

Beatrice Public Schools



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.”

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

Strategy: We will develop and implement plans to provide and maintain the facilities necessary to complete our mission.

Specific Result: We will develop and

Bond Election Tax Calculator

A tax calculator is provided below that may be used to help you estimate your tax increase. Please fill out the Taxable Valuation field and select "Calculate" to find your tax increase.

Tax Impact Calculator
Taxable Valuation:
Proposed Bond Levy: \$.001626

Your estimated tax increase is: \$ 186.99 per year

The Bond Election Tax Calculator can be found at <http://www.beatricepublicschools.org/> and makes it easy to determine exactly what the bond election will cost based on your property.

implement a solution to long range physical plant needs for Beatrice Public Schools elementary/pre-school/SPED facilities.

Approximately four years ago, as a result of its strategic planning process, Beatrice Public Schools began looking at elementary facilities. In that time the District has: completed a comprehensive review of the existing four elementary buildings, considered different construc-

tion options, engaged the community through numerous meetings, conducted surveys, determined the most appropriate building option, purchased land, and voted to move forward with a bond election. The Beatrice Public School's website www.beatricepublicschools.org/ provides a comprehensive review of the events leading up to this point and factual information voters will find helpful in preparing for the upcoming vote.

West named Employee of the Month

Syndee West was the September employee of the month.

“Syndee is one of the most kindhearted, soft spoken, people I have ever met,” said her nominator. “Her classroom is always full of learning and the students love her. Syndee is extremely caring and compassionate. Her body gestures and facial expressions always express concern and understanding with her students. She cares for each one of them as her own and is always a wonderful advocate for them. Her students are constantly learning and are always engaged in what they are doing in the classroom. Even though her students are constantly busy academically, there is flow and harmony in her room because she is so easy going, organized, and fun. She just makes you feel at ease when you are around her. She has excellent management skills as



Syndee West in her classroom at Paddock Lane.

well. Her parents and students know the expectations and follow through with tasks regularly.

Not only does she run the ACP 2 classroom like a well-oiled machine, but she works at Mosaic with former students after her job at Paddock Lane is done. The love for her students is evident in everything she does. She is also a wonderful coworker. She is always willing to lend an ear and offer advice. She isn't afraid to ask questions and is constantly expanding her knowledge for the sake of her students. She is very easy to work with and a joy to be around.

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Taking a Close Look

HAL Programs Reading Classics Leadership Beatrice Special Olympics
Student Board Representative Community Service Graduation Requirement
Circle of Friends Science Enrichment Incentive Study Hall

Take a **closer** look!

Focusing on Unique Opportunities at

BPS

Students in Beatrice Public Schools have a number of opportunities to explore their interests. These opportunities are a result of dedicated teachers, community members willing to share their talents and students eager to participate in these activities.

Opportunities for students include (clockwise) National History Day, Leadership Class, Washington, D.C. trip, Circle of Friends Class, and Reading Classics Team.



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

Stindt's latest project is for the Jaguars



In the early 80's, the classes we took at Beatrice High School are what kids today take as college prep courses and now earn college credit for... Math, Science, Languages, English, etc... all prepared me for college at Kansas State University. Mr. Tubb's Chemistry Class was so good that I helped tutor other kids in College Chemistry... even though I was not taking College Chemistry! I was probably a B-student in my high school core classes, but excelled in art, drafting and enjoyed sports. I went out for any sport I could to avoid "farming" chores on our family farm. Beatrice taught students to work hard, overcome disappointment and treat your classmates and teachers with respect. All great life lessons from the "Heart of America". Our teachers cared deeply for us and the friendships I made in high school continue still today. Kids may not know it yet, but when they graduate from Beatrice, they can go anywhere with the skills they have earned. To this day, the principles which Beatrice teaches and for which our country was founded on- respecting others and working hard- are in demand by employers across the country. With all of my studies, here in the United States and abroad in Italy, the most impressive thing to my first employer was where I came from, Beatrice, Nebraska, the Heart of our Country where people work hard on farms. Back then, I was surprised, now I know why when I assist in hiring new employees. The importance of hard work and respect for others were the most important traits I learned in high school.



Beatrice Public Schools All-Stars
Ben Stindt, class of 1982

Ben Stindt has been an architect for 23 years, is LEED-certified and has licenses in six states. He is currently a Principal at Populous in Kansas City, Missouri and has been the lead designer on many NFL and collegiate football stadiums. He has also designed training facilities for collegiate and NFL clients but the project closest to his heart is right here in Beatrice.

"One of the most rewarding projects in my life was designing Beatrice High School's new football stadium back in 2012, House of Orange! Not for what you might think. There were no suites, no high-end finished clubs or multi-million dollar video boards. The most heartwarming memory for me was the generosity of the community in rising up and raising the money for this new stadium. In a time of a recession, when people were struggling to keep family farms and small businesses going, the people of Beatrice reached down deep to find the money and to volunteer their time to make the "House of Orange" a reality. I tell this story in many interviews today for the 10's to 100's of million dollar projects.

That project was about the people and community, not the architects that designed it. That alone is what makes me proud. My late father, "Coach Stindt", who was a teacher and coach at Beatrice High School would be proud of the community for this as well. He knew that Beatrice would need a new stadium some-

day and wanted me to help make it happen. Our family dedicated the stadium to our dad, Bennet J. Stindt, as a reminder of the importance of a positive attitude and to show the impact you can make on your community.

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Ben Stindt is the lead designer on the Jacksonville Jaguars Amphitheater and Flex Field in Jacksonville, Florida. It is scheduled to be competed in 2017.

Stake Your Claim

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My dad taught his family, as well as the current high school staff, to respect your community, the janitors and maintenance staff that keep the facilities beautiful, the bus drivers who keep everyone safe, the community businesses that supply the schools' needs, and the teachers and support staff who make it possible for everyone to reach your dreams. Coach Stindt knew everyone by their first names, a simple life lesson in mutual respect," added Stindt.

The House of Orange was designed by Ben Stindt and was dedicated on Sept. 13, 2012.



Support staff help students find success

Thirty-two support staff members have joined the school system since last August.

Cedar

Hali McKinney, Para
Ashley Mentgen-Duff, Preschool

Lincoln

Sherrie Laverack, Cafeteria

Paddock Lane

Jennifer Beach, Title Para
Ania Becker, Sped Para
Gyra Dienstbier, Cafeteria
Megan Hoeft, Preschool Para
Jessica Schmidt, Preschool Para
Megan Schulz, Preschool Para

Kala York, Sped Para
Crystal Bartels, Preschool Para

Stoddard

Monica Passmore, Title Para

Southeast Community Preschool

Amanda Hoover, Preschool Para
Cindy Miley, Preschool Para
Halle Oliver, Preschool Para
Kimberly Rademacher, Preschool Para
Debra Rukes, Preschool Para

Middle School

Chelrae Cuevas, 1 on 1 Para
Darlene Moll, Cafeteria
Craig Uglow, Custodian
Carolyn Cherry, Para/Clerical

Corey Edeal, Custodian
Bonnie Jurgena, Cafeteria
Terra Wiese, Media Center para

High School

Samantha Becker, Cafeteria
Joni Bruhn, Secretary
Rebecca Jobman, Cafeteria
Connie Jones, Para
Tiffanie Schley, BD and TRANS Para
Beth Engels, Music Para
Melissa Oakes, Sped Para

District Offices

Renee Griffeth, Secretary
Teresa Vanover, Admin/Student Programs Secretary

West

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Syndee has some of the highest needs students in our school, but she is always happy and has the same expectations for them that she does all of her students. Without her, those students wouldn't be where they are today and this thought is reiterated by the many students and parents who continue to share their success stories because of her instruction and guidance."

Syndee West works with students in her classroom at Paddock Lane.



District receives Governor's Wellness Award

Sydnee West was named the September Employee of the Month. She received a plaque and \$50 in Beatrice Bucks.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Pat Nauroth told the Board that the district's application for the Governor's Wellness Award was approved at the Sower level. He said the award recognizes those businesses that implement a comprehensive worksite health promotion initiative that positively affects the health and productivity of the organization. The designation is valid for three years. Business Manager John Brazzell will accept the award at a banquet later in the month.

Nauroth also shared information on two elementary bond issue items. First, he noted that busing is a topic of concern that comes up frequently.

Student Update

Student Board Member Natalie Doering said the school year is in full swing. She said there is a fine arts concert in the Hevelone Center tomorrow night, and a kid's cheer clinic on Sept. 30. Homecoming activities in early October include a pink out at volleyball on Oct. 4 and coronation after the football game on Oct. 7. She added that students are preparing for all-state auditions and the marching band is preparing for competition. She also said class officers will be elected at the high school next week.

Committee of the Whole

Vice-President Jon Zimmerman said the Committee of the Whole listened to a

brief policy update.

The elementary facility was the next topic of discussion. Pat Phelan from DLR shared a handout on primary options, along with estimated project budgets for each. Marc Mumford from Ameritas shared some very preliminary bond numbers. A discussion on the needs of the district ensued.

A budget review was provided by Brazzell. He noted that valuations increased by 3.91 percent and state aid decreased by \$401,722. He also noted the first preschool expansion grant ended. Overall, the budget reflects a 1.27 percent increase in expenses. Brazzell noted that the district should end the current fiscal year with about \$500,000 more in revenue than expenditures.

During public comments, Jenny Hanshaw and Fran Martin addressed the board.

School Community & Staff Relations Committee

School Board member Janet Byars said the committee met at Cedar Elementary on Aug. 24. The groups discussed preschool enrollment numbers, kindergarten class size, and a possible after-school program which the Beatrice Educational Foundation is looking into. The group then divided into smaller groups to gather information and feedback on placing a bond issue for a single site elementary on the November ballot.

Action Agenda

The board heard second readings on a number of policies and approved the Spe-

cial Education Contract with ESU 5 for the 2016-17 school year.

The board also approved the 2016-17 budget as presented. The property tax request was also approved.

Administrators' Report

High school principal Jason Sutter shared information about the College Access Grant which the school received for a second time. The first grant was received in 2010. The high school will receive \$10,000 a year between 2016 and 2020. He said the main goal of the grant is to once again increase the college going rate by 10 percent by the end of the four years. The grant money may be used for transportation to college fairs, guest speaker, local manufacturing tours and other activities and college programs.

The board also approved a vote for Patti Bentzinger as the Region 1 Director for the NASB Board of Directors.

Next Meetings

The next meeting of the Committee of the Whole will be on Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. in the Central Administration Building. The next board meeting will be on Nov. 14 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 Meetings

Oct. 27, 6 p.m.
Committee of the Whole Meeting
Nov. 14, 7 p.m.
Board of Education Meeting



Superintendent Pat Nauroth congratulates Natalie Doering after she is sworn in as the new student board member.