



Heartland Community School

Henderson/Bradshaw

January 2010 Newsletter

Page 1



Dear Parents, Patrons, and Friends of Heartland Community Schools,

Volunteers are an important part of any organization. As we begin a new calendar year, I would like to challenge many of you to give of your time to help others. We are fortunate at Heartland for the many volunteers who help us out. As we reflect on the past year, it is almost unbelievable what we have accomplished on the track and football field with all of the volunteer labor that we have had. The many hours that Alan Janzen, Randy Ratzlaff, Dr. Jim Ohrt, and Larry Vancura gave to the project was a tremendous benefit. The many individuals who gave of their time helped us complete a project that would not have been possible without their help. The cost was high, and probably would not have been doable if not for the many hours of volunteering that took place.

I am also thankful for the many hours that volunteers give on a daily or weekly basis. We have five individuals who volunteer in the cafeteria one day a week. We have individuals who come in and listen to elementary students read and assist in the classrooms. Many mothers serve as room mothers at the elementary grades, many volunteer through the elementary parent teacher's organization. Others serve team meals to the athletes and assist with different school events. We have volunteers serving on the band parents, the booster club, and many other organizations. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered your time this past year and continue to give of yourself. It is a real asset to the school and especially to the individual students.

I would like to challenge more of you to get involved and volunteer your time. The rewards are great and the opportunity to serve the youth of our community is a vote for the future. If you have any interest in volunteering, please contact Mrs. Cindy Huebert, who serves as our volunteer coordinator. We have many volunteers, but it would be great if we could double that number.

I hope each one of you have a wonderful and prosperous 2010!

Sincerely,
Dr. Norm Yoder, Superintendent

"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."

- Sir Winston Churchill

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

As the winter approaches, occasional bad weather necessitates the closing of school for the safety of our

students. School closing information will be announced over the radio station KAWL (1370), and television stations KHAS, KLKN, NTV and KOLN. In Henderson it will be announced with voiceover capabilities on any cable channel (in town) when your TV is on. This year we are implementing an automated phone message service through School Reach which we plan on using for school closings. You may also call our school closing phone line at 402-723-4421. If a decision has been made the night before, the closing will be announced at 10:00PM. In the mornings it will be announced on the half hour from 6:30AM to 8:00AM (cable only).

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

Nebraska School Board Recognition Week is January 17-23. Please take time to thank the Heartland Board of Education members for the many hours they spend serving the educational needs of the Heartland School District. They are Gary Braun, president; Paul Brune, vice president; Deb Wilhelm, secretary; Mark Dick, treasurer; Kerri Kliever, and Galen Friesen. Their service is very much appreciated.

The Heartland Board was again recognized this year by receiving the Outstanding Board Award by the Nebraska Association of School Boards. This award is achieved by a point system. Points are awarded for the board having involvement in workshops, conferences, and board retreats. Congratulations to each of the members for their accomplishments.

Nebraska School Board Recognition Week January 17-23, 2010

KEEP INFORMED

The Weekly Roundup, which list school activities for the week can be accessed on the Heartland web page by clicking on the Huskie

Huddle News tab, or by clicking the link under Current Highlights.





The Elementary Art Workshop had a great turnout of forty-nine enthusiastic kindergarten through fourth grade. Each student created a clay Christmas ornament as a gift for someone special. The first session the students constructed the ornaments and the second they painted them. During the basketball games, Art Club members

are working at the concessions stand as a fundraiser to raise money for a visit to an art gallery.

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

This year the National Honor Society again sponsored a food drive to benefit individuals and families within our school district who can use a gift of food. This project is one of several school and community service projects that NHS students plan and carry out. The theme of this year's food drive was, "Spread some cheer, Give this year!" The NHS thanks all of the students and their parents as well as the staff who gave cheerfully and generously. Food was collected over 10 days in a different category for each day. Enough food was collected to serve 37 individuals and families in the Heartland district. NHS students collected the food daily and boxed and delivered the food on Saturday, December 19.

A special thanks to Margalee Thomas and to Marc and Carrie Regier who contributed donations of \$50.00 each. This money, as well as the profits from the sale of Bingo cards for a game played in school each day, will be used to buy gift certificates to the Henderson Food Mart for some of the recipients of the food boxes.

May you all be blessed for sharing your abundance to serve others; this is truly the definition of "community." Merry Christmas!

Kids can't grow up responsibly if parents don't show them how



You probably know some people who've never quite grown up. They may have jobs, but never seem to be able to live on their own.

One reason may be that they didn't learn how to take on the responsibilities of adult life. Their parents may not have taught them the skills they need--to balance a budget or to take care of basic life skills like cooking or doing laundry.

If you want your child to grow up and live as an independent adult, you need to start teaching him those skills today. Here are some ways you can help your child develop the habits that will get him ready for adult life:

- Expect him to get himself up in the morning. Even a first grader can learn to wake up to an alarm.
- Teach him to care for his own clothes. Young children can put clothes in the laundry basket. They can fold their own clothes and put them away. Older kids can learn how to do laundry.
- Help him manage money. Whether it's an allowance or payment for extra chores, teach your child the value of saving.
- Enlist his help. Every family member should do something that helps out the family. Young children can set the table. Older kids can learn how to prepare a simple meal. When they do these things, thank them for making your home run more smoothly.
- Volunteer. Make time for your family to volunteer together. Doing something for others builds responsibility.

Reprinted with permission from the January 2010 issue of *Parents make the difference!*® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: William Damon, *The Path to Purpose: Helping Our Children Find Their Calling in Life*

What can you do to make sure your child is listening to you?

You've talked and talked. But you feel like a television set with the volume turned down--your child just isn't listening.

Nothing is so frustrating to parents. But there are things you can do to make sure your child listens when you have something important to say.

To get your child to listen, try these two strategies:

1. Make eye contact. If your child's eyes are on the TV set, her brain is there, too. So calmly say, "Peyton, I need to say something to you. Could you look at me, please?" Remember: If you shout, "Look at me when I'm talking to you," your child is likely to just tune you out!
2. Remember that less is sometimes more. Keep your instructions short and simple. It's best to give no more than two steps at a time. "Please pick up the books and put them on the shelf." Any more than that and your child is likely to forget what you've asked.

Reprinted with permission from the January 2010 issue of *Parents make the difference!*® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Stanley Turecki and Leslie Tonner, *The Difficult Child*



Heartland Community School

Henderson/Bradshaw

January 2010 Newsletter

Page 3



Does my child's attendance really matter?

"Does it really matter if my child misses school?" parents wonder. "Yes!" say experts. Research shows that regular attendance is linked to current and future school success. When kids miss too much school, they miss more than daily lessons. They miss the chance to build social and academic foundations that help with future learning.

To minimize attendance issues:

- Remember that excused and unexcused absences take a toll on learning. Keep track of how often your child is absent or tardy. In general, if a child is out of school 10% or more of the year, absences are considered particularly serious.
- Keep the school calendar handy when making plans. Schedule appointments and trips when school isn't in session. If your child needs to miss school, talk with the teacher.
- Tell school officials about problems that lead to absences. Many families face challenges with health, transportation, child care and other issues. Community programs may be able to help.
- Avoid unnecessary absences by establishing family routines that make life easier. Small changes, such as organizing school supplies at night and getting enough sleep, can make a big difference.

Reprinted with permission from the January 2010 issue of *Parents make the difference!*® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Hedy N. Chang and Mariajosé Romero, "Present, Engaged, and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades," National Center for Children in Poverty, www.nccp.org/publications/pub_837.html.



Your family's good habits lead to your child's good attendance

Kids are tardy for all kinds of reasons, such as missing the bus, oversleeping and being unable to find something important. Some tardies are unavoidable, of course. But others are easily prevented with daily habits, such as:

- Study routines. Do homework at the same time, and in the same place, each day. Have your child double-check her schoolbag for anything you need to read or sign. When study time is over, pack the bag and put it by the front door.
- Nighttime routines. Stick to a regular bedtime each night. Kids might brush teeth, find the next day's outfit and put on pajamas, while parents pack lunches, set alarm clocks and tuck in kids. Any late-evening activities should be relaxing, such as listening to music or reading.
- Morning routines. Post a checklist of responsibilities, such as getting dressed, having breakfast and brushing teeth. Parents must stay on schedule, too, so their work (making breakfast, driving to school, etc.) supports their child's success.

Reprinted with permission from the January 2010 issue of *Parents make the difference!*® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2010 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc.

Heartland Community School

Henderson/Bradshaw

Regular Board Meeting

Monday, November 9, 2009

Henderson Attendance Center – Conference Room

8:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present: Galen R. Friesen, Gary Braun, Debra Wilhelm, Kerri Kliewer, Mark Dick, and Paul Brune.
Others Present: Supt. Norm Yoder, Principals Tim Carr and Cindy Huebert. Faculty: Greg Veerhusen

I. Call to Order

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

II. President Braun 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. Approval of Agenda

Action 1: Motion by Kliewer, second by Brune, to approve the agenda as revised. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

IV. Audience with Individuals and/or Committees

The FFA Officers & Convention participants were present to report on their trip to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.

V. Minutes of Meeting

VI. Treasurer's Report

The General Fund Treasurer's report was reviewed and filed pending audit.

VII. Claims

VIII. Financial Reports

The financial reports for the School Lunch Fund, Activity Fund, Unemployment Fund, and the Depreciation Fund were reviewed and filed pending audit.

Action 2: Motion by Friesen, second by Dick, to approve the consent agenda which includes the minutes of the October 12, 2009 regular meeting and the general fund claims. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

IX. Administrative Reports

The board heard administrative reports on Language for Learning, a program for vocabulary improvement at the elementary level, Reading Recovery, the Volunteer Program which currently has 8 persons participating, activities planned for Teaching Tolerance, Dare Graduation for 5th graders, the elementary students use of the new play structure, secondary teachers attended Clicker training in technology, 27 Jr. high and 69 high school students on the honor roll, Jr. High activities that included a dance and WAIT training, an abstinence program, upcoming high school events, possible upgrading of the camera system, and a lightning strike that damaged the two way radio system.

X. Track Repair/Replacement

The board reviewed a final summary of expenses for the costs of the track and football field.

XI. Discussion with Neighboring Districts

No further discussions have taken place.

XII. Mower Replacement

Action 3: Motion by Dick, second by Braun, to approve the purchase of a Hustler Mower with a grass catcher from Hiebner Body Shop. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

XIII. Rock from Roof

Action 4: Motion by Kliewer, second by Friesen, to approve donating the rock that was removed from the roof, to the City of Henderson for the continued use of their equipment. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

XIV. Review the Multi-Cultural Curriculum

This report was tabled until the December 14, 2009 board meeting.

XV. NASB Legislative Action Book

The board reviewed the NASB positions on legislative issues listed in the Legislative Handbook.

XVI. Board Self Evaluation

The board members reviewed the compilation of the board self evaluation that was filled out by each board member.

XVII. Board Retreat

The board set Saturday, January 16, 2009, as the date for the board retreat, at the York Country Club.

XVIII. Audit

Action 5: Motion by Brune, second by Wilhelm, to accept the Audit Report as prepared by Mireau and Associates. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

XIV. Personnel

Action 6: Motion by Braun, second by Brune, to accept the resignation for Alan Traudt as a custodian. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

Action 7: Motion by Dick, second by Kliewer, to approve the appointment of Roy Nunnenkamp as a custodian. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

Action 8: Motion by Braun, second by Dick, to approve Lynn Hall as assistant Jr. High boys basketball coach. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

Action 9: Motion by Kliewer, second by Brune, to approve Kerry Lundstrom as a local substitute. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

Action 10: Motion by Brune, second by Friesen, to go into executive session for the purpose of the superintendent's evaluation at 9:46 p.m. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

Action 11: Motion by Friesen, second by Kliewer, to come out of executive session at 10:27 p.m. Motion Carried: 6-for; 0-against.

XVIII. Adjournment

President Braun adjourned the meeting at 10:29 p.m.

Heartland Community Schools
1501 Front Street
Henderson, NE 68371

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit 26
Henderson, NE 68371

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January 4th - No School Teacher Workday

January 5th - Classes Resume -
2nd Semester begins

January 9th - Board Retreat 8:00-2:00pm

January 11th - Board of Education
Meeting 7:00 pm

January 21st - Teacher In-service
2 hour late start

January 29th - Vocal Clinic TBD