

Dundy County Public Schools  
July, "State of the Schools" Report  
Dr. Dallas Watkins, Superintendent

Ready or Not – I hope everyone has had a great summer break! We will be starting school in less than a month, wow things go fast. We will be releasing back to school newsletters to all patrons in August about a week before school starts. The first day of school is August 21.

Hansen Foundation Annual Meeting—The Hansen Foundation Board of Trustees will have their annual meeting at the high school on Friday, August 1, 2008. We are very fortunate to have the many foundations in our community that help with projects and goodwill.

Non-Resident Student Transportation—The practice of Dundy County Stratton Public Schools for non-resident transportation is to provide service when practical and legal. The district will provide free transportation to option students who qualify according to state guidelines and will provide transportation to others on a case by case basis. We cannot cross state lines for bus routes per state guidelines and insurance. If you have questions about non-resident transportation, please contact the district office at 308-423-2738. The Board of Education has reviewed state statutes regarding non-resident transportation and the practices of the district previously and plan to provide transportation services whenever possible to all students.

July Board of Education Meeting Highlights:

Stratton Elementary Project – The asbestos abatement phase has slowed us down some. We cannot start remodeling until the EPA requirements are completed. The asbestos contractors should be done this week or next. Then the contractors will start with the remodeling and construction phase. The south end of the project area is planned to be ready first so that we can use at least two of those classrooms and the bathrooms in conjunction with the south area that is not being remodeled for a temporary school area to start school. We should have six to seven rooms plus the gyms and the area under the old gym available in August for the start of school. We will have access to the locker rooms, east restrooms and lunch room at that time also. The contractors have indicated that they will be working on the remainder of the north-south hallway after August and plan to finish the project in October. The new HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) work should be completed in time for when it will be needed. The contractors have indicated that we will be able to use the previous HVAC system during construction in the south areas. This is an exciting time and we are all anxious for the completion to be accomplished. The air quality issues, funding, bidding requirements and doing a complete infrastructure change to the building has taken some time.

I would like to recognize Dave Thornbrugh and Crissy Latta for taking on the painting of the lunchroom, gym, and hallways between the cafeteria and new gym this summer. They have the painting almost completed and it looks great.

Bonds for Abatement of or the Prevention of Environmental Hazards – The Board of Education held a hearing on July 14, 2008 for the purpose of comment concerning the use of bonds for environmental hazard funding. The bonds are used for asbestos abatement, air quality, mold prevention and accessibility in public buildings. Much of the Stratton Elementary project qualifies for the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund bonding. We plan to use some funding for the project using such bonds. The projection is about a \$.01 to \$.0175 levy for ten years. Because we have \$600,000 in merger incentive funds from the state designated for the project and Stratton Schools had about \$130,000 available for the project we were fortunate that the remainder could be done with the environmental hazard bonds for less than a two cent levy. Some general fund and depreciation funds will also be used for furnishings and refinishing needs.

Activity Admission Rates – The Board did not take action to change rates for admission to school activities; they will be the same as last year. The rates are:

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Year</u>
Student	\$3.00	\$10.00
Adult	4.00	40.00
Family	8.00	80.00

Mileage Rate – The Board took action to not increase mileage reimbursement rates from the May, 2008 rate.

District Goals—Annually, the Board has a December all day in-service that includes review of district goals. During the spring those ideas and others are researched and then presented to the Board for consideration in the July meeting. This year the following were adopted:

1. The district should plan for an alternative curriculum and credit recovery program.
2. The district should complete a feasibility study to develop a timeline for roof replacement in all district building. This study should be completed by the end of the 2008-2009 school year. The study was completed. The district should plan for funding as resources permit.

School Lunch and Breakfast Prices—The Board adopted lunch and breakfast prices for 2008-2009. Typically, these programs do not “break even” but we are trying to make them close to

that. The prices adopted do not get us there but should reflect a program that is somewhat self sufficient. The adopted prices were:

<u>Meal</u>	<u>Price</u>
K-12 Breakfast	\$1.90
Adult Breakfast	\$2.50
K-6 Lunch	\$2.25
7-12 Lunch	\$2.50
Adult Lunch	\$3.50

Compensation Packages—The Board took action on classified staff and bus driver compensation for 2008-2009. The salary rate was increased 4% or at least \$.40 per hour.