



STRIVING TO BE AMONG THE BEST IN THE NATION

# BEATRICE SCHOOL NEWS

www.beatricepublicschools.org

## Elementary Facility – Bond Election

At a special meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Education approved a resolution by a 6/0 vote to hold a **September 15<sup>th</sup>** bond election. The 33.9 million bond is for the purpose of building a single site elementary facility that includes pre-K. The upcoming bond election begins the next chapter for Beatrice Public Schools and our community. Please contact central office with questions, or visit our website for additional information.

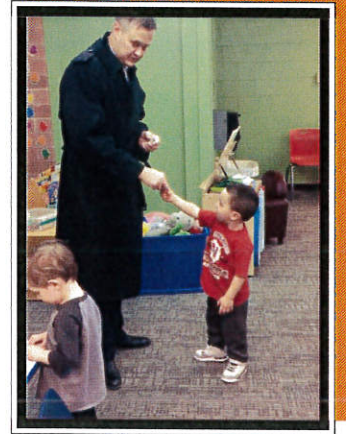


## Beatrice Community Preschool News

Beatrice Community Preschool is excited to expand our program to seven classrooms that include ten sessions of preschool for children ages 3 and 4.

- Cedar Elementary will house three all day 4-year-old classrooms
- Paddock Lane Elementary will house 3 and 4-year-old half day programs
- Southeast Community College will have one all day
- 4-year-old class and two sessions of half-day 3-year-old classes.

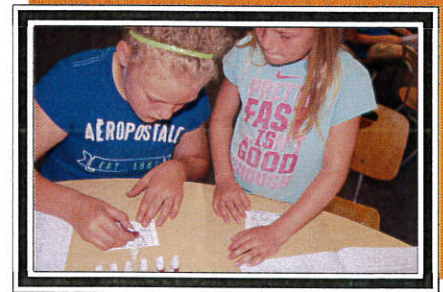
The District can offer quality hands-on, child based, play centered preschool to more children with the help of a \$280,000 expansion grant from the State of Nebraska. Our program will be able to serve a total of 185 students this coming school year. If you are interested in signing up your preschooler or learning more about our program, please call 402-223-1514.



## Summer Fun

Beatrice Public Schools revamped its summer school this year and offered the Best Possible Summer learning experience. We provided hands-on, engaging activities while weaving in the core principles of reading, math, science, and writing to help students focus more on applied learning. Each week, approximately 190 students were able to choose a session that sparked their interests. We partnered with the YMCA, the Humane Society, Homestead National Monument of America, UNL/ Gage County Extension Offices, and Southeast Community College. We look forward to extending those partnerships next summer, showcasing all Beatrice has to offer.

To view some outstanding activities from the Best Possible Summer Learning Experience, please visit the Beatrice Best Possible Summer Facebook page or our Google site: <https://sites.google.com/a/bpsnebr.org/best-possible-summer/>





## Elementary Facility Questions and Answers

During the process of determining if the Board of Education should run a bond election, the community asked many questions. You can read a few of those below, along with their answers.

**Q:** A school bond would be paid for by an increase in property taxes. What are the types of property being assessed along with the percentage of each to the total valuation?

**A:** According to the most recent valuation report (2014 Certified School Adjusted Value Report) the school district has just over one (1) billion in assessed valuation (1,028,013,689). The chart below shows the breakdown of the different types of property and the percentage of each to the total valuation.

2014 Certified School Adjusted Value Report (October 9, 2014)		
Property Classification	Valuation Amount	% of total valuation
Personal Property	39,659,565	3.86%
<u>Centrally Assessed</u>		
Personal Property	23,274,675	2.26%
Real	8,964,345	0.87%
Residential Real Property	503,791,932	49.01%
Comm. and Indust. Real Property	150,792,898	14.67%
Ag Improvmnts. and Farm sites	12,461,500	1.21%
Agricultural Land	289,068,774	28.12%
<b>Total Valuation</b>	<b>1,028,013,689</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Q:** If the bond issue passes, what will happen to the existing buildings?

**A:** The existing buildings would either be: 1) sold for an appropriate reuse, compatible with the neighborhoods or 2) demolished, and the property sold for redevelopment compatible with the neighborhoods.

**Q:** How will safety and security be addressed in the new building options?

**A:** The new school options will be constructed to provide a storm shelter in each of the four classroom neighborhoods. The proximity of the storm shelter areas to the students and staff are important for quick and easy access. The building will also be designed to have a secure main entrance (visitors allowed to enter the building only with school office staff permission).

**Q:** Does the facility have capacity for growth?

**A:** Yes, all options have accommodations for some modest growth. The school board has recommended that the project include two additional classrooms so as to provide at least seven classrooms per grade level and a total of 51 Pre K – 5 classrooms for all proposed options.

**Q:** What was the intended lifespan of the existing buildings?

**A:** The lifespan of the existing buildings is relative to program requirements and the degree of maintenance and repair performed over the life of the building. The existing elementary schools received good care and maintenance, but building systems like heating, ventilation, and air conditioning need updating every 25 – 30 years. Also, the educational programs being offered today require more space and different types of space than that of 60 years ago. A 60-year lifespan is a reasonable expectation; then major improvements are necessary for any building.

**Q:** What impact do new schools have on economic development?

**A:** In a review of research by Jonathan D. Weiss, he concludes the following:

*“While the research is emerging and difficult to measure, many studies have shown that public schools and school spending also impact state and local economies and can play a role in attracting business. By educating the future workforce, public schools help make states and localities more economically competitive. Also, as a basic industry, schools are major employers that have a short-term stimulus impact on state and local economies. Evidence suggests that the quality of public schools can also influence business site selection and labor location decisions.”*

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