drew Billeter

The 23-24 school year is off and running. It's been fun to see all of our students back in the building. Current enrollment at SWPS is 313 students, which is the highest enrollment numbers since 2010-2011.

Our sports and activities programs have also begun, which is a very fun and exciting time for all the coaches, sponsors, students, athletes, and parents. Please make sure to come out and support all of our students as they compete and represent our school and communities.

As many of you have seen, we have launched our social media sites. Southwest currently has a Facebook and Twitter page. (Facebook: SWRoughriders) (Twitter: @SWRoughriders)

These sites can also be viewed on the school website as well. Please continue to utilize our school website as we have made some changes to it as well. The school will post any changes or updates on our social media sites and website. Our hope is to show everyone all the great things happening at our schools.

If you are still wanting a free and reduced lunch form, it's not too late!

Please stop at the school to get a form as soon as possible. These forms are very important for state funding. Also, children who do not eat breakfast tend to struggle throughout the day with their focus on academics, so please take advantage of these programs.

Southwest Elementary School has qualified for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program through NDE. This program is designed to help create healthier school environments and combat childhood obesity. The FFVP expands the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience, increases their fruit and vegetable consumption, and can positively impact their present and future health.

The first "down list" will be coming out on Thursday, 9/7/23 for the students in Bartley. You can check your student's progress on Infinite Campus or you can e-mail the teacher. If a student is listed on the "down list" a letter will be mailed home. Please make sure to communicate with your child about their academic work. Communication with your child about their daily work, homework, projects, and up-

coming tests can alleviate any surprises down the road. Also, please don't hesitate to communicate with the classroom teacher if you have any questions.

Attendance is another area that parents need to be aware of. Please make sure that students are at school on a regular basis so they don't fall behind on their classwork. SWPS must follow the mandatory attendance laws for the State of Nebraska. Parents and guardians will be notified via mail if their child is on the path of exceeding the allowable absences. Please bring a note if your child is at the doctor, dentist, orthodontists, physical therapy etc. so those absences are not counted as unexcused.

Thank you for your continued support of all of our students and staff at SWPS. We are looking forward to a great school year.

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Special points of interest:

Sept. 4 - Labor Day
NO SCHOOL

Sept 8 - Homecoming

Sept. 11 - LATE
START 10:00 AM

Sept. 11 - School
Board Meeting at
7:30 PM

Sept. 21 - Elem
Health Screenings

Sept 29 - 1:00 PM
Early Dismissal

Elementary News - Mrs. Fries

The 2023-2024 school year at Southwest Elementary is off to a fantastic start. The custodial crew worked very, very hard this summer to get our building ready for the new school year and everything looks great. At the elementary school we are undergoing a few construction projects that are still underway. We are replacing the old "curtain" doors in the art room with a wall and a standard classroom door. This will help make the classroom much quieter and safer. The principal's office in the front of the building is being transformed from an old "entry way" into an office space with walls. This will help with privacy and safety in this area of the building as well. The last project we are working on is putting a door from the nurses office into the old girl's locker room. This will give the nurse access to a handicap bathroom and private changing area. We are looking forward to the completion of these projects!

Back to School night was a fabulous success and we were pleased by such a great turn out. Students and parents were able to come and visit their classrooms and meet their new teachers. Parents had the opportunity to complete paperwork. The school counselor, school nurse, tech coordinator, and Title 1 teacher were also all available to answer questions and offer assistance. At the end of the evening the Southwest Foundation provided pizza for all of our students and parents. On our first day back to school students enjoyed Tropical Snow cones provided by the school and the Southwest Foundation. This was an awesome treat for all of the students on such a hot day! I would like to thank the Foundation for supporting us throughout the year so we can continue to provide these fun experiences for our students!

Our Kindergarten-5th grade students will start taking their Measures of Academic Progress (MAPs) assessments this month along with DIBELS assessments. These assessments provide classroom teachers with important data that helps guide instruction in the classroom. Teachers will be able to share these results with parents at the Parent-Teacher Conferences in October.

As a reminder beginning in September, we will have a 10:00 late start on the 2nd Monday of every month. The first late start will be on September 11th. This time will allow teachers a chance to work in their professional learning groups and complete staff training. Daycare will open at 9:30 on late start days and there will be no morning preschool.

Jr/Sr High - Mr. Springer

The school year has begun and the students are starting a new journey. I always enjoy seeing the kids return from the summer. This Summer seems to have went by fast. The kids have matured over the summer and are becoming young adults.

The building sites are constantly changing every day as the custodians have spent a lot of time getting the facilities ready for the start of school. Students and staff have really done their part to ensure our school is a safe learning facility.

The fall activities are underway and we have a great percentage of our students involved in activities. We have always felt that kids that are involved in activities tend to do better in classes. Please encourage your child to participate in the activities we offer. Band, FBLA, FFA, Sports, Drama, Speech, ACADECA, Quiz bowl and others. Some things kids learn from being involved in extra activities are: respect, discipline, team, communication, reliability, and self-worth to name a few.

We have a great educational staff that will go the extra mile to support your child!!!! Please communicate with them if you have concern or better yet even if you are proud of what they are doing to ensure your child's education.

SOUTHWEST SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

September-23

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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****Menu Subject To Change**

** Milk Served Every Meal

** Salad Bar

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NO SCHOOL	Breakfast Combo Bar Lunch	Breakfast Waffles Lunch	Breakfast Tater Tot Casserole	Breakfast Cinnamon Crunch Bar Lunch	Breakfast Rice Krispie Bar Lunch	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00 Late Start NO BREAKFAST Lunch	Breakfast Donut Lunch	Breakfast Chocolate Crescent Lunch	Breakfast Yogurt & Granola Lunch	Breakfast Pancake-Sausage Sandwich Lunch		
	Mini Corn Dogs	Orange Chicken	Pepperoni Dipstick	Hoggie	Goulash	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Breakfast Egg & Cheese Muffin Lunch	Breakfast Granola Bar Lunch	Breakfast Mini Cinni Lunch	Breakfast Pancake Sausage Stick Lunch	Breakfast Muffins Lunch		
	Hamburger/ Cheese Burger	Mac & Cheese	Cheese Quesadilla	Chicken Strips	Ham Slice	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Breakfast Pancakes Lunch	Breakfast Bagel Lunch	Breakfast Breakfast Burrito Lunch	Breakfast Cereal Lunch	Breakfast Fish Sticks		
	Chicken Sandwich	Scalloped Potatoes	Pizza	Beef & Noodles		



Sunday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1 State Fair (FFA Division) 2

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
State Fair (FFA Division)	Labor Day-No School	10:00am GG @ Perkins	District Ag Teachers	10:00am CC @ Chase	Homecoming	Homecoming Dance

10:00am GG @ Perkins
 Co. (Grant)
1:30pm JH VB vs
 Arapahoe
 District Ag Teachers
 Meeting
10:00am-12:15pm
 Human Trafficking
 Presentation

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10:00am	CC @ Chase County
2:00pm	JH VB @ Wauneta Palisade
3:00pm	JH FB @ Wauneta Palisade
5:00pm	VB Triangular (Suth./SV) @ SW

Homecoming
9:00am GGolf @
 Lexington
9:30am 3rd/5th Grade
 Guest Speaker
7:00pm FB vs Wilcox-
 Hildreth (H)

Homecoming Dance

10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10 AM Start (In-service)	10:00am Golf @	6:00am FFA Husker	4:30pm CC @ Arapahoe	12:00pm Golf Quad @	11:00am VB Tournament	
4:30pm CC @ Alma	Gothenburg	Harvest Days	6:00pm Fb at Creek	Hershey	@ McCook	
6:30pm JV FB @ Franklin	5:00pm VB vs	2:00pm JH VB @	Valley			
6:30pm JV VB @ Franklin	Wauneta/Palisade @ SW	Cambridge				
7:30pm School Board		2:00pm JH FB at				
Meeting		Cambridge				

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10:00am GGolf @ Gothenburg	6:00am FFA Husker Harvest Days
5:00pm VB vs Wauneta/Palisade @ SW	2:00pm JH VB @ Cambridge
	2:00pm JH FB at Cambridge

3 14
4:30pm CC @ Arapahoe
6:00pm Fb at Creek Valley

12:00pm GGolf Quad @
Hershev

16
11:00am VB Tournament
@ McCook

17	18	19	20	21	23
2:00pm JH VB vs Wallace	8:00am Mid Plains	8:00am-2:00pm ELEM.	KSU Marching Band Clinic	KSU Marching Band Clinic	
3:00pm JH FB vs Wallace	College Visit-Seniors	Health Screenings	7:00pm FB @ Wauneta	10:00am VB Tournament	
6:00pm JV FB @ WP	5:30pm VB vs Arapahoe @ SW	9:00am GGolf @ Holdrege	Palisade	@ Sutherland	

19 20

8:00am Mid Plains
College Visit-Seniors

5:30pm VB vs Arapahoe
@ SW

21
8:00am-2:00pm ELEM.
Health Screenings
9:00am GGolf @
Holdrege
4:30pm CC @ Hayes
Center (MHC)

22
KSU Marching Band Clinic
7:00pm FB @ Wauneta
Palisade

KSU Marching Band Clinic
10:00am VB Tournament
@ Sutherland

24	25	26	27	28	29	30
2:30pm CC @ UNK (Kearney Invite)	2:00pm JH VB vs Hitchcock Co @ SW 4:30pm VB Tri @ St Franics, KS (DC KS, SW)	8:00am-3:15pm Connect the Dots Career Day 9:00am RPAC Student Leadership Conf. 10:00am GGolf @ DCS	2:00pm JH VB @ Hildreth (WilHil) 3:00pm JH FB @ Hildreth (H) (Wilcox/Hildreth) 5:00pm VB Triangular (Alma-Overton) @ Overton	2:00pm JH VB @ Hildreth 1:00pm Dismissal 2:00pm FB vs. Arthur Co.		

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27

2:00pm	JH VB vs Hitchcock Co @ SW	8:00am-3:15pm	Connect the Dots Career Day
4:30pm	VB Tri @ St Francis, KS (DC KS, SW)	9:00am	RPAC Student Leadership Conf.
		10:00am	GGolf @ DCS

28
2:00pm JH VB @ Hildreth
(WilHi)
3:00pm JH FB @ Hildreth
(Wilcox/Hildreth)
5:00pm VB Triangular
(Alma-OVERTON) @
OVERTON

29
1:00pm 1:00 Dismissal
2:00pm FB vs. Arthur Co.
(H)

Counselor's Corner - Mrs. Lewis

Seniors

Scholarships:

Seniors can access scholarship applications on their "Class of 2024" Canvas site. A list of available scholarships can be found at:

Go to www.swpschools.org

Hover over the Jr. Sr. High School tab at the top

Go to the bottom of the selection and choose "Senior Scholarships"

Click the google link

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gJL76gaG3ekwUW5V33i6vuvDwDRb6U0f3BiUS8niGRE/edit?usp=sharing>

The spreadsheet is organized by monthly due dates so be sure to click the month tabs at the bottom of the page!! This is updated as I receive scholarships for the year.

*Seniors wanting to improve their ACT scores can take it through February to use on their college and scholarship applications.

*September 19th all eligible seniors will be attending a college visit to McCook Community College

Sophomores:

*Will be attending a Connect the Dots Career event on September 27th

All 6th-12th grade students: will be attending a human trafficking presentation in Cambridge on September 6th. There is a public presentation for ANYONE to attend at the Cambridge School Auditorium from 7-9pm.

ACT

Register for the ACT at: actstudent.org

Southwest School code: 280151

MCC test site code: 024600

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Registration)
September 9th, 2023	August 4th, 2023	August 18th, 2023
October 28th, 2023	September 22nd, 2023	October 6th, 2023
December 9th, 2023	November 3rd, 2023	November 17th, 2023
February 10th, 2024	January 5th, 2024	January 19th, 2024
April 13th, 2024	March 8th, 2024	March 22nd, 2024
June 8th, 2024	May 3rd, 2024	May 17th, 2024
July 13th, 2024	June 7th, 2024	June 21st, 2024

Board of Education Meeting

Southwest Public Schools

District 179

August 14, 2023

President Jason Neseth called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m. on August 14, 2023 at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Jason Neseth, Duane Teter, Brooke Brooks, Jennifer McConville, Jason Kloepping, John O'Dea, Superintendent Drew Billeter, Principals Tara Fries and Matt Springer, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: None.

Visitors: Eric Fisher, Dave and Ondrea McConville, Brad and Adrienne Randel and daughter, Les Roggenkamp, Cody Gerlach, Doug Stewart, Arlyn Minary, Jim Broomfield, and Cindy Huff.

President Neseth observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: Kloepping, O'Dea, McConville, Neseth, Brooks, and Teter. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Notices of the meeting were posted at the Adams Bank and Trust in Indianola, the Stockmens Bank Bartley Branch, Post Offices in Bartley and Indianola, Southwest Elementary School in Indianola, Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley, and published in the Valley Voice newspaper and on the school website. Notice of the meeting was given in advance to all members prior to the meeting date.

During Agenda Item V. Public Comment and Recognition of Visitors, Ondrea McConville, former board member, addressed the Board members regarding Agenda Item VII. New Business, Action Item #5 discuss and take appropriate action on increasing the school district's property tax authority by up to 7% for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. She encouraged the Board to vote against this action item as she felt the increase was not necessary.

Moved by Teter, seconded by Kloepping, to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023 board meeting. Ayes: McConville, Kloepping, Neseth, Teter, and Brooks. Nays: None. Abstained: O'Dea. Motion carried.

Moved by McConville, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the claims as presented. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, Brooks, O'Dea, Neseth, and McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Teter, to approve revised Board Policy 4059 Behavioral and Mental Health Training, previously Suicide Prevention Training, as presented. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, Neseth, Brooks, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by McConville, to affirm revised Board Policy 5004 Option Enrollment, as presented. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, Neseth, Brooks, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Kloepping, to approve revised Board Policy 5064 Supplement, Not Supplant. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, Neseth, Brooks, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by McConville, to approve revised Board Policy 5065.1 Early Dismissal for Seniors to match Policy 5003 Admission of Part-Time Students with enrollment of 20 credits. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, Neseth, Brooks, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by Kloepping, to approve increasing the school district's property tax authority by up to 7% for the 2023-2024 fiscal year after Superintendent Billeter answered many questions asked by Board members and district patrons. Board members voiced their reasoning for their decisions on the motion. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, and Neseth. Nays: Brooks, McConville, and O'Dea. Motion failed.

Moved by McConville, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the bid from Creative Sites in the amount of \$26,000.00 for rubber mulch for the elementary playground. A reimbursement claim will be filed for 50% of the cost with the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, Neseth, Brooks, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by McConville, seconded by Kloepping, to approve the bid from Deveney Ford in the amount of \$52,886.00 for a new Ford ten-passenger van. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, Neseth, Brooks, and McConville. Nays: O'Dea. Motion carried.

Moved by Kloepping, seconded by McConville, to approve the purchase of a new utility task vehicle for use by the custodial and maintenance staff at the Junior-Senior High School site with a limit of \$13,500.00. Ayes: Kloepping, Neseth, Brooks, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by O'Dea, to approve transfers from the General Fund to the School Nutrition Fund in the amount of \$50,000.00, to the Activity Fund in the amount of \$50,000.00, and to the Depreciation Fund in the amount of \$60,000.00. Ayes: Teter, Kloepping, Neseth, Brooks, McConville, and O'Dea. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Superintendent Billeter discussed replacement of the teacherage air conditioning unit being paid from the Special Building Fund, the finalization and status of the elementary building project, the addition of social media sites to promote the school as an extension of the district's website, using the REAP Grant to purchase ten elementary iPads and district Chromebooks on the 3-year rotation project, and the Southwest School Foundation will be providing sno-cones for elementary students on the first day of school.

Principal Fries commented that the Foundation will also be serving pizza and root beer floats at the elementary Walk to School night.

Principal Springer informed the Board of the enrollment of new students at the Junior-Senior High School, the bus ordered last year is to arrive in November, and reemphasized the need for bus drivers.

Cindy Huff, a NRCSA representative, discussed the possible revision of several Board Policies and communication and goals between the Board members and Superintendent Billeter.

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, September 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School Library in Bartley.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Kloepping, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Ayes: Kloepping, Neseth, O'Dea, Teter, McConville, and Brooks. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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PO Box 187
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Toll Free 855-692-3172
Fax: 308-692-3221

Address Service Requested

www.swpschools.org

Elementary Health Screenings



We will be having Pre-Kindergarten thru 5th grade School Health Screenings on September 21, 2023. Red Willow County Health Department will be assisting with these required screenings at the elementary school. If you have any questions or concerns, please email the school nurse: janette.nelms@swpschools.org