

Dundy County Stratton Public Schools
April 2008, “State of the Schools” Report
Dr. Dallas Watkins, Superintendent

Congratulations:

Cheerleading sponsors Barb Horner, Amber Drake, and cheerleaders for another great year. You contribute positively to sportsmanship and make a difference in the enthusiasm at all our events. Thanks.

Play sponsor Jean Matthews, cast and all other personnel that entertained us with an outstanding evening of drama and dining this year. The play was very well performed!

Band sponsor Gregg Loghry, Vocal Music sponsor Diane Hughes, Accompanist Julie Shillington and music students for the excellent performances you had at district music contest. Numerous superior and excellent ratings reflect the hard work all of you have done.

Prom sponsors Scott Lambley, Lori Rettele, Doug Newcomb and the junior class for another outstanding prom and dinner. Also, thanks to the many volunteers that helped with the evening of social grace.

State Aid Law – The Nebraska Legislature passed a comprehensive new state aid law this session that will go into effect for 2008-09, LB 988. The school aid law will change how needs are calculated for each school district in the state. The law creates enrollment groupings and uses historical spending for schools of less than 900 students to determine needs rather than sparse/very sparse/standard cost groups. The formula will recognize poverty, limited language, teacher preparation, transportation and other factors for determining needs. Final certification should be released to schools by the end of April. Amendments and provisions within LB 988 were passed that will preserve “needs” at sustainable levels based upon the previous formula and recognition of the calculation of merged districts needs that reflect combined resources and needs.

April Board of Education Meeting Highlights

New Teacher Contracts – The Board of Education offered 2008-09 teaching contracts to the following:

Sharriea Burke – Sharriea has 19 years of experience in Lexington, McCook and for the Nebraska Department of Education in Southwest Nebraska. She has been teaching Pre School

Special Education since 1999. Her teaching endorsements include Special Education, Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education. Sharriea earned a BA from the University of Nebraska Kearney (1987). We welcome Sharriea and her two children to DCS.

Amanda Carlson – Amanda is a December 2006 graduate of Chadron State College where she earned a BS degree in Elementary Education. She also had specialization in Mathematics. Amanda has taught one year in a combined classroom for the Hay Springs Schools at the Mirage Flats Elementary school. Welcome Amanda!

Kristian Freeland – Kris has been teaching (Secondary Social Studies, English, Physical Education) and coaching (boys basketball, football, track) for the past 12 years teaching in Lynch. He earned his BS in Social Sciences from the University of Nebraska Kearney (1996) and a MA in Physical Education from the University of Nebraska Kearney (2006). Kris is married to Sherri (who we have also offered a contract) and they have five children, two that are school age, grades K and 7. We are excited about the Freeland family moving to our school district and welcome them.

Sherri Freeland – Sherri earned her BA in Elementary Education and Special Education from the University of Nebraska Kearney (1988). She taught at Bethphage Mission in Axtell for five years, Kearney Public Schools one year and has been a Kindergarten teacher and Activities Director in Lynch for the past 12 years. As previously mentioned we have also offered her husband Kris a contract and we look forward to the Freeland family moving to our school district.

Melisa Noonan – Melisa has taught one year in a combined classroom for the Hay Springs Schools at the Mirage Flats School. She also was an assistant high school volleyball coach for one year at Leyton Schools while she was student teaching. Melisa earned a BS in Elementary Education from Chadron State College (2007). Welcome Melisa!

Teaching and activity assignments may change but the current plans are as follows:

Sharriea Burke - Pre School Benkelman Elementary, Special Education Haigler Elementary

Amanda Carlson - Haigler Elementary grades 5-6

Kristian Freeland – Social Studies 7-12, Junior High PE/Sports, Boys Varsity Basketball

Sherri Freeland – Grade 5 Benkelman Elementary

Melisa Noonan – Stratton Elementary grades 3-4