

the Beat

a monthly electronic bulletin board with news, salutes and more



One aspect of the Strategic Plan is to “ensure effective communication in order to unite all members of our partnership in achieving our mission and objective.”

Each month the Beat will select one strategy along with a specific result and focus on one Action Step that has been completed.

Strategy III: We will stimulate and strengthen mutual engagement throughout the community.

Specific Result: Increase active involvement of students, staff and the board in community activities, organizations, and businesses.

In an effort to get more involved in the community the district manned a refreshment stand with hot chocolate and cookies for people participating in the second annual Lighted Christmas Parade.

Floats decked with lights and decorations, often with unique themes and designs, cruised Fifth Street from Perkins Street to Charles Park in downtown Beatrice.



Coudeyras named Employee of the Month



Steph Coudeyras in her classroom at the high school with ninth grader Zack Zimmerman.

Steph Coudeyras is the November employee of the month.

Coudeyras comes to school early every day to make sure things are ready to go. She currently serves on the School Improvement Committee, the Courtesy Committee, and the College Access Grant Committee. She has previously served as a PLC leader, as well as other committees. She is organized, has excellent classroom management, and gets along great with students and staff. She is willing to do whatever is needed to help make our school run more successfully. She is dedicated to helping ensure her students find success. She is willing to step out of her comfort zone and try new ideas in order for students to learn. She is embracing technology and doing great things in the classroom using technology to enhance student learning.

What most impresses me is Steph’s brainstorming ability. She sees a problem or

concern, and rather than complain about it, she looks for solutions. She has the ability to see issues, small ones as well as larger ones, and comes up with possible solutions. She is great at listening to the concerns and proposing a solution. She is often doing this behind the scene, as she does not want the recognition for coming up with the solution. She just wants the problems solved.

This teacher was instrumental in developing the Study Group program to assist our students who were struggling academically. She helped brainstorm ways to make it more effective and helped work out lots of kinks as we were developing the program. Our results were remarkable. The failure rate of our students dropped dramatically, and as a result, helped students stay on target to graduate with their class.

Taking a Close Look

Food Drives Clothing Drives Blood Drives Recycling
National Honor Society Food Drive and House Painting Bank in Schools

Take a **closer** look!

Focusing on Giving Opportunities at BPS

Students in Beatrice Public Schools have a number of opportunities to participate in service projects, especially during November and December including food drives at Paddock Lane, Cedar, the middle school and the high school. In addition, students at Lincoln made cards for the military, and students at Stoddard and Paddock Lane made cards for nursing home residents in the community.

Fourth graders at Lincoln Elementary wrote friendly letters and made handcrafted holiday cards to send to military troops stationed overseas. High school students held a food drive.



Middle school students brought food and packed the Paddock Kensington van.



Taking a Close Look



Students at Paddock Lane walked to fourth grade teacher Judy Knispel's house to let her know they were supporting her as she prepared for a stem cell transplant.

They first staked their claim with Beatrice Public Schools and now are among the best in the nation

Mueller's first book comes out in April



'I had several teachers at Beatrice High School who encouraged me to explore creative outlets and fostered a drive to learn more, try more, and consistently do more. It's that drive—cultivated during after-school programs, in-classroom work, and field trips—that has helped me move from new grad to the executive team. Opportunities to build my writing skills, which are essential to my career as a marketer and my side gig as a published author, were plentiful at BPS including creative writing opportunities, excellent literary choices in the English classes, and a journalism program that encouraged all participants to be critical thinkers.'

Chelsea (Ide) Mueller, class of 2002



Chelsea Mueller uses the writing skills she developed in high school in both her professional and personal life. Her first novel, "Borrowed Souls," is set to be released on April 4, 2017.



"Borrowed Souls" is about a young woman with a brother who can't stay out of trouble and dives head first into the grimy world of soul renting in this action-packed and sexy urban fantasy debut.

Mueller is the ecommerce and marketing division at Cheaper Than Dirt, one of the largest online sporting goods retailers in the United States. It is currently ranked No. 178 on the Internet Retailer Top 500. "My work focuses on the best ways to connect with customers and deliver them products and content they want (even if they don't know it yet!)," said Mueller.

Her department includes the creation and management of emails, social media, website merchandising and messaging, paid search, organic search, content and copywriting, and basically any other way you might interact with a brand online.

She graduated from Arizona State Uni-

versity in 2006 with a Journalism and Mass Communications degree. She served on the Cronkite School's Standards action team, designed to assess the curriculum and produced "Dying for the Story," a multimedia package surrounding the 30-year anniversary of the murder of Arizona Republic reporter Don Bolles. Mueller was also selected as

editor-in-chief of the Cronkite zine, a Webby Award winner.

When not crafting tales she runs the totally fun blog Vampire Book Club, dishes on the latest book and TV hotties for Heroes & Heartbreakers, and hangs out with her husband and two giant dogs. She loves bad cover songs, dramatic movies and TV vampires.



Chelsea Mueller presents at a national conference in Los Angeles last August.

Several individuals recognized at board meeting

Steph Coudeyras was named the November Employee of the Month. She received a plaque and \$50 in Beatrice Bucks.

Habitat for Humanity and Keep Beatrice Beautiful board member Alan Grell talked to the board about the important role the National Honor Society plays in the work of both organizations including the painting of houses. Grell said they are the key partner in this project. He said they are an outstanding group and are hard-working, extremely polite, well-behaved, and they manage to have fun while completing the task at hand. Grell said the key to the success of this project is the leadership provided to the students and recognized Tracy Post, National Honor Society sponsor, for supervising the students to ensure quality results in a safe environment.

Post thanked Grell for his hard work and dedication to both organizations. He said he simply provides the manpower for the project. He also commended the students for their hard work and dedication to this great partnership between the school and community groups.

Athletic Director Neal Randel introduced Kirsten Baete as the girls' state golf champion. He said this is her fourth state medal and she has signed to play golf for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln next year.

Randel also recognized Addy Barnard for being named to the Class B All-State second team. He said she is a freshman and served as a team leader and the main pitcher.

He then recognized Natalie Doering, Eli Hofer, Whitley Kleveland, Noah Snurr, John Spilker, and Nathan Spilker for being named to All-State Choir.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Pat Nauroth said he is looking at dates in January for a board retreat. The state school board conference is this week and Jon Zimmerman, Nancy Sedlacek and Janet Byars will be attending. He also said the fourth buy local campaign has kicked off for the district. It will conclude on Dec. 15 and the goal is to exceed last year's total of \$52,201.

Student Update

Student Board Member Natalie Doering said that Paddock Lane and Stoddard have their music concerts this week. She said that Cedar held its annual Halloween parade in October. Last Fri-

day, there were Veteran's Day activities in all the buildings which included speakers and videos at the elementary level. Doering shared that the middle school recently held NeSA celebrations to recognize students for their testing achievements. Doering ended her report by sharing some upcoming competition dates for basketball, swimming, wrestling as well as the upcoming all-state choir clinic.

Committee of the Whole

Vice-President Jon Zimmerman said the Committee of the Whole heard an update by Curriculum Director Jackie Nielsen on the High Ability Learner (HAL) program. She said that the truly gifted students are those that fall in the ninety-third to the ninety-ninth percentile.

Nielsen and Kari Daniels shared information on the development of the school calendars for the 17/18 and 18/19 school years. Nauroth added that calendars will be shared with staff for feedback and he hopes to bring them back to the board for approval in December or January.

Board president Lisa Pieper shared information on the superintendent evaluation tool with board members. She asked Board members to return their individual evaluations to her by Nov. 7.

School Community & Staff Relations Committee

School Board member Janet Byars said the committee has met four times since the last board meeting, Oct. 14 at Cedar Elementary, Oct. 21 at Lincoln Elementary, Nov. 4 at Stoddard Elementary, and Nov. 9 with preschool staff. Discussion topics at the meetings included the school calendar, the need for administrators in all elementary buildings, additional para support in all buildings, and the behavioral models. It was noted that preschool busing was going much better this year. Byars said that staff members are very willing to share their ideas and thoughts and their openness is very appreciated by the committee.

Action Agenda

The board heard a report from Beatrice Education Foundation (BEF) member Andy Carothers about the possibility of adding an after school program for elementary students which would help fund an Executive Director position.

The board approved a partnership with

the BEF's intent to apply for the twenty-first century community learning grant for an after school program.

The board also approved Beatrice Education Association as the exclusive bargaining agent for the district's non-supervisory certificated staff for the 2018-19 contract year.

Administrators' Report

Middle school principal John Jarosh said the middle school Veterans' Day program is unique in the fact that the study hall/mentor students from social studies teachers Mike Policky and Ben Essam's classes organize the entire program. The program was emceed by students and also included the Kensington chimers and guest speaker. Jarosh commended the students for their behavior as they were very respectful and attentive. He said many students came down to greet the Kensington residents after the program.

Next Meeting

The next board meeting will be Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Central Administration Building.

Beatrice Public Schools Board of Education

Janet Byars
Doris Martin
Andy Maschmann
Lisa Pieper, President
Nancy Sedlacek
Jon Zimmerman, Vice-President
Pat Nauroth, Superintendent

Board of Education Meeting

Jan. 9, 7 p.m.
Board of Education Meeting