

KINDLE'S KORNER

Dr. Wayne Kindle, Superintendent

Yankton School District

School Board – Administrator Retreat

This past Monday night the school district held its' first School Board/Administrator Retreat. The purpose of the retreat was to provide some time for the entire School Board and Administrative team to be together for an open discussion about school related topics.

The following topics were on the agenda for discussion:

- In-town Bussing Pilot Program
- Staffing/Programming PK-12

A potential "In-town Bussing Pilot Program" was discussed that would provide school bussing at various locations through-out the city of Yankton. We know there are students who live a long distance from school and their only way to school is to walk. This creates situations where some students are consistently late for school or don't make it to school. We also know a number of parents leave for work early in the morning and are not able to see their children off to school. Perhaps an "In-town Bussing Pilot Program" would provide a much needed service to students and their families.

A committee will be formed to gather more information regarding an "In-town Bussing Pilot Program" and make a recommendation to the School Board later this school year.

Staffing and programming needs are an on-going discussion that takes place every year as student needs change and opportunities to enhance programming are presented. There were discussions regarding the following staffing and programming areas:

Elementary Spanish

Elementary Art

Curriculum Director/Technology Integrationist

Early Childhood Special Education Teacher (ECSE)

JrK and Kindergarten

Special Education

Title Math

Activities Elementary/Middle/High School – golf, tennis, drama, intramurals, basketball, track, and wrestling

Pre-school

Transportation

Gifted Program
Reading Recovery
Robotics
Science Technology Engineering Art Math
Alternative Learning Center middle school partnership with Boys and Girls Club
National Honor Society (NHS)
Future Farmers of America (FFA)
Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)

FFA Program at Yankton High School

Bringing back the Future Farmers of America program at Yankton High School has been part of our 5 Year Strategic Plan and is now a reality.

The current FFA program in Yankton consists of 35 students all enrolled in the “Introduction to Agriculture” course at Yankton High School. The number of students in FFA will grow during spring semester by 20, based on class registration numbers.

This fall, the group toured the grand opening of Dakota Plains Ag Center (NAPA Junction) while learning about the basics of crop production in the Midwest. Students were also introduced to land judging criteria and some participated in a land judging competition against other regional high schools. Along with land judging competition, some students also competed in Leadership Development Events (LDE’s) where they created resumes, cover letters, and mock interviewed for various agricultural employment positions.

This fall, two Yankton FFA students traveled to Indianapolis to join 65,000 other high school students for the National FFA Convention. While at the convention, students were able to watch schools from across the country compete in various career and leadership competitions, while also developing lifelong relationships with other FFA members state and nationwide. This spring, students will participate in state Career Development Events (CDE’s) such as: Ag Mechanics, Livestock Judging, Milk Quality and Products, Nursery and Landscape, and many other topics.

The FFA program received a \$500 matching grant from the state of South Dakota for a community service related project. The students built a raised garden bed at Stewart Elementary and plan to work closely with the elementary students to plant, grow, and harvest vegetables for their own consumption as well as possibly donating to the “Food for Thought” program. The students also helped Wester Elementary build and install a “Buddy Bench” for students to use while on the playground at recess.

We would like to thank the following for their support of the FFA Program:

- 1) Steve Heine Memorial Fund Donation- \$2000
- 2) First Dakota Donation- \$1000
- 3) Living to Serve Grant-\$500
- 4) Linda Stephenson-\$400 (In memory of late husband Dr. Daryl Stephenson)
- 5.) Farm Bureau-\$6000 (earmarked for greenhouse grower tables)
- 6.) Old Iron Tractor Association -\$3000

YHS Events Displayed

If you have not yet noticed, many of our Yankton High School Activities/Events are being displayed on the new and very colorful sign at the Services Center Federal Credit Union. We want to thank them for offering this free space to display school events. The graphics and information displayed look great!

Yankton School District Recognized

Governor Dugaard spoke at the YHS Theater on December 19. The Governor discussed Workforce Development, Apprenticeship Program, Build Dakota Scholarship, and promoting as well as recognizing the YSD Internship Program.

A number of parents, students, business owners/leaders, and community members attended the Governor's speech. Following the Governor's event, the YSD hosted local businesses in the YHS Commons who are currently involved in the Internship Program and those interested in becoming part of the Internship Program.

Elementary School Garden

Stewart School and Yankton High School's FFA Program are working together to build a school garden. Yankton High School FFA class under the leadership of teacher Brandon Wagner was looking for a project that would help elementary students. Building a school garden made sense as the elementary science curriculum studies plants and how they grow and FFA's mission is to prepare students for successful careers in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

The FFA students first task was to design a raised garden that would be easily accessed by elementary students, be easy to mow around and be ascetically fitting for a school yard. FFA also needed to come up with ways to irrigate the soil and problem solve issues with the strength of the garden to hold the weight of the dirt. The results were outstanding as the cedar wood used will last many years and the watering soaker system will keep the soil moist for the plants.

Next spring the elementary students will get a chance to get their hands dirty and plant seeds and plants along with the assistance of the high school students. FFA also plans to look at soil

conditions and soil testing to make sure conditions are good for growing. Stewart families along with FFA members will volunteer to maintain the garden over the summer. Farming depends a lot on the weather and with a good growing season we hope to raise vegetable that will be donated to the local “Food for Thought” program at Lincoln Elementary. Families will be supplied with fresh vegetables and the students, both FFA and elementary, will walk away with the skills and knowledge to know where our food comes from and the work involved to produce our food sources.

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 through-out 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. I can also be contacted using my email at wkindle@ysd.k12.sd.us

Let's make it a great year in the YSD!

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