

**Dundy County Stratton Public Schools**  
**August, 2009 “State of the Schools” Report**  
**Dr. Dallas Watkins, Superintendent**

Parent/Guardian Newsletter – We have sent a newsletter to parents concerning back to school information last week. If you did not receive one, please let us know and we will get one to you.

Senior Citizen Passes – If you are 65+ and would like a senior citizen pass to our activities we have one waiting for you at the high school office.

School Web site – We can be reached electronically at [www.dcastigers.org](http://www.dcastigers.org) for class schedules, activity schedules, student handbooks, daily announcements, lunch menus and other information regarding the school.

**August Board of Education Meeting Highlights**

Student Handbooks, Staff Handbooks, Class Schedules – The Board approved student and staff handbooks for 2009-10. The class schedules were also approved.

Special Meeting, Insurance Proposals – As you have noticed during the past few months we have been working on specifications and the bidding process for our property and liability insurance coverage. This is done, typically every three to six years and is a comprehensive complex task that is critical for insurance coverage for our school district. With four attendance centers and a bus barn, a large number of employees and students, a bus fleet that travels about 1200 miles per day over approximately 1050 square miles and school grounds for activities, this is a very important part of our business operation. The Board set a date for a special meeting on August 31, 2009 to consider bids.

Reading and Language Arts Curriculum – We have been working this past year on the adoption of a Reading and Language Arts Curriculum. Our staff and principals are to be commended for the effort they have put into this critical area of the curriculum. The Board adopted the Reading and Language Arts proposal.

Stratton Elementary Project – Phase two of the Stratton Elementary renovation/construction project is progressing on schedule. The asbestos abatement and demolition of the old gym is done. Currently the wall construction at the south end of the building is taking place. Grounds work is also being completed. I would like to thank everyone for their patience and support while we have been working on this project the past two years.

Facility Request for Private Childcare – The Board approved a request to use a room for child care at Stratton Elementary by a private provider. Last year we had enough students for a state supported Special Education Pre-School which allowed regular education students to attend as peer models. This year we do not have enough students that qualify for Special Education Pre School to justify the staff for state requirements. Since there was not a private day care needed last year in Stratton because of the school's pre-school program we are not in competition with a local childcare program. Parents will have to pay the provider for service but will continue to use the classroom we had for our pre school program last year.

New Teachers – We will have two new teachers for next year. The Board extended a contract to Susan Crow for .60 FTE (full time equivalency) elementary teaching. Mrs. Crow will teach Special Education, Title I and help in the classroom three days per week at Haigler Elementary. Susan has 37 years of experience and has recently retired at Wray Public Schools in Colorado. We welcome her to our staff. In addition we have hired Teresa Rinehart through Educational Service Unit 15 for .80 FTE to teach Special Education at Benkelman Elementary. Teresa has worked for our school system for the past three years in special education areas and we are glad that she can assume our elementary needs and continue to work here.

Activity Assignment – The Board approved Verla Martin as Gifted Coordinator for 2009-10.

Lunchroom Staffing Changes – We have promoted Toni Ohrman to Assistant Cook and Jeanette Wonderly to Kitchen Server in the Benkelman School Cafeteria. We believe both will be able to handle their past duties while taking on the new responsibilities in the kitchen and we will have a three person staff rather than four at Benkelman Elementary now. Toni and Jeannette have done a great job this past year and are deserving of the promotion.