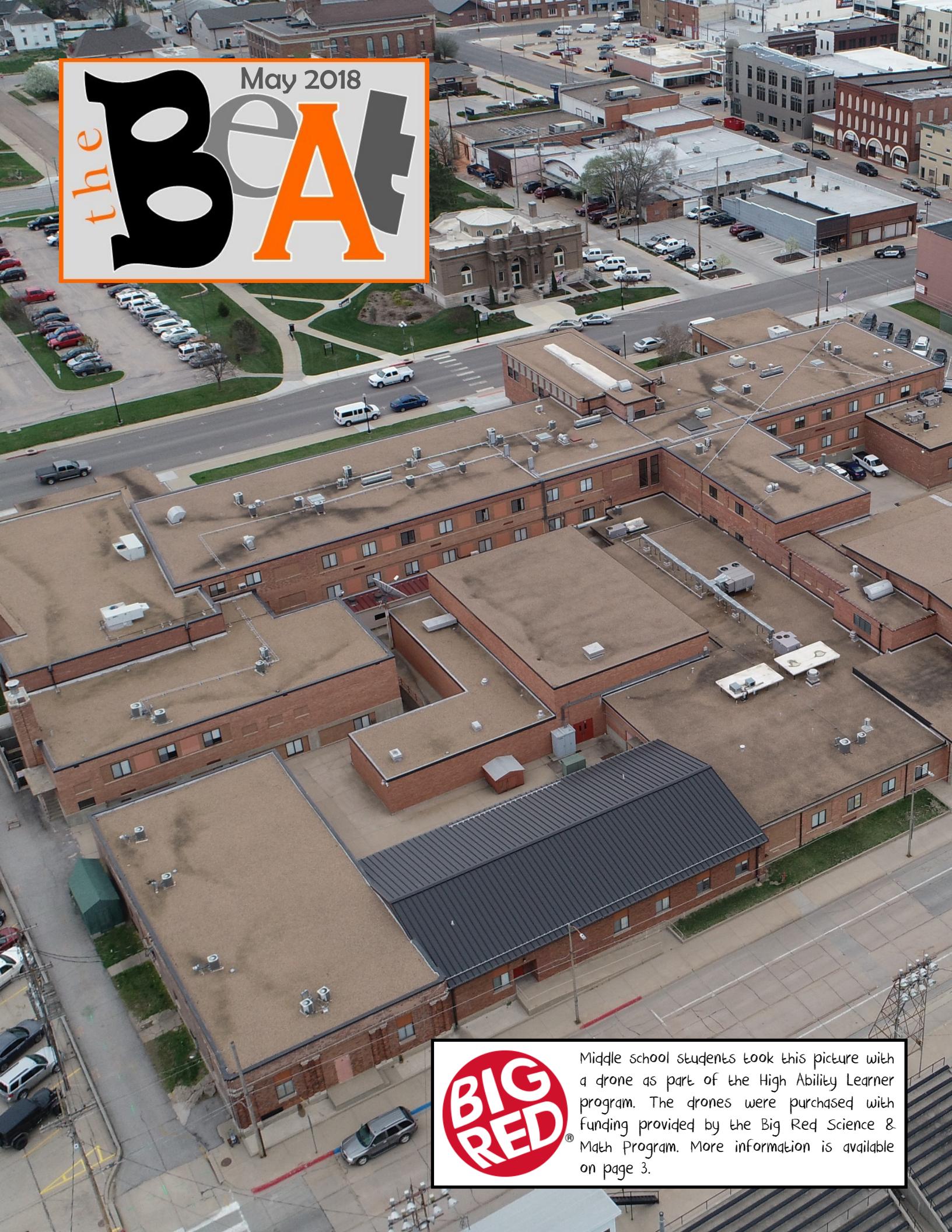


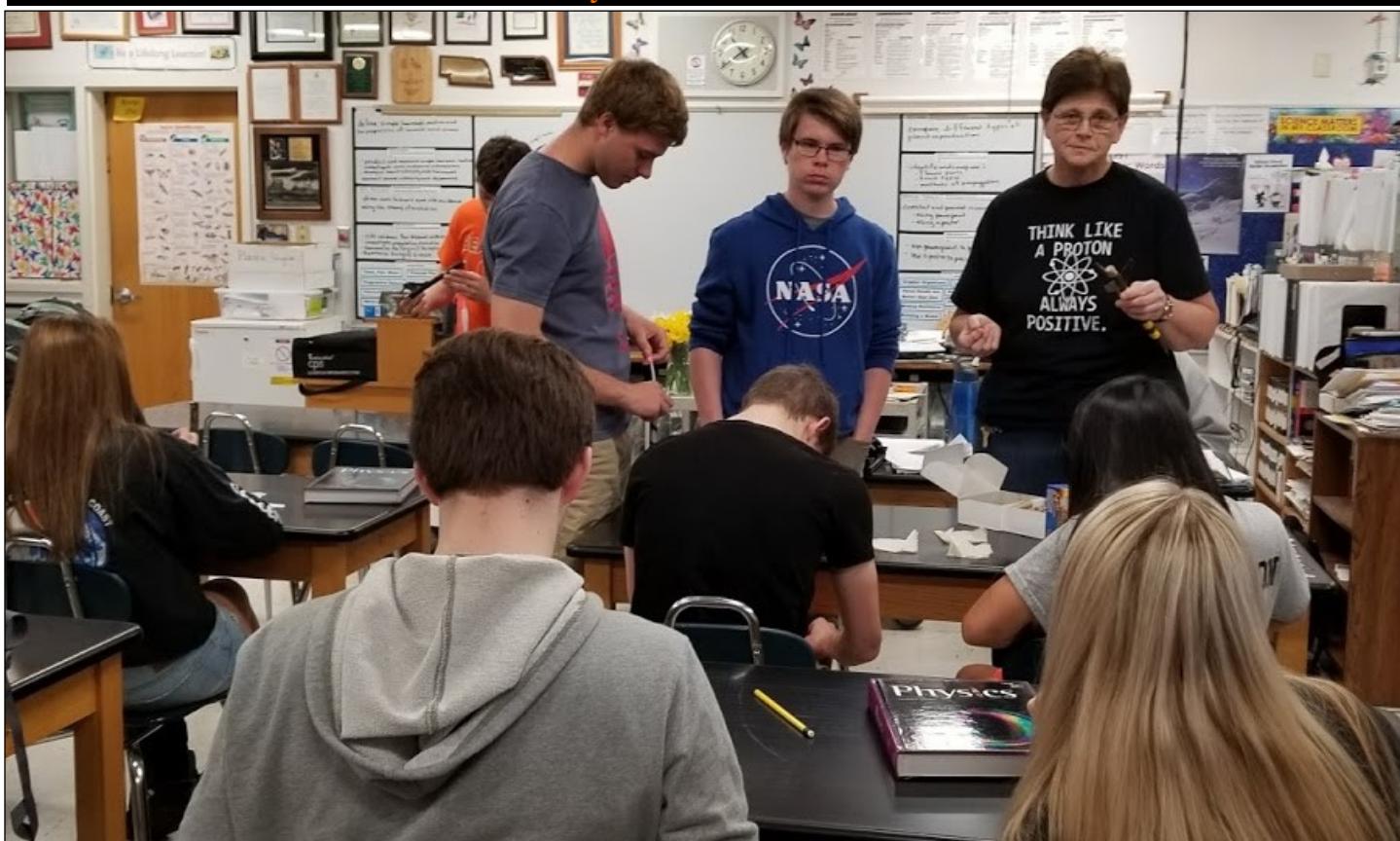


May 2018



Middle school students took this picture with a drone as part of the High Ability Learner program. The drones were purchased with funding provided by the Big Red Science & Math Program. More information is available on page 3.

Employee of THE month



(above) Dr. Joan Christen demonstrates how to get a rocket ready to launch. (below) Christen uses many hands on activities in her classes that make learning fun.

Christen named Employee of the Month

Dr. Joan Christen was the April employee of the month.

"Dr. Joan Christen is an exceptional science teacher at Beatrice High School," said the nominator, "Dr. Christen inspires and prepares students for college in her wide variety of classes. Many students are able to take her classes for dual-credit. These classes along with research assignments allow Beatrice students to be a step ahead as they continue their education in college. Dr. Christen advises students to apply critical thinking as they work on research projects. Each year she takes many students to compete in a competition which some of these students have advanced to the National Convention."

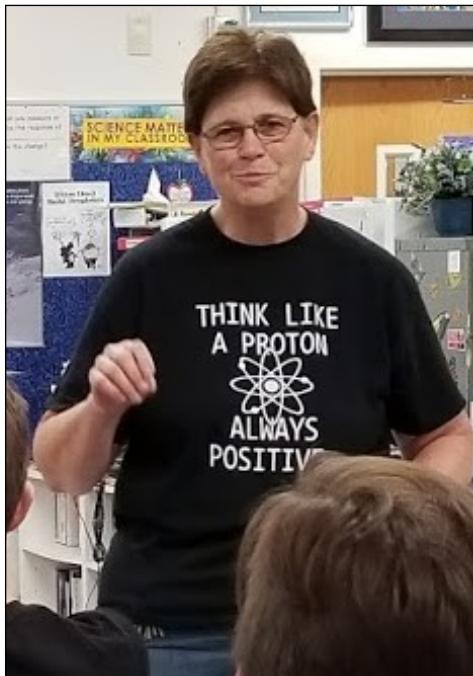
Many of these student's research projects are completed in the high school green house. The green house, along with the arboretum and an aquarium, were acquired through Dr. Christen taking time to write and apply for grants. She has also

written grants to upgrade equipment in the department. Some of the new high school Maker Space equipment is because of her grants. Truly, this has made

a significant impact on education for students at BHS.

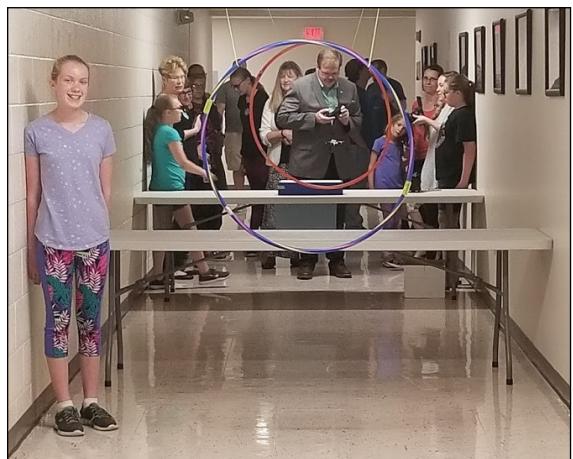
In addition to her teaching duties, Dr. Christen is the head sponsor of a club that manages the greenhouse including the plant watering and heating systems. The club members sell poinsettias in December and a variety of plants in the spring. These sales, along with fruit sales, help support senior scholarships and the annual spring overnight Henry Doorly Zoo Trip. This year 67 students joined Dr. Christen for the zoo trip.

"The time, willingness, and initiative Dr. Christen takes to improve and update our science curriculum is unprecedented," said the nominator. "She not only is an outstanding teacher but also a person of character. She cares about the students and motivates them to go beyond their abilities. Beatrice Public Schools is blessed to have an employee who goes above and beyond to promote the education of our youth."



Big Red Science & Math Grant

Carlson, Niss help students explore the world of drones



Middle school HAL students fly drones. The grant from the Big Red Science and Math Program allowed students to showcase projects that used a variety of drones in different ways. At the public program on May 14 sixth grade students guided participants through interactive challenges with mini-drones while seventh grade students presented projects developed with community partners using GPS-guided drone technology. Three students along with curriculum director Dr. Jackie Nielsen presented a program to the board. The teachers were Derek Niss and Steve Carlson.

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

Seitz makes her mark in finance



"I came to the Beatrice Public School system as a ninth grade student from a small country school east of Beatrice. There were three of us in the eighth grade class so you can imagine what a culture shock I had that first year! There were well over 260 ninth grade students and I was fortunate to have a couple friends who took me under their wings and some very caring teachers. As our class moved to the senior high school, we together learned the ropes as the underclass group and had some wonderful teachers, so many of them no longer with us. During those years, our friendships built into lifelong relationships and next summer we will get together for our fiftieth class reunion. My initial career path was to teach typing and shorthand (thanks to Wilma Sawyer and Marian Rist) and I then decided to pursue opportunities in the financial services field which is still where I am today."

June (Fossler) Seitz



**Beatrice Public Schools All-Stars
June Seitz, class of 1969**

June Seitz is first vice-president and an investment officer at the Beatrice Branch of Wells Fargo Advisors.

"Helping clients with the many questions they might have concerning their financial life, retirement choices, and other life events has given me the opportunity to build some wonderful friendships during my career," said Seitz.

Prior to joining an investment company she was a vice-president at Beatrice National Bank and worked in lending, client insurance needs, and the trust department of the bank handling estates, conservatorships, and guardianships.

Both positions have been supportive of her community involvement which is important to Seitz. She has been involved with the new library building capital campaign, the YMCA building renovation campaign, and the new hospital Foundation fundraiser as

the building was completed. In addition, she serves as the co-chair of the Veterans Memorial Park project and the Beatrice Community Hospital

Health Systems Board of Directors.

"We all have an opportunity to make our community a better place for the families that

live here. My thanks to Beatrice Public Schools and our community for making this a great place to raise a family."



First Vice-President June Seitz in the Beatrice offices of Wells Fargo Advisors.

Board approves building lease for Compass program

Dr. Joan Christen, high school science teacher, was recognized by Principal Jason Sutter as the April Employee of the Month. She received \$50 in Chamber Bucks.

Sutter also recognized Michaela Jones for her all-state basketball selections. She was selected to the Class B first team and the Super-State second team.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pat Nauroth said the legislative season was on day 57 of a 60 day session and are continuing to try and work out some type of bill to address property tax relief and school funding.

Student Update

Student member Colton Gronewold said the ACT testing for juniors was completed last week. Sophomores took a pre-ACT test, and freshmen had a fun, learning day. On April 10 the Doane choir is coming. Students are finishing the last few chapters and are preparing for finals.

Committee of the Whole

Doris Martin, vice-president, said the following topics were discussed at the February Committee of the Whole including the Monsanto Grant by Dr. Christen, psychological services special

education director Beth Cordry-Hookstra, Beatrice Educational Foundation office and budget projections by business manager John Brazell, and the elementary structure/configuration by elementary principals Kevin Janssen and Betty Replode.

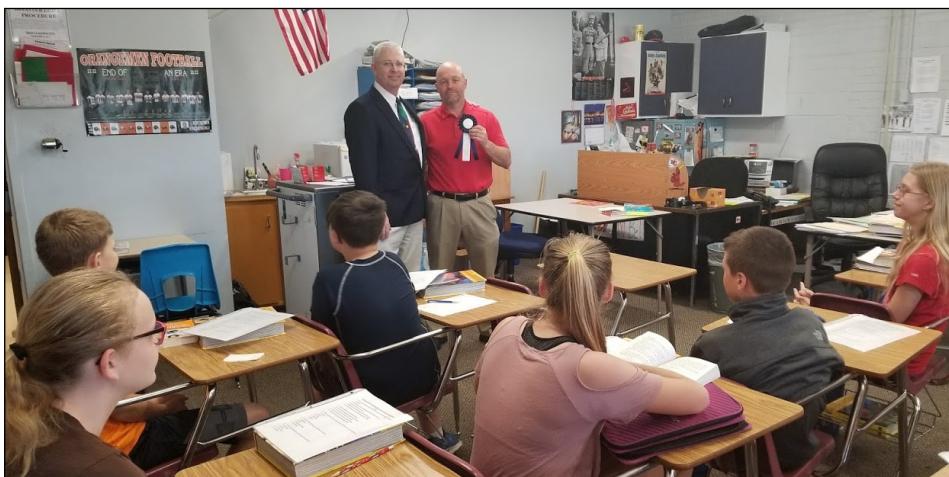
STANCE Report

Board member Steve Winter provided brief updates on LB947 and LB1103. LB947 was introduced on behalf of the Governor and would deliver over \$4 billion in property tax relief over 10 years for Nebraska's ag producers and families. LB1103 would require state government to pay 25 percent of the basic education costs of each local school district.

School, Community, & Staff Relations Committee

Board member Janet Byars said the school, community and staff relations committee met on March 14 at the Preschool and on March 23 at Paddock Lane. The topics discussed at the preschool meeting included the outdoor classroom, speech improvements, elementary restructuring and the successful transition to a single-site. The majority of the conversation at the Paddock Lane meeting revolved around the elementary restructuring options and behavioral issues.

Bell named favorite teacher



Business Manager John Brazell presents sixth grade English teacher Dave Bell with the Gage County's Favorite Teacher ribbon.

Action Agenda

The board approved the building lease for the Compass program. Brazell noted that the lease includes a significant cost reduction for the coming year.

The board also heard second reading on certified job descriptions and first reading on classified personnel job descriptions.

Administrators' Report

Senior high principal Jason Sutter shared a handout with board members that contained information on the recent testing day. He noted that they made changes to the testing day schedule after running short staffed and experiencing some technology issues with MAP testing the previous year. Sutter shared that about eight staff members spent time with the freshmen class with activities and some speakers during the morning followed by a viewing of the movie, *Wonder*. He said the movie tied back to the high school mission statement and included clear, positive messages about choosing kindness, appreciating everyone for who they are, true friendships, empathy and perseverance. Sutter said he received positive response on the "Character Counts" day and felt it worked very well.

Next Meetings

A Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on at 6 p.m. May 24 at the Administration Building. The next board meeting will be on June 11 at 7 p.m. in the Central Administration Building.

Beatrice Public Schools Board of Education

Janet Byars, Treasurer

Doris Martin, Vice-President

Lisa Pieper

Nancy Sedlacek

Steve Winter

Jon Zimmerman, President

Pat Nauroth, Superintendent