



Heartland Community School

Henderson/Bradshaw

February 2011 Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Friends of Heartland Community Schools,

Promoting Heartland Community Schools is a responsibility we all have. A few years back, at our community meetings, several people commented that the best people to recruit students for Heartland Community Schools are parents. The board and administration hope each of you will do your part to talk with parents and students to encourage them to consider Heartland Community Schools as a place where they can receive a quality education. This includes current parents who might be considering optioning their students in or out of the Heartland District. It also could include current home schooled students who might consider Heartland. I believe we have an excellent educational system, thanks in large part to each of you as parents for your interest and commitment to Heartland Community Schools. March 15 is the deadline for students to option in or out of the Heartland District.

Why are we interested in more students? With smaller numbers, it becomes more difficult to continue to offer the quality program that we now have. Please do your part to help promote Heartland Community Schools – Henderson/Bradshaw.

The current legislators and the governor are talking a lot about the current financial situation in the state and the short fall of funding. They are proposing to hold state aid to education at the current levels so that as needs increase for school districts, there will be less state aid available for schools. Heartland is considered a land rich district, therefore we receive very little in state aid. This current year we receive \$47,546 in state aid. While this amount is significant, a reduction will not have a major impact on the district. However, we must continually look for ways to operate efficiently, while continuing to provide a quality education program for our students.

We could sit back and let the Heartland District continue as we are, but we want to always continue to look at ways we can improve and provide a better program for our students. I hope each of you will do your part to continue to make the Heartland District a quality school. I can assure you that the administration and staff will do all we can to continue to provide a quality education for each of our students. We want to continue to work together, with each of you, to provide the best opportunities for each of our students.

Sincerely,
Dr. Norm Yoder, Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Heartland Community Schools – Henderson/Bradshaw Board of Education elected new officers at their January 14, 2011 school board meeting. They elected the following Officers: Paul Brune, President; Gary Braun, Vice President; Deb Wilhelm, Secretary; and Boyd Stuhr, Jr., Treasurer. The other two board members are Kent Allen and Glenn Larson. This was the first meeting for newly elected members Boyd Stuhr, Jr., Kent Allen, and Glenn Larson.

FIVE TEACHERS ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT



Five Heartland teachers have turned in their retirement intentions at the end of the current school year. Larry

Vancura, Athletic Director and Math instructor, 42 years, Dave Ehly, German and English instructor, 40 years, Sharon Bishop, Language Arts instructor, 32, years, Joan Friesen, Media Specialist/Librarian, 25 years, and Dan Gilson, Industrial Technology instructor, 9 years. The board has expressed sincere appreciation for the combined 148 years of service to the Heartland District. Their services will be missed by the students, staff, and community of Heartland Community Schools. Superintendent Dr. Norm Yoder said, "It will be very difficult to replace the experience of these five individuals. We will miss their expertise. We are really appreciative of their dedication and commitment to Heartland. We wish each of them the very best in their respective retirement years".



Mrs. Crouch's Third Grade class is in need of the large oatmeal containers. Please bring them to the front office before Valentines Day. Thank you!

JOURNALISM WINS AWARDS

Adding another Cornhusker Award to their collection, the Heartland Journalism staff was honored for their 2010 Yearbook: *A Different View*. A Cornhusker is Nebraska's highest award for journalistic excellence in high school publications. This recognition is given by the Nebraska High School Press Association.

Bouncing between Classes C and D, Heartland competed in Class D this year and joined Brownell-Talbot, Dorchester and Hayes Center in receiving this outstanding yearbook award. The judges rated different areas of yearbook production: concept, coverage, writing, design and photography. In addition, the local journalism students received special recognition for "Spotlighting Individuals in Photos/Quotes." The judge's comments highlighted the strengths of the book: "Your copy and sidebars have a very unique approach to student life. The staff has done a wonderful job with this. The writing is very well done."

Members of the 2010 journalism class were Portia Lyons, Randian Spencer, Jennifer Goossen, Tori Bittinger, Mariah Kliewer, Jesse Nissen, and Amanda Rowe. Teacher sponsors were Ms. Julie Goertzen and Ms. Britany Renz. Currently, the journalism class is designing the 2011 Huskie yearbook. Using the Adobe InDesign CS2 desktop publishing program and digital cameras, the entire book is created on the computer. Class members are Jesse Nissen, Tori Bittinger, Mariah Kliewer, Andrea Boardman, Carlie Weisheit, Brady Ulmer, Mattias Krupa, and Jen Yoder. This year's theme is Moving On.



Seniors Tori Bittinger, Mariah Kliewer, and Jesse Nissen are in their third year of producing the Huskie yearbook with award-winning results.

USE REPORT CARD TIME TO SET GOALS, CELEBRATE SUCCESS

Your middle schooler just brought home a report card. You can use this as a learning opportunity if you:

- **Talk about it.** Are there any surprises--good or bad? Discuss them. If you're upset about a particular grade, though, don't start yelling. Not only will it shut down communication with your preteen, it's also pointless. So stay calm. "I'm disappointed about that C in language arts. We need to talk about it some more."

- **Set goals.** Use your preteen's report card to chart a course for the rest of the year. If she did well, talk about how she can keep up the good work. If she struggled, brainstorm ways to improve things going forward. "You did a good job of turning in your science homework, but you stumbled on tests. What if I start quizzing you each night the week leading up to a test?"
- **Celebrate.** Straight A's are always a reason to celebrate, but if your preteen worked hard to bring a C up to a B, she deserves a pat on the back--or an ice cream cone--too!

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WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOUR CHILD IS INVOLVED IN A BULLYING SITUATION?

Bullying is a growing problem that families and schools must address together. Today, experts recognize the serious effects of bullying, including problems with emotions and schoolwork.

Bullying involves cruel actions or words. It can happen in person (such as at school) and from afar (such as online).

Here are some ideas of things to do, whether your child is a bully, a victim or a bystander:

- **Let your child know** you will not condone bullying in any form. That includes the writing of nasty comments on the Internet or in text messages. Follow through with severe consequences if you discover your child is bullying.
- **Encourage supervision** and the buddy system. Bullying is most likely to happen when one person can get another person alone. At school, encourage your child to stay in areas where adults can supervise. When no adults are present, your child should always be with at least one other child.
- **Tell your child** that simply watching while someone is bullied is nearly as bad as doing the bullying. He should report bullying situations to an adult. Your child can support the victim by inviting him to join his group, by standing next to him or just by putting a hand on his shoulder. If your child feels safe doing so, he can also stand up to the bully, "Leave Jimmy alone! Bullying isn't cool."
- **Give your child** anti-bullying strategies. He can walk away. It's harder to bully someone who won't stand still to listen. He can also practice comebacks such as "Stop it. I don't like that."

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HEARTLAND FFA MEMBERS ATTEND DISTRICT LEADERSHIP SKILLS EVENTS

December 8 saw the Heartland FFA Members traveling to Seward to participate in the District VII Leadership Skills Events. The event was held at Seward High School and coordinated by the District VII Agricultural Education Instructors.

Receiving a first place purple ribbon and qualifying for the State FFA Convention was the Sophomore Parliamentary Procedure Team of Daniel Quiring, Aaron Jensen, Ashton Kroeker, Mattison Hiebner, Emily Ott, Sam Boardman and Matthew Hiebner. Team alternates were Maelyn Huebert and Stephanie Stamp. Also performing well was Andrea Boardman, who received a second place purple ribbon and qualified for the State FFA Convention in Job Interview. Being selected as an alternate to the State FFA Convention was Brielle van den Berg who received first blue with her Cooperative Speech. *place ribbon*

Blue Ribbons went to Abigail Bechtel with her Natural Resources Speech, Kasey Siebert with her Senior Public Speech, Tanner Steingard in Job Interview and the Ag Demonstration Team of Brenan Erb, Rick Siebert and Andrew Spader.

Red Ribbons were given to Kelli Bergen and Nick Dimmick in Creed Speaking, Andrew Spader in Extemporaneous Speaking and the Freshman Junior Parliamentary Procedure Team consisting of Kelli Bergen, Brandon Boardman, Leah Friesen, Megan Friesen, Megan Boardman, Nick Dimmick and Mary Beth Manson.

All FFA members who participated are to be commended for the hard work and preparation for the contest.

A GOOD STRATEGY CAN HELP YOUR PRETEEN MAKE GOOD DECISIONS

Learning to make good decisions, and to deal with the fallout from bad ones, is part of growing up. Your job isn't to decide things for your preteen. It's to teach her how to decide them for herself.

To do that, help your preteen follow this decision-making plan:

1. Have her define the issue. What decision does she need to make? The more clearly she can define it, the better able she may be to make a smart choice.
2. Have her explore her options. What are some reasonable responses to the problem? Are some riskier than others? What does she stand to gain or lose?

B Have her consider the consequences. What's at stake if she chooses one option over another?

A Have her make her decision. Once she's considered the issue, there's nothing left to do but decide.

When it's all over, talk to your preteen about how things went. If her decision was a good one, discuss how she can adopt the same problem-solving strategy the next time. But if it was a bad one? Talk about what she might do differently.

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HEARTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Henderson/Bradshaw

Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 13, 2010

Conference Room

7:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present: Galen R. Friesen, Gary Braun, Kerri Kliewer, Paul Brune, and Mark Dick. Absent: Debra Wilhelm, Board Members elect: Boyd Stuhr, Jr., Glenn Larson, and Kent Allen. Others Present: Supt. Norm Yoder, Principals Tim Carr, and Cindy Huebert. Faculty: Cindy Goff, Diane Crouch, Marietta Adams, Margalee Thomas, Julie Goertzen, Marcia Ough, and Erik Wetjen.

I. Call to Order

President Brune called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

II. President Brune declared the meeting to be open, legal and properly advertised with all members having been informed of the nature of the meeting and having received related information. He also indicated the posting of the open meetings law at the front of the room.

III. Board Member Absent

Action 1: Motion by Kliewer, second by Braun, to excuse Debra Wilhelm because of illness. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1 absent – Wilhelm.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Action 2: Motion by Friesen, second by Kliewer, to approve the agenda as revised. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1 absent – Wilhelm

V. Audience with Individuals and/or Committees

VI. Consent Agenda

Action 3: Motion by Braun, second by Kliewer, to approve consent agenda which includes the minutes of the regular meeting of November 8, 2010, Qualified Capital Purposes Undertaking Fund Claims, and financial reports. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1 absent – Wilhelm

Action 4: Motion by Kliewer, second by Brune, the general fund claims except claim 18356. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1 absent – Wilhelm.

Action 5: Motion by Braun, second by Friesen, to pay general fund claim 18356. Motion Carried: 4-for; 0-against; 1 absent – Wilhelm; 1-abstained-Dick.

VII. Administrative Reports

The board heard administrative reports on special education teachers attending a technology workshop at ESU 6, elementary teachers are reviewing two new reading series for possible future adoption, the School Improvement Team has been working on preparation for an AdvancEd accreditation visit in April, Toby Boss, from ESU 6 assisted the faculty in a self assessment of our school, also in preparation for the self study, NHS food drive, the activities planned for the junior and senior high prior to the end of the semester, FFA has 25 student participate in District FFA Leadership skills in Seward, winter sports participation with 15 boys and 17 girls in basketball and unfortunately 0 boys in wrestling, a CODE RED lockdown drill and the drug dog search conducted by the York County Sheriff's office, Mr. Carr, attended a drug awareness meeting in Lincoln, air quality testing that was conducted in the school building, a possible joint meeting with the Henderson Health Care board, the City Council, and the Heartland School board on the possible needs of a community center in Henderson.

VIII. Front Entrance Projects

The board reviewed cost projections on remodeling the front entrance. Superintendent Yoder was asked to get a further breakdown of the individual costs of the Project.

IX. Discussion with Neighboring Districts

No further discussions have taken place with neighboring school districts

X. Early Retirement Policy

Action 6: Motion by Dick, second by Braun, to revise the early retirement policy continue through the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years and limit participants to two certified staff members each year and to end the policy after the 2012-2013 school year. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1 absent – Wilhelm

The board decided to meet in a special session on Tuesday, January 4, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. and take final action after the revised documents have been drawn up.

XI. NASB Conference reports

The board members reported individually on the highlights of the NASB Conference they attended in Omaha in November.

XII. Scoreboard Replacement

Action 7: Motion by Friesen, second by Kliewer, to approve the purchase of a pair of scoreboards from Daktronics for \$8462, that will be paid for by donations from Henderson State Bank and Cornerstone Bank. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1 absent – Wilhelm.

XIII. Dust Collection System for the Agriculture Building

Action 8: Motion by Friesen, second by Braun, to approve the installation of a dust collection system for the agriculture building, not to exceed \$6,000. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1 absent – Wilhelm.

XIV. Course Offering Discussion

The board and administration discussed future curriculum offerings including foreign language offerings.

XV. Five Year Maintenance Goals

The board reviewed the proposed updated 5-year maintenance goals.

XVI. Personnel

Action 9: Motion by Kliewer, second by Braun, to go into executive session at 8:50 p.m. to review the superintendent's evaluation, administrative contracts for 2011-12, and a staff personnel issue. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1 absent – Wilhelm.

President Brune declared to exit the executive session at 9:45 p.m.

Action 10: Motion by Kliewer, second by Friesen, to offer Cindy Huebert, elementary principal, a contract for the 2011-12 school year with the salary to be set at a later date. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1 absent – Wilhelm.

Action 11: Motion by Friesen, second by Dick, to offer Tim Carr, secondary principal, a contract for the 2011-12 school year with the salary to be set at a later date. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1 absent – Wilhelm

Action 12: Motion by Kliewer, second by Braun, to offer Norm Yoder, superintendent, a contract for the 2011-12 school year with the salary to be set at a later date. Motion Carried: 5-for; 0-against; 1 absent – Wilhelm

XVII. Adjournment

President Brune adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.



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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February 3rd - Teacher In-Service 11:40 Dismissal (NO LUNCH)

February 14th - Board of Education Meeting 7:00 pm

February 21-25 - National FFA Week

February 23rd - In-Service 2 hour late start

March 21st & 24th - Parent Teacher Conferences

April 21st - Kindergarten Roundup