



a monthly electronic bulletin board with news, salutes and more

Becoming one of the best in the nation
Beatrice Public Schools'
Strategic Plan
 Monthly Update

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 through-

out the community.

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

Cedar fifth grade students led a successful food drive in conjunction with Twin Rivers Chrysler Jeep Dodge. The students at the school donated enough food to fill a pick-up truck bed.

Cedar's 124 students donated 916 food items, mostly cans of food, that were given to the Community Food Pantry operated inside St. John Lutheran Church.

"Cedar far exceeded what we expected," dealer and partner of Twin Rivers Dave Eskra said.

Last year, the first year of the business's and school's collaborative food drive, Cedar students filled a wheel barrow of



Cedar's 124 students donated 916 items for a food drive led by the fifth grade class. (Photo compliments of Beatrice Daily Sun)

food.

"The truck bed was very full," Eskra said. "I would guess it was close to 1,500 pounds. It was way more than last year. This was the first year the fifth graders had coordinated the event.

Niss named Employee of the Month



Sixth grade science teacher Derek Niss with his first period class.

Derek Niss is the December employee of the month.

Derek Niss embodies everything a teacher should be: kind, caring, effective,

passionate, and empathetic. I've had the pleasure of observing Mr. Niss in his classroom and one-on-one with other students.

In the classroom, Derek cultivates a safe, effective classroom where all voices can feel heard. His classroom feels more like a family—everyone is welcome, all students are engaged and on task, and should a student need some redirecting it is done in such a kind and caring manner that the correction still feels good. One-on-one, Derek is able to have serious, in-depth conversations to help students think differently about their actions. It is obvious that his first priority is to build positive relationships with students and because of this dedicated effort, students want to do well for him.

Derek also is an innovative educator who looks outside the box when developing curriculum. This year, he has implemented more hands-on, STEM based curriculum to help students explore the connection of science, technology, engineering, and math at a deeper level. His willingness to search for ways to provide our students with experiences to help students see math and science through a different perspective are what makes him an asset to our district.

Taking a Close Look

Health Academy Welding Academy Education Academy Criminal Justice Academy
Dual Credit In English, Math, Science, Foreign Language

Take a **closer** look!

Students earn college credit while at BPS

Students at Beatrice High School have the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school. Last year 75 graduates earned 981 hours of college credit while in high school. Research shows that students are more successful in college if they earn college credit while in high school.

(clockwise) Linda Ament, Compliance and Regulations Officer at Beatrice Community Hospital and Health Center, interviews an Academy student at Professional Development Day. Second year health academy student Maddie Pieper holds a brain during a field trip to Doane College. Health Academy students tour Doane College and its Cadaver Lab. Welding students tour Landoll's in Marysville, Kansas. Dr. Mike Havekost, Hospitalist Medical Director at BCHHC, talks about being a physician. Field trips are an important part of the Academy experience.



Taking a Close Look

Beatrice
Public Schools

Take a closer look!

closer

(clockwise) Rebecca Young works with Stoddard Elementary kindergarteners as a part of the Education Academy. Maddie Pieper watches a C section for a job shadow at Beatrice Community Hospital and Health Center. Beatrice students at Health Academy Professional Development Day. Students in the Certified Nursing Assistant course work on their skills. Welding Academy students take a field trip to explore careers in manufacturing.



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

Engler comes home to lead Homestead



'School was fun! I had many great educators or mentors; some being staff members that you may not think of as teachers. In the classroom I gained a solid understanding of the core competencies, topics that I use on a daily basis to this day. In addition Beatrice Public Schools provided an array of educational opportunities that allowed me to explore and try new things. Classes in social studies, industrial arts and business.

I often recall the level of excellence taught by Mr. Glenn Hergenrader on the football field and by Ms. Wilma Sawyer in the typing room. They were precise in their teachings and expected the same with your performance. Their level of commitment and dedication to students were second to none.'

Mark Engler, class of 1976



Mark Engler is proof that you can go home again. He began his National Park Service career at Homestead National Monument of America in 1977 in maintenance and then worked at various other park sites before returning in September 1997 to be its superintendent. Homestead is one of 417 national park sites in the country.

Engler played an important role in the National Park Service's 100th anniversary celebration in 2016. He chaired the Midwest Region's team for the anniversary. The Midwest Region is one of seven in the National Park Service.

During Engler's time at the Homestead the Heritage Center has been built, a new park movie has been made, and attendance continues to grow. Attendance in 2016 increased by 11 percent over 2015 and was second only to 2012 when the monument commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Homestead Act.

Attendance is not only good for the Homestead but the entire area. Reflecting on 2016, Engler said the strong attendance at the Monument benefited the entire area.

"Those numbers represent a tremendous benefit for the community, and really the communities throughout the region," he said. "These people coming here are buy-

ing gas, eating in restaurants and shopping in our stores. We know that those who came to the area were having a posi-

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Board approves early learning grant application

Derek Niss was named the December Employee of the Month. He received a plaque and \$50 in Beatrice Bucks.

Superintendent Pat Nauroth recognized Andy Maschmann for his service to the Board. Nauroth said Maschmann was always focused on what is best for students, being thoughtful and passionate about the issues. Nauroth was also appreciative of the insight Maschmann provided on some of the difficult issues that public education in the state of Nebraska is facing. Board President Lisa Pieper also thanked Maschmann for serving.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Pat Nauroth said the annual retreat is set for Tuesday, January 17, 2017, from 5 to 8 p.m. He also said the fourth annual Buy Local Campaign is going on through Dec. 15. The campaign is a cooperative venture by the Beatrice Education Association and the district and shows support for the local businesses. Nauroth also provided a brief update on teacher negotiations.

Student Update

Student Board Member Natalie Doering said that Stoddard Elementary is collecting food this week and on Dec. 19 students will be caroling for the Paddock Kensington residents. She also said that Beatrice Manor residents will be entertained by Paddock Lane students next week. Cedar Elementary is currently partnering with Twin Rivers to stuff the truck (food drive).

CBM testing is taking place in all elementary buildings.

The high school Limited Edition group made their tour to the other school buildings to perform its competition piece as well as some holiday songs. Basketball games have started for both boys and girls and the swim team has had some home meets. Wrestling has its first home wrestling meet next week.

The Leadership class hosted a movie night for students at the high school last week.

Committee of the Whole

Vice-President Jon Zimmerman said the Committee of the Whole heard an update on English and language arts. Middle school reading teachers Connie Thornburg and Sheryl Wiese and high school English teacher Meghan Robeson made the presentation. Curriculum Director Jackie Nielsen noted that at the high school level they will be switching from the NeSA to the ACT test.

High school assistant principal Bob Sexton and Police Officer Zac Lauenstein shared information on random drug testing. They will begin creating a task force to draft a policy on testing for board approval. If the policy is approved a vendor will need to be selected.

Nauroth also shared information on naming rights and the need for the gym floor when it is redone. The administration was directed to continue researching the possibility of naming rights.

Information on an additional extended learning grant was shared by Business Manager John Brazell. The grant includes

funding for curriculum and if the pilot program is successful then it would likely become a “best practices model” for others to follow.

Finally an update on the elementary bond and how to move on was discussed.

School Community & Staff Relations Committee

School Board member Janet Byars said the committee met with high school staff on Dec. 2. Drug testing was the topic of discussion. Questions regarding a timeline for implementation, the selection process, as well as the development of the policy were asked.

Action Agenda

The board approved the Beatrice Education Foundation’s application for the NDE Innovation Grant Phase I to support expanded learning opportunity design challenge with Nebraska Extension.

Next Meeting

The next committee of the whole meeting will be Jan. 26 at 6 p.m. at the Central Administration Building. The next Board of Education meeting will be on Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Central Administration Building.



Fifth grade students Colton Herfel and Emma Engelman, along with their teacher Colter Mattson and Principal Teresa Smith talk to the board about their efforts to encourage participation in the Stuff the Truck food drive. Students at Cedar school donated 916 cans to the Food Drive held in conjunction with Twin Rivers Chrysler Jeep Dodge.

Beatrice Public Schools Board of Education

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

Board of Education

Jan. 26, 6 p.m.
Committee of the Whole Meeting

Feb. 13, 7 p.m.
Board of Education Meeting