



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: We will ensure effective communication in order to unite all members of our partnership in achieving our mission and objectives.

Specific Result: Implement a technology system that uses 21st Century tools to effectively communicate with all members of our partnership.

James Paul, technology assistant, gets a laptop computer ready for a staff member.



Over the summer the district’s technology infrastructure was overhauled, every school has at least one computer lab and Chromebooks for students, and teachers are provided with inservice training. In addition a para position was added at the

senior high so media specialist Carol Oltman could help teachers incorporate technology into their classes. Media specialist Karen Dittbrenner helps teachers incorporate technology at the middle school.

Lincoln staff honored for quick response

The October employee of the month was different from other months. For the month of October, the district recognized a staff for going above and beyond when a problem arose. The nomination read, “On Sunday, Sept. 21, the water valve broke on the fire sprinkler system sending water into three different areas including the second grade classroom, music room, and Title I room. A message was sent out about rearranging the classes on Monday for the second grade and the music room. When teachers received the email Sunday afternoon, they showed up to help clean up the mess. The teachers were not called up to assist; however, they rose to the challenge when the disaster hit.

We would like to recognize the Lincoln Elementary staff and honor them as the staff of the month for October.”



Karen Gartner, Susan Wait, Principal Theresa Smith, Betty Bstandig, Debbie Hermance, Michelle Pryor, Janice Jurgens, and Julie Stuart are some of the Lincoln staff members that helped with the cleanup.

October 28

Support staff busy according to the numbers

Each day the 2,144 students attending Beatrice Public Schools are helped by secretaries, paraprofessionals, custodians, cooks, and nurses. The support staff is a vital element in the educational process. “It takes everyone, working together, to provide our children with a quality education. Many times our support staff are the ones that interact first with children, parents and community. Our District is fortunate to have great people at all levels who love working with children. I am so thankful for everything they do,” said Superintendent Pat Nauroth.

On Oct. 28 they were asked to keep track of the number of ways they served students. This resulted in an unscientific, but interesting, look at one day in the life of the support staff at Beatrice Public Schools. Several said they were so busy answering questions and answering phones they lost count. Some provided additional information which is included. When reviewing this information it is important to keep in mind that this is just a small percentage of the support staff.

School Secretaries

Answer Door: 102 (2 respondents)
Phone Calls: 164 (4 respondents)
Questions: 112 (1 respondent)

Board Office

Phone Calls: 38 (3 respondents)
Invoices: 50 (1 respondent)
Emails: 20 (1 respondent)

Food Service

Breakfast: 410
Lunches: 1545
Parochial Lunch: 87
Adult Lunch: 31
Specialty Salads: 10
Grandparents: 5

Custodians

Rooms Cleaned: 36
(2 respondents)

Paraprofessionals

Phone Calls: 42 (3 respondents)
Questions: 117 (5 respondents)
Books Checked Out: 115
(1 respondent)
Substitutes: 14

School Nurses

Visits: 181 (3 respondents)
Phone Calls: 57 (3 respondents)

Bus

Buses drove 596 miles

New Support Staff

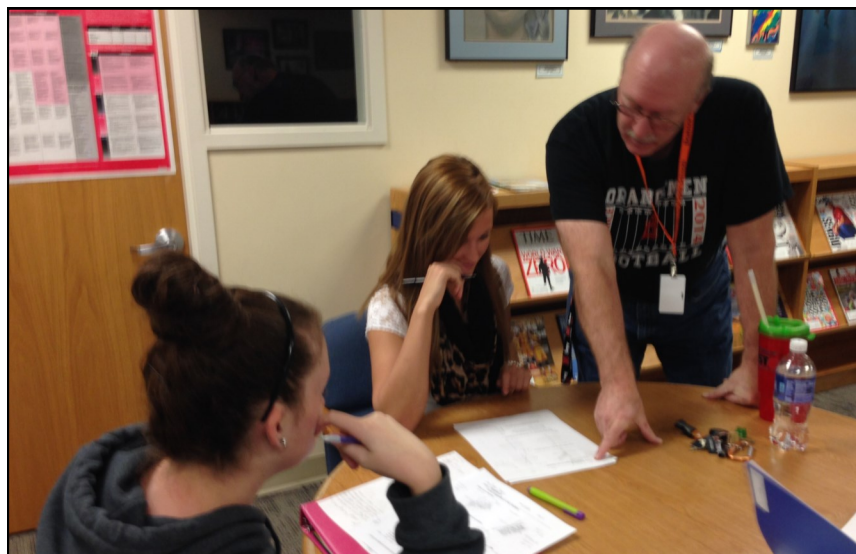
Becky Dorn, SPED Para Educator
Gerald Higgins, High School Custodian
Jessica Barnes, SPED Para Educator
Sharon Streeter, SPED Para Educator
Michael Urbaschek,
High School Custodian
Chris Cullison, Maintenance
Marilyn Ideus, Preschool Nutrition Para
Scott Kovar, High School Custodian
Jason Thavenet, Middle School Custodian
Tammy Waltke, Secretary
Amber Gill, SPED Para Educator
Tammy Collins, High School Cafeteria
Dave Rosenbaum, Media Para Educator
Jo Newman, SPED Para Educator
Judy Turbville,
Preschool SPED Para Educator

Maureen Klein, Cedar Breakfast
April Logston, Cedar Breakfast
Selene Knobel, SPED Para Educator
Gaylene Thatcher, Lincoln Cafeteria
Laci Kleveland, SPED Para Educator
Kathy Casey, Preschool SPED Para
Lindsay Blood, Para Educator
Ruth Bartholomew, Cedar Cafeteria
Beth Rohr, Preschool SPED Para
Gene Scholl, Middle School Cafeteria
Lexi Arena, SPED Para Educator
Amanda Johnson, SPED Para Educator
Jill Fuller, Middle School Cafeteria
Charla Albritton, SPED Para Educator
Carol Wolter, Preschool SPED Para



Students board a bus at the middle school..

October 28



(top left) Paddock Lane secretary Julie Harris keeps busy answering the phone, monitoring the door, and answering questions from students, teachers, and parents. (top right) Custodian Ben Nies unpacks paper to move to the main building. (above) Para educator Amanda Johnson works in Kari Laflin's room. (left) High School Media Center paraprofessional Dave Rosenbaum helps students. (center left) Middle School Media Center paraprofessional Erin Reimer works with a student on a math assignment.

Graduate says BPS was a difference maker



The start of the school year stirs me a bit each August, even decades after having been a student myself and several years removed from seeing my son off to new teachers and classrooms.

Every school year, in retrospect, felt a little like a new job, a move, a reunion, a challenge — markers of growth in life that have stuck with me. Most importantly, those years and changes taken collectively lifted me from poverty and afforded me a really good version of the American dream.

I don't want to get out the violins here, but I did grow up poor. Into the early '70s, my dad paid \$40 a month rent for an old farmhouse on the edge of our small town. We didn't have an indoor toilet till we moved when I was 14.

Based on income and other factors — my older brother went to prison for assault when I was 12 after he had a number of other scrapes with the law

— I probably would have been considered an at-risk child, had the term been in use at the time.

Fortunately, I was eligible for the greatest social program ever devised: the American public education system.

My parents were beneficiaries of the same program. They grew up on Nebraska dirt farms, finished high school during the Depression and didn't get a lot of breaks after that. But they had good educational foundations. Mom, in particular, was an avid reader.

Then I had seven other moms, one a year through sixth grade, elementary school teachers in Beatrice, Nebraska, who enabled big dreams, not the least of which was making me believe I could go to college. By the time I was in junior high, my economic status had become motivation to succeed.

I remained in public schools through getting my bachelor's at the University of Nebraska. That education enabled me to have a rewarding career and live and travel all around America, to hold my own in meetings with politicians and CEOs.

The public schools taught me to be an American, too, a critically important role they play in our society. In my eighth-grade social studies class, we read the entire U.S. Constitution aloud, one paragraph at a time, and discussed the passages.

Today, public education is increasingly challenged by a range of social and political forces. The schools face hostility from some lawmakers and policy makers, and suffer from our growing unwillingness to invest in our country's future, from roads to children.

America is not the land of infinite plenty it once seemed to be — growth is harder, resources are scarcer, the world is more confusing, dangerous and competitive.

In many ways, our reaction as a society has been to grow stingier and more fearful. We collectively resist taxes and, it seems, are reluctant to share our country's still-great bounty with newcomers and the needy already among us. At times, it seems we have forgotten fundamental kindergarten lessons.

Against this tension and changes in society, public schools remain our greatest-ever social (and socialization) program and our greatest hope.

They still work, too.

Randy Essex is editor of the Post Independent in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. He graduated from Beatrice High School in 1976.

Board hears several reports at October meeting

Staff at Lincoln Elementary was named the November Employee of the Month. The staff received a plaque and \$50 in Beatrice Bucks.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pat Nauroth said the Beatrice Education Association is working with Main Street Beatrice and the Chamber to provide money and candy for the downtown Trick or Treating.

He also reviewed the proceedings associated with the elementary facilities.

GNSA/Legislative Update

Board members Mitch Deines and Andy Maschmann talked about the GNSA meeting on Sept. 10. They said much of the meeting was spent discussing hiring an Executive Director, designing a job description, and possible candidates suggested by the Executive Committee.

The group will also be working to increase its members.

Committee of the Whole

Board members heard a report on the music department by Dan Ehmke, elementary instrumental music, and John Francis, middle school instrumental music and vocal music. Ehmke said that the six instructors in the music department have a total of 140 years of experience.

The committee heard that the purpose of the K to 12 music curriculum is to provide opportunities for students to communicate, tell a story, preserve cultural traditions, explore dramas, move audiences, bring people together and express emotions.

Christina Lyons, Gage County MAPS Coalition and Jessica Cullison, president

of the Teammates Board attended the meeting and shared information about the TeamMates program. The TeamMates program was implemented at Beatrice Public Schools in 1998. Currently Beatrice Public Schools has 32 active matches and six male students who are in need of a male mentor.

School Community & Staff Relations

Board member Nancy Sedlacek reported on the meeting at Stoddard Elementary. Staff members talked about new activities including Sneak Peak when parents could come in before the start of the year to see their child's classroom.

The staff felt that the recent Response to Intervention meeting on demographics was very useful.

Staff was concerned about the number of students in the third grade classroom and wondered if the district would ever look at adding a section. Staff said more equal class sizes would be an advantage of a single elementary.

Action Agenda

Nauroth explained a new policy needs to be in place before the district hires a Construction Manager at Risk. A second reading will be at the special meeting on Oct. 20 and then approval at the special meeting on Oct. 27. This would allow the Board of Education to hire the Construction Manager before the December break and let the board move as fast or slow on the project as they would choose.

Administrators' Report

Jason Sutter, high school principal, shared with the board a couple of new approaches that have been taken to help students earn credits to stay on track for graduation. For example, this past summer they offered four students who would be seniors who would be at risk not to graduate, the opportunity to earn credits through a work opportunity. The four students earned 50 credits over the summer and now are on task to graduate. He said this program is only for students in danger of not graduating with their class.

Kraus, middle school principal, shared that Lincoln Attorney Karen Haase would speak to students about bullying and the dangers of social media on Oct. 16.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be on Nov. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Central Administration Office.

The next Board of Education meeting will be Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. at the Central Administration Office.

Beatrice Public Schools Board of Education

Janet Byars
Mitch Deines
Doris Martin
Andy Maschmann
Dave Niedfeldt
Lisa Pieper, President
Nancy Sedlacek
Steve Winter
Jon Zimmerman, Vice-President
Pat Nauroth, Superintendent

Board of Education Meetings

Dec. 8, 7 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting

Nov. 24, 7 p.m.

Committee of the Whole Meeting



Keep track of what is going on in Beatrice Public Schools.

Go to <http://beatricepublicschools.org/vcalendar/>

for dates and times of upcoming events

in the know

www.beatricepublicschools.org