

David City Public School Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 9, 2025 7:00 PM
Bellwood Elem Media Center
612 Park St
Bellwood, NE 68624

1. Call Meeting to Order
 - 1.1. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.2. Open Meetings Statement
 - 1.3. Attendance/Absence Approval
2. Student and Staff Involvement
 - 2.1. New Band Uniforms Presentation
3. Public Forum
4. Consent Agenda
 - 4.1. Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s).
 - 4.2. Approve Claims Against the District
 - 4.3. Financial Reports
5. Board Committee Reports
6. Board Workshop/Conference Reports
7. Administrative Reports
 - 7.1. Dr. Denker
 - 7.2. Mr. Couch
 - 7.3. Mr. Lindsley
 - 7.4. Ms. Greenfield

7.5. Ms. Romshek

7.6. Ms. Daniels

7.7. Mr. Hermelbracht

8. Discussion and Action Items

8.1. Discuss, consider, and take action on updated policy 8232.

8.2. Discuss, consider, and take action on summer meal assistance program.

9. Personnel

9.1. Discuss, consider, and take action on new teacher contracts for the 2025-26 school year.

10. Future Discussion and Action Items

11. Adjournment

The track team has had a couple of meets already, and some upcoming ones that they will be participating in are the JV Aquinas Meet on Monday and the Wayne Meet the following Tuesday. Golf just recently had a match at the Aquinas Invitational and ended up winning overall with a score of 323.

Our speech team were the state champions in Class C-1 and multiple members had medaled at state including Neil Olson, Hannah Scribner, Brittin Valentine, Kaylee Dresch, Paul Tebbe, Natalie Robak, Shelbea Reed, and Hayden Valentine.

Stay-U and NHS are co-hosting the Middle School Dance on Friday the 4th.

NHS was able to hold their induction ceremony on March 28th and added a lot of new members to the group.

Cheer and Dance tryouts were held on March 18th and ended up having a big turnout and many new faces trying out and making the team.

FFA attended the State FFA Convention with our own floriculture becoming state champions, making it possible to go to Nationals. Also, Natalia Thoendel getting her State Degree, and James Farmer winning gold in his event.

The junior class took the ACT on March 25th.

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUND

2024-2025

Bank of the Valley - Account Number 262121

Budget: \$247,680.53

Date		Credits	Debits	Balance
9/1/2024	Starting Balance			\$211,831.01
	Auto Withdrawal		\$833.32	\$210,997.69
	Blue Cross Blue Shield		\$946.62	\$210,051.07
	Telus Health/Lifeworks		\$4,950.00	\$205,101.07
	Auto Withdrawal		\$26.00	\$205,075.07
	Employee Deposit	\$2,138.65		\$207,213.72
	Palensky, K	\$629.11		\$207,842.83
	Interest	\$626.90		\$208,469.73
9/30/2024	Balance			\$208,469.73
10/1/2024	Auto Withdrawal		\$55.00	\$208,414.73
	Auto Withdrawal		\$60.47	\$208,354.26
	Auto Withdrawal		\$351.75	\$208,002.51
	Blue Cross Blue Shield		\$1,893.24	\$206,109.27
	Employee Deposit	\$2,138.65		\$208,247.92
	Auto Withdrawal		\$72.61	\$208,175.31
	Auto Withdrawal		\$1,123.03	\$207,052.28
	Interest	\$608.07		\$207,660.35
10/31/2024	Balance			\$207,660.35
11/1/2024	Auto Withdrawal		\$996.53	\$206,663.82
	Auto Withdrawal		\$68.32	\$206,595.50
	Auto Withdrawal		\$451.66	\$206,143.84
	Employee Deposit	\$2,138.65		\$208,282.49
	Auto Withdrawal		\$274.05	\$208,008.44
	Interest	\$586.25		\$208,594.69
11/30/2024	Balance			\$208,594.69
12/1/2024	Auto Withdrawal		\$392.36	\$208,202.33
	Blue Cross Blue Shield		\$946.62	\$207,255.71
	Auto Withdrawal		\$1,945.68	\$205,310.03
	Employee Deposit	\$2,138.65		\$207,448.68
	Auto Withdrawal		\$416.66	\$207,032.02
	Auto Withdrawal		\$35.00	\$206,997.02
	Interest	\$604.62		\$207,601.64
12/31/2024	Balance			\$207,601.64
1/1/2025	Auto Withdrawal		\$422.44	\$207,179.20
	Auto Withdrawal		\$72.85	\$207,106.35
	Auto Withdrawal		\$1,364.20	\$205,742.15
	Employee Deposit	\$2,138.65		\$207,880.80
	Dept of Labor-Unemp.		\$969.63	\$206,911.17
	Auto Withdrawal		\$871.73	\$206,039.44
	Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$1,893.24		\$204,146.20
	Interest	\$540.55		\$204,686.75
1/31/2025	Balance			\$204,686.75
2/1/2025	Auto Withdrawal		\$374.51	\$204,312.24
	Auto Withdrawal		\$426.48	\$203,885.76

	Auto Withdrawal		\$2,252.82	\$201,632.94
	Auto Withdrawal		\$22.55	\$201,610.39
	Employee Deposit	\$2,138.65		\$203,749.04
	Interest	\$475.59		\$204,224.63
2/28/2025	Balance			\$204,224.63
3/1/2025	Auto Withdrawal		\$51.31	\$204,173.32
	Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$946.62		\$203,226.70
	Auto Withdrawal		\$444.51	\$202,782.19
	Employee Deposit	\$2,138.65		\$204,920.84
	Auto Withdrawal		\$199.35	\$204,721.49
	Interest	\$527.96		\$205,249.45
3/31/2025	Balance			\$205,249.45
	Credit/Debit Total	\$22,409.46	\$23,311.30	

DC Supt Monthly Board Report
April 2025
Chad Denker, Supt

NASB and Strategic Plan Timeline

Thurs Apr 17 – Staff Survey
Tues Apr 22 – Needs Analysis
Wed May 14 – SOC Mtg (Present Data Summary and Top Priorities)
Mon May 19 – Admin and School Improvement Mtg (Present Analysis)

School Mapping Grant

DCPS was awarded \$13,216 in funding.
See attached list

Personnel

We have all certified positions filled. However, Lulu Pena submitted her two-week notice so we are looking for an admin asst at the high school.

Staff Recognition Banquet

Fri May 2 at DC City Auditorium
5:30pm social
6:30pm dinner followed by awards

Special Board Meeting

Can we have a second board meeting in April? Preferably, Wed Apr 23 @ 8am?
The board will need to approve a roof bid from a contractor. They were here on Tuesday, April 8, to review the project.

Newspaper Article

NDE and \$9 million on pandemic grant funding
See attached article

Nebraska Department of Education
School Emergency Response Mapping Grant Awardees

School District/School Name:	Awarded Amount:
Adams Central Public Schools	\$11,535.00
Anselmo-Merna Public Schools	\$3,545.00
Arlington Public School	\$3,310.00
Ashland-Greenwood Public Schools	\$17,400.00
Auburn Public Schools	\$14,505.00
Aurora Public Schools	\$6,743.00
Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools	\$11,691.00
Beatrice Public Schools	\$10,973.00
Bertrand Community Schools	\$3,797.00
Brady Public Schools	\$5,000.00
Cedar Bluffs Public Schools	\$5,370.00
Centura Public Schools	\$5,572.00
Christ Lincoln Schools	\$6,360.00
Christ Lincoln Schools, Yankee Hill Campus	\$4,835.00
Clarkson Public Schools	\$5,395.00
Columbus Christian	\$3,575.00
Creighton Community Schools	\$5,322.00
Cross County Community Schools	\$5,322.00
David City Public Schools	\$13,216.00
Deshler Public Schools	\$3,845.00
District #10, Elkhorn Public Schools	\$89,530.00
East Butler Public School District	\$9,119.00
Elm Creek Public Schools	\$3,875.00
Fillmore Central Public Schools	\$3,350.00
Freeman Public Schools	\$6,895.00
Gothenburg Public Schools	\$3,500.00
Hampton Public Schools	\$3,000.00
Hershey Public Schools	\$6,847.00
Holdrege Public Schools	\$12,135.00
Howells-Dodge Consolidated Public Schools	\$9,119.00
Humboldt-Table Rock-Steinauer School District	\$10,505.00
Humphrey Public Schools	\$13,216.00
Immanuel Lutheran School	\$4,898.00

Isanti Community Schools	\$3,797.00
Laurel-Concord-Coleridge Public Schools	\$7,594.00
Lincoln Christian School	\$4,835.00
Lincoln Lutheran Middle/High School	\$4,835.00
Loomis Public Schools	\$4,835.00
Lutheran High Northeast	\$3,797.00
Messiah Lutheran School	\$4,835.00
Norris School District 160	\$32,500.00
Osceola Public Schools	\$6,369.00
Perkins County Public Schools	\$9,000.00
Ravenna Public Schools	\$3,797.00
Sargent Public Schools	\$4,375.00
Shelton Public Schools	\$4,375.00
Southern School District	\$12,265.00
St Mark Lutheran School-Omaha	\$5,065.24
St. Bernard Catholic School	\$5,135.00
St. Edward Public Schools	\$3,797.00
St. Matthew Catholic School	\$3,986.85
St. Paul Lutheran School-Utica	\$3,797.00
St. Paul's Lutheran School- Beatrice	\$3,797.00
Summerland Public Schools	\$5,947.00
Sumner-Eddyville-Miller Public Schools	\$4,375.00
Thayer Central Community Schools	\$6,295.00
Tri County Public Schools	\$2,995.00
Trinity Lutheran School- Grand Island	\$6,360.00
Trinity Lutheran School- Lincoln	\$3,310.00
Twin River Public Schools	\$6,847.00
Wallace School District 65-R	\$5,322.00
Weeping Water Public Schools	\$6,895.00
West Point Public Schools	\$5,882.00
Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools	\$4,056.33
Zion Classical Academy (Hastings)	\$5,747.76
Zion Lutheran School - Pierce	\$3,797.00

https://journalstar.com/news/state-regional/education/article_fcd53345-69dc-4d25-8e6b-46f68c7dc00f.html

ALERT FEATURED TOP STORY

Nebraska Department of Education forced to halt use of \$9M in leftover pandemic funding

Jenna Ebbers

Apr 4, 2025

A slew of Nebraska Department of Education projects — most of which focused on improving student literacy — were suddenly put on pause last week after the U.S. Department of Education rescinded an extension for using millions of dollars in leftover pandemic relief funds.

State education officials applied for and received an extension from the federal government to continue using money awarded to Nebraska through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund created to help schools weather the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the original deadline to spend any leftover funding passed Jan. 28, Nebraska and 40 other states were awarded an additional 14 months to spend the money. But on March 28, state officials were informed the federal Department of Education would no longer honor that extension and all funding would be cut off at 5 p.m. that day.

People are also reading...

- 1 **Lincoln police: Ceresco man exposed himself to teens at Lincoln Walmart**
- 2 **Police use Taser to arrest Lincoln man during SWAT call on child abuse**
- 3 **102-year-old WWII veteran recently honored by Gov. Pillen killed in crash near Scottsbluff**
- 4 **Lawsuit can go ahead against LPS over girl's injury during P.E. class at Lincoln school**

NDE still had about \$9 million to spend out of \$20.2 million in leftover funding included under the extension. When state education officials received the March 28 notice, all work on projects funded with the money was immediately ceased and all contractors were asked to stop working. In total, NDE received \$845 million in three rounds of emergency relief funding.

The leftover funding was being used on a variety of projects focused on six areas: literacy; family and community engagement; after-school and summer enrichment; infrastructure and technology; supports for homeless youths; and construction projects at Omaha Public Schools.

In the memo sent to state education leaders, U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon said the department found Nebraska's extension was no longer "justified."

At Friday's Nebraska State Board of Education meeting, Nebraska Education Commissioner Brian Maher said he has been in contact with Gov. Jim Pillen, Nebraska's congressional delegation and the U.S. Department of Education to seek solutions to the unexpected loss in federal dollars.

The state does have the option to reapply for the extension on an individual basis for each project covered under the funding, but there's no guarantee it will be granted. To obtain an extension, states were asked to submit an emailed statement explaining why an extension is

necessary to continue mitigating the negative educational effects of COVID-19 on students.

One of the two dozen projects covered under the money was directed at developing a literacy needs assessments, while another provided educational consulting for early literacy, math, family and community engagement for Nebraska youths. Additionally, Nebraska Growing Readers, which distributes free books to children, was awarded a portion of the funding to distribute more than 1 million books to about 23,000 children and families.

The impact of the funding loss will be felt in school districts across the state, Maher said.

“We’re doing work in the Omaha Public Schools, and we’re doing literacy work in the Scottsbluff Public Schools, so the reach is from border to border,” he said.

On Friday, the Nebraska State Board of Education approved redirecting funding under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Nebraska WORDS Project, which had been funded with the emergency COVID funding. The program focuses on improving literacy skills for K-3 students.

The decision to halt the extension will also impact more than 20 contractors hired by the state to oversee the programs, Maher said.

In the past week, Maher said he’s been asked several times why the state didn’t spend the ESSER funding sooner instead of relying on the extension. The department decided to spend the money over a longer period of time to extend its impact in a more thoughtful way rather than spending it all at once, he said.

“We were able to spend intentionally rather than what we had thought at the time would be quickly or frivolously,” he said.

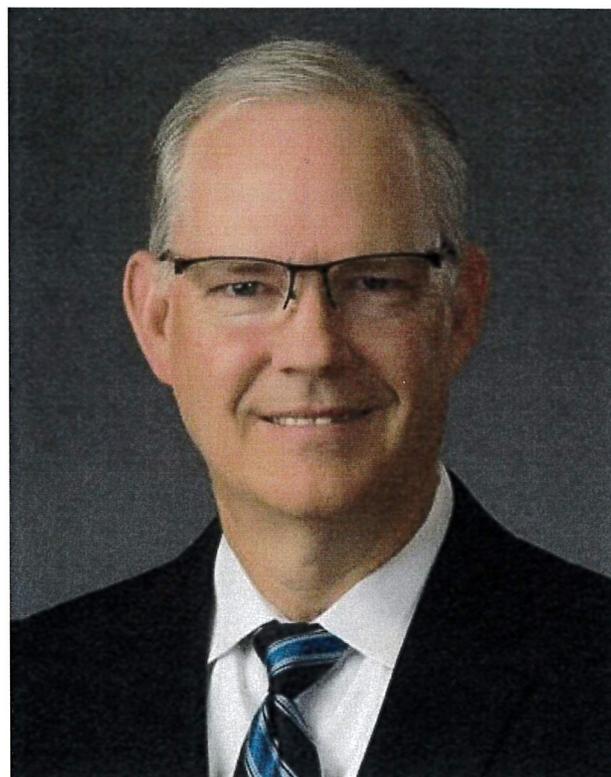
However, the loss in funding will not have an impact on the state education officials’ goal to focus on literacy, improving state test scores and putting children first, Maher said.

“Quite frankly, it’s not so much about the money as it is about the work. And while this is a step back, we’ll continue to make this a priority,” Maher said, adding: “We’ll continue to do the important work, the hard work, for our students, for our staff, our clients and for our



McMahon

Ben Curtis, Associated Press



Maher

Board Report
Mr. Couch
April 7, 2025

My report will be very brief this week. We are entering testing season, which means there's a whole lot to do, but really not much to write about.

We successfully gave the ACT State Assessment to Juniors back on March 25. All went well. We have since submitted all those materials to the State, which is a cumbersome process. Laurel Valentine was a great resource through that whole experience, and Mrs. Backstrom's expertise and experience was invaluable as well.

Going forward, we'll have some sort of testing going on for the next five weeks. The schedule is as follows:

NSCAS testing will begin on April 8 with the Science test.

- NSCAS Science - April 8-9. Grade 8
- NSCAS ELA - April 15-16. Grades 7-8
- NSCAS Math - April 23-24. Grades 7-8

MAP testing will begin on April 29 with the Reading test.

- MAP Reading - April 29-30. Grades 9-10
- MAP Science - May 1. Grades 9-10
- MAP Math - May 6-7. Grades 9-10.
- MAP Language Usage. May 8. Grades 9-10.

Otherwise, administratively, we'll continue to support our teachers and students by supporting our goal of student achievement and student progress. With track and golf in full swing (not to mention various State Conventions and Leadership Conferences), we will have multiple subs in our building every day from here on out. We're very fortunate to be able to have enough subs to cover our events, but if any teachers call in sick on a given morning, we will have to cover those classes by using other teachers' planning periods. I absolutely hate to do that, but it's just the reality of Spring.

Chad Lindsley
Board Report
4/9/2025

I can't talk about anything else until I give Jarod Ockander and the speech team a huge shout out for finishing the season as the class C1 state champions! This cannot be accomplished without the sacrifice from the students and coaches throughout the season. A few items I want to highlight are listed below.

- In years past we have done our middle school house trip to visit a college and then spend a couple hours of fun in the spring. Since we did the college visits in the fall already, we are looking at possible dates to take the middle school to the bowling alley in Columbus. A lot of this will be predicated on bus driver availability.
- 6th grade transition day is tentatively scheduled for May 20.
- Due to all the missed days from the weather we decided to combine the March and April newsletters to send out during the first week of May.
- All my observations have been completed for this school year and I will be finalizing the last of the summatives in the next week. It is an honor getting into the classrooms to see all the great things or teachers are doing. We really have some fantastic teachers here at DCHS.
- Congrats to Natalia Thoendel for earning her state FFA degree!
- David City was fortunate to have Abby Lindsley selected to serve on the NSAA student advisory committee for the next two years. *"The Student Advisory Committee helps to promote the mission of the NSAA, encompassing leadership, sportsmanship, and integrity. The focus is on providing education and leadership through open and honest communication with all member schools and their students, administrators and coaches. Duties and responsibilities are: discuss current student and Association issues; assist with various Association functions; help to maintain an avenue of communication between the Association and the student participants themselves; create and implement initiatives within schools, communities and/or school conferences. Additional responsibilities include:*
 - *Students provide input, help to develop, and attend the sportsmanship and leadership summits in conjunction with the Nebraska Coaches Association.*
 - *Students record public service announcements (PSAs), through our media partner STRIV.TV.*

David City Elementary

April 2024-25 Board Report

Third Quarter Attendance

Currently, there are 304 PreK-6th grade students enrolled, but we are only required to report K-6 attendance to the state. David City Elementary's current chronic absenteeism rate is down by 0.7% compared to last year.

- Average daily attendance for 3rd quarter
 - 2023-24 School Year - 94.5%
 - 2024-25 School Year - 94.7%
- Chronic Absenteeism (Missed 10% of the school year so far)
 - March of 2023 - 12.7 % of K-6 students considered chronically absent (32/252 students)
 - March of 2024 - 12.7% of K-6 students considered chronically absent (33/259 students)

March Madness Attendance Challenge

Our March Madness Attendance Challenge wrapped up on Friday, March 28th, and it brought some exciting surprises—complete with our very own Cinderella Story! Kindergarten, who started off in last place, made an incredible comeback and were crowned our attendance champions! Fifth grade took a strong second place, and third grade came out on top in the Second Chance Bracket.

As part of their victory, Kindergarten students had their photo placed on a custom-made plaque (crafted by Stanley Allen & Mr. Ebbeka!) that will be proudly displayed in our trophy case. Second and third place winners will each receive a small prize for their efforts. This challenge was a fun and motivating way to boost attendance and school spirit. A huge thank you to Mrs. Dubbs for dreaming up this idea and for all the behind-the-scenes work tracking data and organizing the event. Well done to all!

Preschool Roundup

Preschool Roundup was held on Monday, February 10, 2025, and it was a great success! We currently have 47 students enrolled for the upcoming school year, with five students on the waiting list. Thank you to all the families who attended and helped make the event a positive and welcoming experience for our newest learners. We can't wait to see all the growth, learning, and laughter that lies ahead for our littlest Scouts.

Kindergarten Roundup

We are excited to welcome the next class of Kindergarteners! Kindergarten Roundup is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2025, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at David City Elementary. All potential Kindergarten students are invited to attend with their parents. While parents meet in the gym for an informational session, future Kindergarteners will have a chance to:

- Have their picture taken
- Explore the Kindergarten classrooms
- Meet their future classmates

Parents are encouraged to bring a certified copy of their child's birth certificate and updated immunization records to help us begin the enrollment process. We look forward to meeting our newest learners and their families!

HAL Day

Ms. Roemmich hosted her third HAL (High Ability Learner) Day of the school year on Wednesday, March 26th. The event took place in the David City Elementary art room from 8:00–11:00 a.m. During this session, both the Bellwood and David City Elementary HAL students continued their exploration of waves, with a special focus on sound waves. It was a hands-on, engaging morning of learning and discovery!

Parent Teacher Conferences

We had a 73% attendance rate for our recent Parent-Teacher Conferences on March 27th. While our goal is always 100% participation, we appreciate the strong turnout—especially given the adjustment to a shorter, open house-style format this

year. Following conferences, teachers continued to reach out to families who weren't able to attend, with the hope of rescheduling meetings. Partnering with parents is an essential part of supporting student success, and we're grateful for the ongoing communication and collaboration. Thank you to all the families who made time to attend!

Staffing Update

I am thrilled to announce that all positions at DCE have been filled! We are welcoming a dynamic mix of new and experienced teachers to our team. Each individual brings a unique set of skills, passion, and commitment to our school community, and I am confident they will make a positive impact on our students and staff alike. Please join me in giving them a warm welcome as we look forward to a fantastic 2025-26 school year!

- Miss Olivia Drozd, 1st Grade
- Miss Karli Bracht, 2nd Grade
- Ms. Jane Epp, 3rd Grade
- Miss Taylor Nitzsche, 5th Grade
- Ms. Jennifer Hanna, 6th Grade
- Miss Madison Spatz, Special Education
- Ms. Eileen Gahan, Special Education
- Mrs. Annie Chrisman, School Psychologist
- Mrs. Jennifer Johnson, School Psychologist

Family Literacy Night

Thank you to everyone who helped make Family Game Night such a wonderful event! We had 78 families join us—239 people in total—and the energy was fantastic. Many families shared how much they enjoyed spending time together playing games and making memories. One of the night's highlights was the Wax Museum, which wowed visitors and gave students a great opportunity to shine. What an awesome experience for everyone involved! A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped organize the evening. Special thanks to the PTO and Roper's for donating four Scout tumblers for our prize drawing! Congratulations to our winners:

- Blake Trainer
- Bryony Smith
- Johnathan Warriner
- Bentley Johnson

PBiS

The David City Elementary team is proud to share that we've handed out an impressive 5,173 positive tickets so far this year! In addition, 32 students have been recognized with our Future World Changer Award, celebrating those who go above and beyond in modeling outstanding behavior. Each day, our staff continues to look for students who demonstrate what it means to be safe, respectful, and responsible—and who are also learning to own their actions when mistakes happen. These are important life skills we're proud to help nurture. Our final Scout Camp Day of the year is scheduled for Friday, May 16, 2025. We look forward to ending the year strong and celebrating all the great choices our students are making!

April Newsletter [Link](#)

Mrs. Greenfield,
David City Elementary Principal

Bellwood Board of Education Report
April 2025

As everyone knows, the weather in March was crazy and caused more disruptions. However, we have just completed two full weeks of school, and that felt so good to get back to some normalcy. Despite the disruptions and cancellations, we still had a lot going on in the last month, and I will highlight some of it in this report.



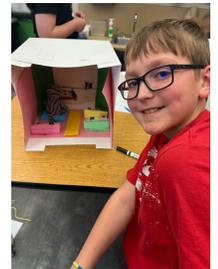
Pancakes with a Pal

On Monday, March 24th, we had Pancakes With A Pal where K-5 students could invite a positive male role model to school for breakfast. It was great to see how happy the students were to have dad or grandpa at school having breakfast with them.



Elementary HAL Day

On Wednesday, March 26th, Mrs. Roemmich hosted the third Elementary HAL Day of the year. The students who participated did 5 different activities/experiments with sound waves. It was great to see the level of engagement in the room. The final HAL day of the year will be May 13th. Mrs. Roemmich will be taking the students to the SAC museum in Omaha to conclude their unit on different kinds of waves. Mrs. Roemmich will be coming to the May board meeting to give an overview of the Elementary HAL Days and what she has planned for next year.



Parent Teacher Conferences

As you know, we had a change in parent teacher conferences format, and we did more of an open house on March 27th. We had around 72% attendance which is lower than we normally have when parents make scheduled appointments, However, it was better than I anticipated it would be and conferences went well overall.

Evaluations and Walkthroughs

A lot of my time the last month has been spent doing walkthroughs and formal evaluations as the April 15th deadline is quickly approaching. We have so many great teachers and there are great things happening in the classroom every day, so I appreciate spending time in the classroom conducting these.

Preschool Enrollment for 2025-26

As you know, we moved our preschool roundup to February so we could give families an idea of where we are for enrollment for next year. Currently, we have sixteen students enrolled for preschool at Bellwood Elementary for next year, and we have three students on the waiting list. Of these sixteen students, fourteen of them are four year olds. This is a large class for Bellwood, but it is really good to see.

School Improvement

As you all know, we had our school improvement visit in November. Even though we completed our external visit, the school improvement team has still been meeting. We have spent our time at our meetings updating the school improvement team on the strategic planning process. Since working on our MTSS process was a recommendation from our external visit, we have been working on this. Kendra Gustufson from the ESU came to our school improvement meeting on April 2nd. She led team members through a facilitated self-assessment of where we are with MTSS. We will combine the information with the information from the self-assessment the administration did last summer to help us move forward in this area.



4-H Extension Enrichment Activities

One of our community partners is the Butler County Extension. Janessa Bergman is new in her role as 4-H Extension Assistant, but she has been very busy visiting classrooms across the district. She mainly has been educating classrooms about butterflies and hatching baby chicks. These are fun activities that the students really enjoy. When we were out of school for two days, the chicks in the third grade classroom had just hatched. I had a couple of parents texting me asking about them



because their 3rd graders were worried. A special thanks to Mark Kobza and Lori Meusch who looked after the chicks during this time. The third graders were relieved to see that the chicks were ok when they returned to school.

Family Literacy Night

Bellwood Elementary's Spring Literacy Night is Monday April 7th and is titled Artwork and Authors. For Title I requirements we have to have two family nights per year. Mrs. Badstieber, our current Title I teacher, wanted to try something different this year, so she partnered up with Mrs. Meusch to feature student creations from art class. Classroom teachers were responsible for having students write a poem about their artwork. Here is the flyer for this event: [Link](#).

April Newsletter

- Here is a link to the Bellwood Elementary April Newsletter: [Link](#)

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Peggy Romshek
Bellwood Elementary Principal

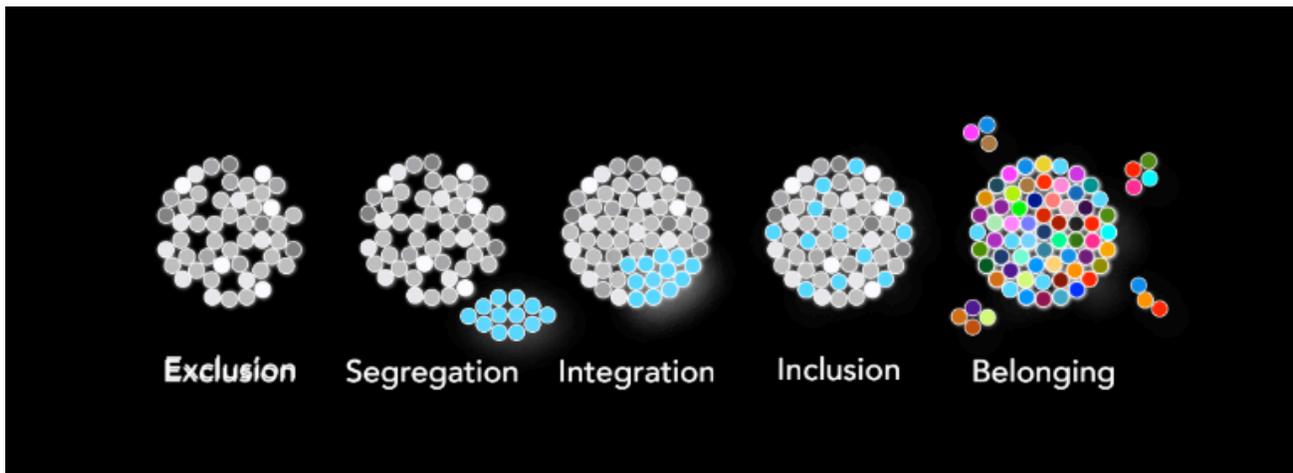
4-4-25

School Board Report: Special Education

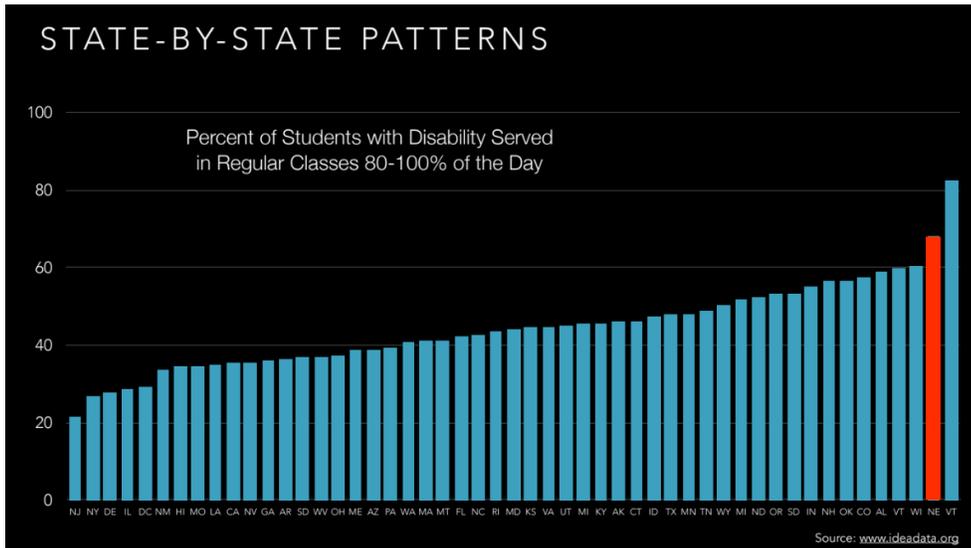
Submitted by: Kari Daniels

I had the opportunity to attend the Nebraska Autism Spectrum Disorders Network State Conference that was held in Kearney on Thursday and Friday. Four other professionals from our district were able to attend as well, with one of our staff members, Anna Kouba, presenting at this conference. She did a fantastic job not only presenting, but answering questions from the audience. This conference draws professionals from surrounding states as it offers more than 30 different sessions nestled into a 2 day conference.

One of our keynote speakers was Dr. Erik Carter from Baylor University. His keynote was: Beyond Inclusion: Building Communities of Belonging Together. Many of his points really spoke to me and those in our DC crew. Most of us have seen a version of the poster below, but I do not recall seeing the fifth circle entitled Belonging. I think that truly is the end goal that we are looking for when we talk about or are working toward inclusion.

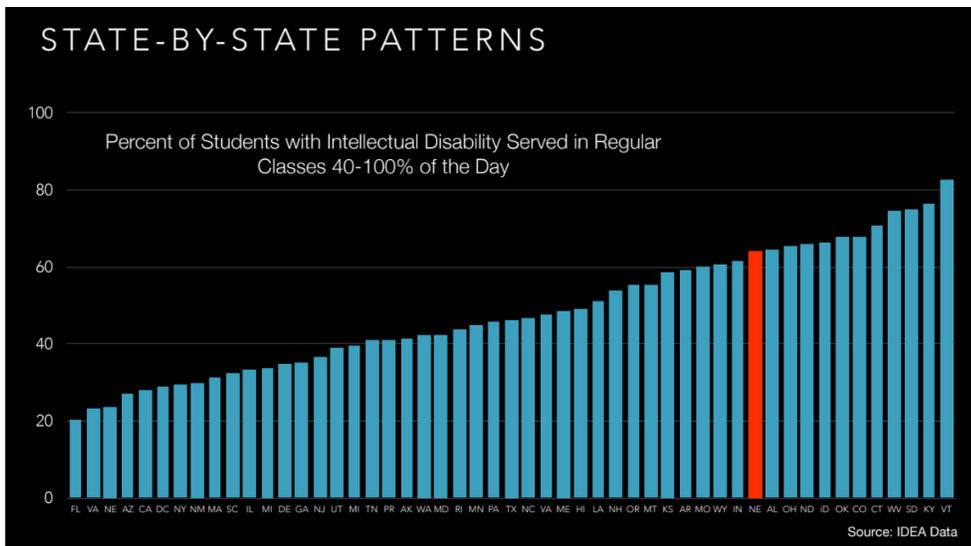


Dr. Carter was quick to praise Nebraska for how well we are doing, compared to most states, when it comes to inclusion. He said that Nebraska is #2 in the nation when it comes to the amount of time students with disabilities are served in regular education classes. The graph he shared showed that we are second only to Vermont!



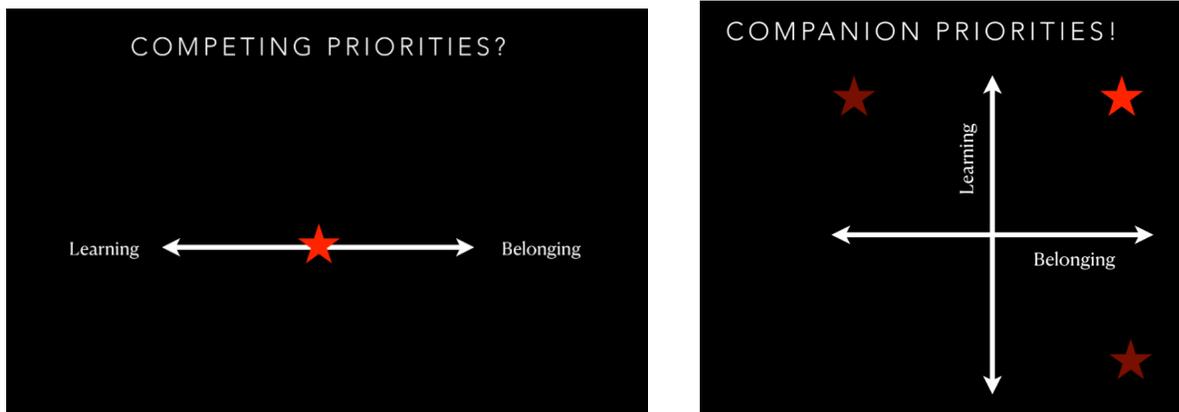
6 Beyond Inclusion Creating Communities of Belonging Together Part 2.pdf

When we start looking at specific disabilities, intellectual disabilities for example, we are still in the top 25%.



6 Beyond Inclusion Creating Communities of Belonging Together Part 2.pdf

Dr. Carter also stressed the importance of companion and not competing priorities for students with disabilities. This graphic demonstrated, to me, that the social-emotion and educational parts of learning are both equally important. For students with autism and developmental disabilities, social-emotional and friendship skills need to be explicitly taught as students may not pick up these skills incidentally or vicariously through multiple interactions and friendships with their peers.



6 Beyond Inclusion Creating Communities of Belonging Together Part 2.pdf

This was a fantastic conference and I truly appreciate having the opportunity to attend. I also appreciate David City Public Schools' willingness to invest in the continuing education of certified and classified staff by allowing them to attend this conference and receive additional training as well.

(Conference Nugget: "Nobody hires somebody based on what they can't do.")

All Scouts Have Power

Activities Director April Board Report 4/7/25

Notable Celebrations:

Speech

Class C1 Co-State Champions (tied with GICC)

Individual Awards:

- Duet Acting—Hannah & Neil O— 4th
- Entertainment—Hayden—5th
- Informative—Shelbea—State Runner-up
- OID—Sherlock (Neil O, Kaylee, Natalie, Paul, Brittin)—4th
- Humorous— Neil O— 4th
- Persuasive—Kaylee—5th
- POI—Hannah— State Runner-up

FFA

Floriculture team are STATE CHAMPIONS(National Qualifier)

Hannah Gangwish - 7th; Kambri Andel - 8th; Natalia Thoendel - 9th; Addison Kuhlman - 11th.

James Farmer received Gold in Employment Skills

Natalia Thoendel earned her State Degree

Esports

- David City is the Division 3 Fortnite State Champions (Justin, Jaxon, Julien, Ethan and James)
- Rocket League 1, Valorant, Rocket League 2, and Mario Kart have all qualified for the State Tournament at Doane College on April 12th.

NHS Induction took place on Friday 3/28 - 14 new students were inducted.

Scout Band Members performed at the Class B All-State Band in Grand Island on Saturday, 3/29.

- Hannah, Neil and Lorelai performed in the Symphonic Band
- Stanley performed in the Wind Ensemble.

Basketball

- All-Conference Selections
- Reese Svoboda / Meagan Jahde - Honorable Mention
- 2nd team - Kambri Andel
- 3rd team - Kamryn Behrns

Quiz Bowl

- SNC Conference Runner-up

Abby Lindsley was selected to the NSAA Advisory Committee

- 1 of 10 Sophomores to be chosen across the state

Upcoming Events:

FCCLA State April 7th - 8th

State Esports - April 12th

Middle School Speech Meet- April 12th

SNC Recognition Banquet - April 23rd in York

Internal Board Policies/PersonnelUse of Public Resources by Board Members and EmployeesRestrictions on Use

No Board member or employee of David City Public Schools shall use or authorize the use of his or her public office or any confidential information received through the holding of the public office to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which the individual is associated.

No Board member or employee shall use or authorize the use of school resources for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question. For purposes of this restriction, "school resources" means personnel, property, resources, or funds under the official care and control of the Board member or employee.

Authorized Uses

The uses described below are not authorized by employees, and violate this policy, where an employee's use: (1) interferes with the conduct of school business; (2) interferes with the performance of the employee's duties and responsibilities; (3) is contrary to another Board policy or a rule or directive set forth in an employee handbook or other employee communication device; (4) is contrary to a supervisor's directive; or (5) the use is for the employee's personal financial gain or potential for personal financial gain.

Incidental or De Minimis Use: Use of school resources by a Board member or employee which is incidental or de minimis does not constitute a violation of this policy.

Personal Use as Part of Compensation: Use of school resources for personal purposes is authorized by this policy if:

1. the use of the resource for personal purposes is part of the employee's compensation provided in an employment contract or is consistent with this policy; and
2. the personal use of the resource as compensation is reported in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code, if any, are paid by the affected employee.

Employees who engage in such personal use shall, upon request of the Board of Education or the administration, provide evidence to establish that the compensation has been reported and taxes paid as required by the Tax Code.

School Vehicles: Use of a school vehicle by a Board member or employee to travel to a designated location or the home of the Board member or employee is permissible when the primary purpose of the travel serves a school district purpose. Such use is authorized by this policy. ~~No travel other than directly to the school-related trip destination shall occur, however, when students are in~~

~~the vehicle or if the vehicle is a school bus.~~

School employees that drive a school vehicle may use a school vehicle for personal use (including eating a meal during an away activity) only upon (1) the prior approval of the employee's supervisor and (2) as long as the school vehicle remains within a reasonable geographic area from the school purpose.

School employees are further authorized to make personal stops along a school route as long as (1) no students are in the vehicle during a stop; (2) the stop is on the regular route; (3) the District does not pay any additional compensation to the driver for such stop; and (4) the stop has been approved in advance by the employee's supervisor.

Communication Devices: A Board member or employee may use a communication device or a computer under the control of the school district for email, text messaging, a call to a child at home, a teacher, a doctor, a day care center, a baby-sitter, a family member, or any other person to inform any such person of an unexpected schedule change or for other essential personal business. Any such communication shall be kept to a minimum and shall not interfere with the conduct of school business or the performance of an employee's duties.

Use of the District's internet system for such communications shall not be permitted to the extent such use violates the terms of the E-Rate program, which restricts use of the internet system to "educational purposes."

Election Issues: A Board member or the Superintendent, in the normal course of his or her duties, may use school resources to research and prepare materials to assist the School Board in determining the effect of a ballot question on the School District.

Mass mailings, mass duplication, or other mass communications at school expense for the purpose of qualifying, supporting, or opposing a ballot question is not permitted. Mass communications does not include placing public records demonstrating the consequences of the passage or defeat of a ballot question affecting the School District on its existing websites.

A Board member or employee may campaign for or against the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question or the nomination or election of a candidate when no school resources are used. An employee shall not engage in campaign activity for or against the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question or the nomination or election of a candidate during duty time.

A Board member or authorized employee may make school facilities available for campaign purposes if the identity of the candidate or the support for or opposition to the ballot question is not a factor in making the facilities available or a factor in determining the cost or conditions of use.

The School Board may discuss and vote upon a resolution supporting or opposing a ballot question.

A Board member may only respond to specific inquiries by the press or the public as to his or her

opinion in his or her individual capacity.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 49-14,101.01 and 49-14,101.02

Policy Adopted~~Date of Adoption~~: April 9, 2025~~[Insert Date]~~