



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 communications system that builds trust through

honesty and transparency among all members of our partnership.

Action Step: Create a system of accountability for board, administrators, staff and students, e.g., model trustworthiness and do what you say you are going to do.

The high school recently implemented a new Friday schedule. It ends the week at 2:45 for students that are passing all classes but provides time with teachers for students that are struggling.

“It is an intervention time to assist students who are struggling with a subject to get help from their teacher. It also provides an opportunity for students who miss school because of activities or illness, to have time to make up labs, quizzes or tests,” said media specialist Carol Oltman. She helped develop the program.

Principal Jason Sutter agreed. “We have used the pilot schedule to assist our students in many ways. It has been a positive for students that need more assistance in their

classes, who may be not successful in their classes and for students who need to make up time for a class or work individually with a teacher. We have seen many students who are doing well in classes use the extra time to work on scholarships, college applications, seek assistance from staff and explore new learning. It has been successful in many ways, but has had a direct impact on the number of students and classes that are below proficiency. We have more students passing classes now than when we started the pilot schedule. It has been effective in providing more time and more focus to many of our students.”

“We will look at our overall data, present that to the school board and highly consider continuing the schedule next school year. I believe that many of our staff feel it is working for our desired outcomes, and it really appears to be helping students, which is our main cause for the program,” added Sutter.

Paul takes care of technology for district

The April employee of the month is James Paul, one of the district’s technology support personnel.

James Paul performs his job with knowledge, patience and consideration for others. He never complains about what he has to do, or some of the questions he gets from the staff. James is probably one of the nicest people I know!

James Paul goes out of the way to get staff technology back up and running. Staff members are not afraid to call him knowing that he will drop what he is doing to help out. He has helped implement some things that makes getting computers imaged and out to the buildings much faster.

James Paul knows what he's doing and always pays attention to the details.

He is extremely dependable and as stated above will help a teacher out whenever he/she may need help. If a staff member needs help with a very simple question, James will answer it professionally and will work with the staff member until he/she understands the concept, even if it means discussing the concept more than once.

His willingness to drop everything and help out others (even if they have not filled out a help-desk ticket) is why he deserves to be recognized as employee of the month.

James always has a smile on his face and a kind greeting for every person he meets. He is a huge asset to the BPS Team!



James Paul spends time in his office getting computers ready for staff and students when he is not taking care of technology issues at schools throughout the district.

'It is the philosophy of Beatrice Public Schools that a preplanned and organized approach is more effective in reducing psychological and social difficulties following a crisis in a school.'

District 15 Security and Crisis Plan

Safety

Beatrice puts student, staff safety first

The district's plans for keeping students and staff safe are found in the Security and Crisis Response Plan. It was developed with suggested guidelines and procedures to deal with a number of crises that could occur in the district including lockdowns, evacuations, tornado and disaster drills, school disturbances, and other situations which could impact student and staff safety.

For example, the district has installed cameras at front entrances of all buildings and the buildings are locked once school starts in the morning.

Each year all schools conduct fire drills, tornado drills and bus evacuation drills. When looking at remodeling or building a new facility, the district includes the most up to date safety measures. The new elementary building includes a storm shelter using FEMA requirements as the standard.



(above) Cadet Aid Ian Doyle demonstrates how visitors enter Paddock Lane once the school day begins. The insert shows secretary Julie Harris with the monitor used to see visitors wanting to enter the building. All buildings in the district use this technology to keep students and staff safe. (below) The plans for a proposed Preschool through fifth grade building would have all visitors entering through a main entrance, where the administrative offices are located.



(above) Middle school students practice an emergency bus evacuation. (right) The design for a Preschool through fifth grade includes storm shelters. Because of when the current buildings were constructed, they do not have FEMA standard shelters.



Board approves new school bus purchase

James Paul, district technology assistant, was named the April Employee of the Month. He received a plaque and \$50 in Beatrice Bucks.

Three students were recognized for their basketball accomplishments; Ty Bardsley, Alex Cromer and Kim Higgins were all named to All-State teams.

The State Championship Reading Classic Team from Stoddard Elementary was also recognized. Members included Macy Gronewold, Riley Schwisow, Garret Rutherford, Mickey Zhu and Quentine Elliott. Fourth grade teacher Marion Wallen was the coach.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pat Nauroth said Pam Henning has been hired as the new assistant middle school principal.

He also said the district has provided reimbursement up to \$200 to Katilyn Messner and Krystina Billesbach to attend National Leadership Conferences this summer. The students will report to the board after attending the conferences.

Nauroth updated the board on the branding and marketing project. The feedback from the April 7 meeting was positive but there was some concern about the logo design options.

Student Update

Ian Doyle said there were many activities going on at Beatrice High School. Students have completed NeSA testing and the high school is piloting a new schedule on Fridays. He also said the Scholastic Banquet is April 25 and Orange and Black is on May 2.

GNSA/Legislative Update

Board member Andy Maschmann said

most of the time at the March 18 meeting was spent discussing the merging of LB182 (Create the School Funding and Educational Outcome Review Committee and LB323 (Create the School Financing Review Commission). Both of these bills were very similar and establish a School Finance Committee to study school finance. He said GNSA supports a School Finance Committee.

Committee of the Whole

Board member Jon Zimmerman said Curriculum Director Jackie Nielsen introduced Andrea Hermance, elementary social studies; Ben Essam and Michael Policky, middle school social studies; and Joan Doyle-Workman and Kyle Kolm, high school social studies. These instructors then presented enhancements they are using in the social studies curriculum.

Nauroth shared that building relationships is one of the main focus areas the administrative team had chosen for the district. It will also be a focus for staff next year.

Staff Relations Update

Board member Nancy Sedlacek said the School, Community and Staff Relations Committee met at the high school on April 12. Board members Janet Byars and Lisa Pieper also attended.

Principal Jason Sutter said the high school was running on the new pilot schedule. He also said students that made the third quarter honor roll were being recognized with a special lunch.

Allison Carothers and Chauncey Kleveland, members of the Science Club, talked to the committee about a recent

overnight trip they took to the Henry Doorly Zoo. They were allowed to see many behind the scene areas and the guides were very interesting. Science Club currently has 110 students. The sponsor is Dr. Joan Christen.

Sutter then introduced Alex Brown to demonstrate the new 3-D printer. School to Work coordinator Brenda Gronewold talked about her efforts to find summer work opportunities for students. Students in the new leadership class Mallory Humble, Cassidy Wrightsman, Jade Long, and Josh Crim shared what they had learned in this class about leadership.

Action Agenda

The board approved a number of policies dealing with the change to a six member board, Policy 1325 Rental Fees for School Facilities and Equipment and approved the purchase of a 2016 school bus for \$92,745.

Upcoming Meetings

The Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on May 28 at 6 p.m.

The next Board of Education meeting will be June 8 at 7 p.m.

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

May 28, 6 p.m.

Committee of the Whole Meeting

June 8, 7 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting



in the know

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

for dates and times of upcoming events

www.beatricepublicschools.org