

Kindle's Korner

# Legislative Coffees And School Finances

Please join others at the Legislative Coffees which are held monthly during the South Dakota State Legislative Session (January-March) and serve as an open forum for discussion with elected officials. This is an opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas regarding educational issues facing the Yankton School District.

The Legislative Coffees are open to the public. All Legislative Coffees will be from 10-11 a.m. at the Avera Office Pavilion Amphitheatre, 409 Summit Street. The 2019 Legislative Coffee dates will be held: Jan. 19, Feb. 2, and March 2.

## **School Finance 101/School Audit**

To better inform our patrons in the district about school finances, I will begin this month and every month moving forward with a new section called "School Finance 101."

This will also be an on-going agenda item at all of our school board meetings beginning in January.

Each South Dakota public school district is required by law to have an independent financial/compliance audit performed at least every two years. The Yankton School District chooses to have an audit conducted annually to ensure compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions and to ensure accurate and timely filing of financial reports with appropriate state and federal agencies.

The objective of an audit is to enable the auditor to express an opinion as to whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards. An audit opinion is given on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the entity's financial position and are free from material misstatement. Audits also serve as a test on internal controls and fraud detection.

The YSD is one of only two school districts in South Dakota that prepares a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and has received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International for 15 consecutive years and has once again applied for this prestigious recognition for fiscal year ended June 30, 2018.

A CAFR provides school board members and other stakeholders with information about the school's operations and management that goes beyond financial statements by adding a statistical section, supplemental narratives and various charts and graphs to the audit report. In addition, the CAFR is filed with credit rating agencies and the Securities Exchange Commission for annual financial disclosure compliance for bonds and other financing.

The current CAFR along with the last 10 years' reports can be found on the YSD website at <https://www.ysd.k12.sd.us/apps/pages/CAFR> or printed copies can be viewed at the Yankton High School Library, City of Yankton Library or The Center or by contacting YSD Business Manager Jason Bietz at 665-3980.

## **Boys and Girls Club**

The Yankton School District has partnered with the Boys and Girls Club to offer families an excellent opportunity for their children. If your child or grandchild is in 1st-5th grade, they can start enjoying the Boys and Girls Club for only \$25 per year! In addition, they can ride the bus from any of our four elementary schools to the Boys and Girls Club every day for FREE.

We have complimentary one day passes to try the Boys and Girls Club. If you are interested, please let the school office know and they will make sure to send home a complimentary pass.

The Boys and Girls Club is divided into three different areas to accommodate elementary, middle school and high school students respectively. Each area is separated and supervised independently from each other, along with separated entrances as well.

Both middle school and high school students are also welcome to attend the Boys and Girls Club. It is a safe and warm place for all students to get their homework done, have a snack, play games, and socialize around other students. Please call the Boys and Girls Club at 668-9710 for additional information.

### **Yankton School District Tuiton-Free Preschool**

If you know of any 3 or 4 year old toddlers who could benefit from preschool, let them know we have a few openings for next fall (2019-20 school year). We will help them get registered. They can call the Webster Elementary School office at 665-2484 for more information.

These children need to be 3 or 4 by Sept. 1, 2019. There is a \$50 registration fee upon registering, which will be refunded upon enrolling in the district's JrK or Kindergarten the following years.

This is an incredible opportunity, which will have many positive and long lasting effects on these children, families, and our community. Call 665-2484 for more details!

### **Stand Up For School Safety Program**

The Yankton School District is participating in the Stand Up For School Safety Program sponsored by the State of South Dakota, which is an anonymous texting platform to promote the reporting of suspicious behavior, threats or violence.

Anonymous users answer a series of eight questions, including what kind of threat exists and where the threat is located. This information is immediately sent by email to Dr. Kindle and local law enforcement officials. They work together to assess and address the concern brought forward.

Parents, Students, and Community members are encouraged to anonymously text "Safe" to 82257 in reporting suspicious behavior, threats or violence.

### **Road Conditions**

During the winter months we will experience many days with snow packed and slippery roads, along with blowing snow. We will have school on these days, unless we are in some type of weather warning. Our busses may be running late as they will take their time as an added precaution when these conditions exist. Students who drive to school will need to use extra caution when driving to school, as well as parents getting kids to and from school.

I accept the fact that our school district patrons will not all agree upon decisions made regarding Inclement Weather, so I will do my best in making these decisions. We know weather can change quickly and forecasting weather isn't always accurate, but folks do their best. Either way there is a chance we could get caught in some weather we did not anticipate.

Let's work together to ensure the safety of our students by helping and supporting each other during weather events. If a parent is concerned about the safety of their child regarding weather, it is certainly your prerogative to send your child to school or not. Our building principals will also take into account road conditions when a student may arrive late.

I want to thank you in advance for your support and understanding while making this type of decision.

## **Superintendent Presentations**

As superintendent, I would be happy to visit with you personally or speak to your group/organization. I am also willing to host your group at our Administration Building or one of our school buildings. I would also come to your facility or meeting place.

As Superintendent, I have spoken to several groups throughout our community and have hosted groups at our Administration Building. Please feel free to contact me at 665-3998 to arrange a time to visit.

Let's continue to have a great year!

Henry Ford stated, "Coming together is a beginning. Staying together is a process. Working together is a success."