

Dundy County Stratton Public Schools  
October 2007 "State of the Schools" Report  
Dr. Dallas Watkins, Superintendent

Congratulations:

-Cross Country Coaches Scott and Tracy Lambley, Nathan Behlke and team members on all the success you have had this year including:

- The boys and girls Runner-up finishes at the Republican Plains Activities Conference Meet and to the team members who medaled at the RPAC meet (Jared Shillington 1<sup>st</sup>, Gabby Mullanix 2<sup>nd</sup>, Brandon Shirkey 4<sup>th</sup>, Kyle Thomas 7<sup>th</sup>, Hannah Stroup 9<sup>th</sup>, Brandon Craddock 9<sup>th</sup>).
- The boys 2<sup>nd</sup> place District finish and to the team members who will be running at state (Jared Shillington 1<sup>st</sup>, Brandon Shirkey 4<sup>th</sup>, Kyle Thomas 13<sup>th</sup>, Brandon Craddock 16<sup>th</sup>, Tanner Nelson 20<sup>th</sup>, and Grant Jones 27<sup>th</sup>).

-Girls Golf Coach Tim Rettele and team members for your fine initial season. Also, to Megan Rotherham who qualified for the state tournament with an 8<sup>th</sup> place finish at district.

-Junior High Coaches Marty Hughes, Mike Rotherham, Greg McVicker and players on your undefeated football season.

No School – There will be no classes on October 19 for Fall Break and October 26 for Parent Teacher Conferences.

Parent Teacher Conferences

The district will be hosting Parent Teacher Conferences on October 25 in the evening and October 26 in the morning. Please check the time schedule for each attendance center. The interaction between parents and teachers is very important in helping a child succeed in school. I hope you make it to the conferences.

Enrollment

The Nebraska Department of Education officially records enrollment on the last Friday in September annually. The Nebraska School Activities Association uses the NDE count for classification purposes. Our K-12 enrollment for the 2007-08 school years was 390. We have remained fairly stable in enrollment for the last five years, prior to that there was gradual decline through the 1990's and early 2000's.

A five year history of Dundy County (actual) and Stratton (using a base number of 63 for all years) is as follows:

2007-08	390
2006-07	383
2005-06	382
2004-05	378
2003-04	396

Our grade by grade count/NSAA classification count and the same for area schools is as follows:

See Attached

### October Board of Education Meeting Highlights

#### Pre School Program

The Pre School Program was discussed by the Board. Mike Rotherham, Shanley Confer, Sandy Noffsinger and Shad Stamm (study committee members) reviewed items such as age requirements, home services versus school services, dual roles between private and public providers, cooperation and sharing between private and public providers and a timeline for implementation. The committee met with outside experts from the Educational Service Unit to review requirements and options for the program. Mr. Rotherham, Elementary Principal will be releasing more information in the future, as decisions are made.

#### Building/Renovation Project

The Board approved W Design Associates for a feasibility study addressing Stratton Elementary and the east/west hallway at the high school. The BENKELMAN POST AND HITCHCOCK COUNTY NEWS will be doing a feature story on this in this edition of the paper.

#### Vehicle Bids

The Board accepted a bid from Knoles Ford for a 2007 Expedition XLT-EL, four wheel drive vehicle with 7,206 miles. The price was \$28,850 including the trade allowance. We are trading in two 15 passenger vans (1999 and 1994 models). We received one other bid from Wagner's, it was a 2006 GMC Suburban, four wheel drive with 21,452 miles in the amount of \$24,750 including trade allowance. Wagner's also submitted a bid for a Ford Expedition XLT, we did not feel that it compared with the EL or Suburban models and it was not considered. We will not be allowed to use 15 passenger vans in two years, we still have two. The SUV type vehicles have worked well for us on small bus routes, feeder bus routes and some activity travel. They usually have capacity ratings of 8 or 9 passengers.

#### Activity Assignments

We had two activity sponsor/coach assignments that needed to be filled for 2007-08, High School Girls Basketball Assistant and High School Wrestling Assistant. Julie Jones was approved for basketball and Travis Lutz for wrestling.

Nebraska Association of School Boards Legislative Conference

John Metzger was appointed as the delegate to represent Dundy County Stratton Schools at the annual NASB Legislative Conference.

New Employees – I would like to welcome Keith Neville, Maintenance Supervisor and Jeanette Wonderly, Benkelman Elementary Kitchen, to our staff. The BENKELMAN POST AND HITCHCOCK COUNTY NEWS will be doing a feature story about Keith and the Maintenance Supervisor position we have hired him for.