

the Beat

April 2017

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 I: We will enhance each student’s educational journey by creating compelling and innovative learning experiences, promoting individual goals, interests, and aspirations.

Specific Result: Implement a systematic, career/goal-setting program at all grade levels.

Beatrice High School students can participate in the Southeast Nebraska Career Academy Program. It gives them the opportunity to explore a career in welding, education, agriculture, criminal justice and health. Next year students will also be able to explore a career in business.

Students earn dual credit for a college course for half price through Southeast Community College along with completing college and career readiness assignments. In addition, they do a job shadow each semester and go on field trips specific to their career interest.

During the past month each Academy student has attended a Professional Development Day and has the opportunity to experience an interview with a person currently working in their career interest.



Maddie Pieper receives the SENCAP Regional Student of the Year from Doris Martin, coordinator for the Beatrice Region. Pieper was also recognized for having her website place in the top ten.

Stuart named Employee of the Month

Julie Stuart is the March employee of the month.

Julie is an excellent school secretary. She goes above and beyond to make sure each student is safe and taken care of at Lincoln elementary school. She always knows which students do not have a ride home or have not been picked up. She makes sure they have transportation and keeps them calm until someone comes to pick them up.

She also has memorized every kid’s school lunch number and helps them out in the lunch room when they forget or can’t punch it in.

She becomes the counselor when students are having concerns either socially, emotionally, behaviorally, or academi-



Julie Stuart at her desk at Lincoln Elementary.

cally. Stuart will work with each student to help them meet their needs and then work on getting them back to class ready to learn.

Additionally, she is the school nurse when Mrs. Cleveland can’t be there and deals with sick kids or kids in need—especially students with chronic issues like asthma. Several parents feel confident leaving their child in her capable hands. One said, “My daughter suffers from newly diagnosed asthma and Julie has been a life saver to us. She is willing to have my daughter come read in the office with her if her conditions call for her to not be able to participate in PE. She understands that each child is very different and each child need’s must be met in order for them to thrive.”

In conclusion, Julie goes above and beyond “secretary” duties and is a nurse, counselor and friend to all the students at the elementary school.

Taking a Close Look

Beatrice
Public Schools

Take a closer look!

Students celebrate reading at BPS

Students throughout Beatrice Public Schools spend time reading every day. Some students in grades 3 through 6 spend additional time reading and studying books so they can participate in the Reading Classics Competition. The Division One team from Stoddard and the Division Two team from Paddock Lane both placed second at the state competition. All elementary students enjoyed Read Across America on March 2, Dr. Suess' birthday. Reading test scores on standardized tests continue to increase throughout the district.



Reading Across the District (clockwise) - Lincoln Elementary students celebrate Hats Off to Dr. Suess Day. Vocal music teacher reads to her students during recent reading celebrations. Senior High Principal Jason Sutter enjoys reading to elementary students. Curriculum Director Jackie Nielsen takes a selfie after reading to elementary students. Lincoln elementary students form a Reading Rainbow.



Division 1 State Runner Up Reading Classic Team; Sean Carrera, Annie Gleason, Taionna Farley-Martin, Teanna Stohs, and Tucker Thatcher.



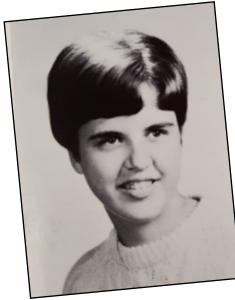
Division 2 State Runner Up Reading Classic Team; Myah Hood, Arihanna Marlatt, Bryan Price, Emma Stevens and Sean Wright.

Stake Your Claim

Beatrice
Public Schools

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

Vetrovsky is bank president, civic leader



"Beatrice Public Schools gave me a solid foundation to continue to do what I love the most. When I graduated from Beatrice High School in 1969, I wanted to be a secretary. I had received excellent training in all subjects, but really enjoyed typing, shorthand, English, math, accounting, reading....so I was set and started my career as Administrative Secretary at John J Pershing College. The college closed in January 1971 and 2 weeks later I started my career in banking, here at First National Bank & Trust Co. now under the name of Security First Bank. I continue to use my Beatrice Public School training, but since graduation have also taken classes in banking, time management, communications and leadership."

Verdella Vetrovsky, class of 1969



Beatrice Public Schools All-Stars
Verdella Vetrovsky, class of 1969

Verdella Vetrovsky is the Security First Bank Regional Branch President. Vetrovsky started her current position on Dec. 21, 2016, after her previous position as retail services manager and “wearing lots of different hats” before that. She started with the bank when it was First National Bank in 1971.

The bank merged into Security First Bank in 2008. Vetrovsky is president of all Security First branches in Beatrice, Blue Springs, Cortland and Clatonia. Security First branches are located throughout Nebraska and in Rapid City, South Dakota.

She has been with the bank for 46 years. “My career in banking started in bookkeeping learning the basics. Since 1971, I continued to work hard and grow with the bank,” said Vetrovsky.

She also said the journey from loan clerk to president has been positive. “A good foundation from Beatrice Public Schools, support from my family, and relying on my faith has made my journey a good one,” said Vetrovsky.

Beatrice is a better place because of her involvement including Veterans Memorial Park. She is a co-chair of the project and a member of the Beatrice Rotary club, which founded the park.

She also worked on the Relay for Life last year. “I believe in our community

and also continue to volunteer in various organizations to hopefully prepare the foundation for many generations to come,” added Vetrovsky.

Her personal and professional life is driven by the same belief, “If you believe you can.....you will succeed.”



Verdella Vetrovsky in her office at Security First Bank in downtown Beatrice.

Board approves elementary facility plan

Julie Stuart, Lincoln Elementary secretary, was named the March Employee of the Month. She received a plaque and \$50 in Beatrice Bucks.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Pat Nauroth informed the Board the district is moving ahead with the plan to replace the roof at Paddock Lane Elementary this summer. He also said interviews for the elementary principal position will take place over the next few weeks and he plans to bring a name to the Board at the April meeting.

Nauroth also provided an update on the land request that the city spoke about at the February Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting. He said he would give Board members a complete review from the realtor for review and would recommend working with the city to transfer land to them at a nominal fee.

Student Update

Student Board member Natalie Doering said Paddock Lane had wonderful birthday celebrations for Nebraska's 150th birthday last week. Lincoln and Cedar are celebrating McTeachers at McDonalds on March 14. There is an upcoming music concert for Lincoln Elementary on March 20. Cedar and Lincoln will both have their academic award assemblies later this month. Elementary students from all buildings will be participating in the Reading Classics competition on March 17 and students will compete NeSA testing at the end of the month.

Doering added that middle school track begins on March 20. Recently the middle school delegation group was awarded the Best Newcomer Award. Also a student from the middle school qualified for the state geography bee. A middle school concert on March 16 will include vocal, band, and orchestra performances.

Show Choir competitions at the high school ended last weekend with Limited Edition being awarded first place. New member induction for National Honor

Society is scheduled for March 24 and Prom is April 1.

Committee of the Whole

Jon Zimmerman, vice-president, said COW met on Feb. 23. The following topics were discussed: land purchase request by the city; Brenda Gronewold, business teacher, presented on the business curriculum; Dr. Joan Christen, science teacher, talked about the Monsanto grant she wrote and the school received; Beth Cordry-Hookstra presented information about the behavioral consultant position; John Brazell gave an update on the Paddock Lane roofing project and Nauroth talked about the annual report and the budget/facility plan.

School Community & Staff Relations Committee

Janet Byars reported that the committee met twice since the last Board meeting; on February 17 at Lincoln Elementary and March 3 at Stoddard Elementary.

The staff at Lincoln expressed the need for additional behavioral services and shared they would like to see kindergarten classes at a maximum of 20 students. The transition from PBIS to the Boys Town model is going very well. Most of the same topics were discussed at the Stoddard meeting. Stoddard staff reiterated the need for behavioral specialists and administrators in every building. Staff also asked about the possibility of developing a policy on bus behaviors and discipline. Byars added that the atmosphere at the school was great as staff and students were having a great time celebrating Dr. Suess week.

Action Agenda

The board approved the building lease for the Compass program and the 2017-18 negotiated agreement with the Beatrice Education Association.

Approval was also given to the elementary facility recommendation.

Administrator's Report

Curriculum Director Jackie Nielsen shared information on the High Ability Learner's program. She shared the district has added a fifth grade piece to the program. Students spent time working with Ozobots to understand coding throughout the first part of the school year and they are now moving onto some other STEM activities.

Nielsen also said the Best Possible Summer experience materials will be sent home with students on Wednesday and the registration portal will open sometime on Thursday. She said there are 38 sessions and it will be held at Stoddard elementary this summer. Some new programs include; Marshmallow Math, Patterns are Everywhere, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Come to the Farm, The Day the Crayons Quit, Wild West and Walking Dinosaurs.

Next Meeting

The next committee of the whole meeting will be April 27 at 6 p.m. at the Central Administration Building. The next Board of Education meeting will be on May 8 at 7 p.m. at the Central Administration Building.

Beatrice Public Schools Board of Education

Janet Byars

Doris Martin

Lisa Pieper, President

Nancy Sedlacek

Steve Winter

Jon Zimmerman, Vice-President

Pat Nauroth, Superintendent

Board of Education

April 27, 6 p.m.

Committee of the Whole Meeting

May 8, 7 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting