

Meade School District  
46-1

# In Touch

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Kindergarten registration,  
screenings for birth to six  
...Page 2

SBHS office remodel plans  
...Page 5

Nominations for teacher  
and support staff of the year  
...Page 9

Proposed teacher pay hike  
...Page 11

School calendar  
...Page 13



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## Williams Building window replacement project

Phase one of a three-part project to update the second floor of the Williams Administrative Building to accommodate fifth-graders from the overcrowded Sturgis Elementary School is underway. Hagen Glass is undertaking phase one of the project, that of replacing the windows on the north and east sides of the building to match the new windows on the first floor. Phase two and three will consist of installing new heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and remodeling the classrooms. Anticipated completion date for all phases is 2018.

**"To Build Knowledge and Skills for Success Today and Tomorrow"**

# Three school board seats up for election; first day to circulate petitions is March 1

Three of the nine seats on the Meade School Board are up for election this year. The positions that will become vacant due to the expiration of their terms are those held by Bob Burns, Black Hawk; Curtis Nupen, Piedmont; and Bryce Richter, Sturgis.

Any person who resides within Meade School District and is registered to vote is eligible to file a nominating petition.

The petition may be picked up at the school business office, 1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, or downloaded at:

[www.meade.k12.sd.us/index.php/school-board/election/](http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/index.php/school-board/election/)  
The petition must contain the signatures of at least 20 registered voters of Meade School District.

The first day to circulate nominating petitions is Tuesday, March 1. Deadline to file the nominating petitions is 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, in the office of the Meade School District business manager.

Instructions on circulating nominating petitions and a guide for school board candidates can also be found on the district website, as listed above.

The school board election is Tuesday, June 7.

## Screening of children birth to six and kindergarten registration scheduled for March

School registration for kindergarten and screenings for birth to six-year-old children will be held this March at four locations throughout Meade School District.

The kindergarten registration has been combined with the screening to save time for parents. This registration for the 2016-17 school year is open to children who will be five years of age by Sept. 1, 2016, and who plan on attending school in the fall.

Parents registering a child for kindergarten will need the child's immunization records and a certified copy of the child's birth certificate or affidavit in lieu of the birth certificate as issued by the Department of Health if the original is deemed unattainable. These documents are required by law for every child entering school in South Dakota.

The screenings are for children planning to attend kindergarten in the fall of 2016 as well as for those children up to six years of age.

Children attending the screening will be evaluated in the areas of vision, hearing, speech, language, gross and fine motor skills, and cognitive skills. The evaluations performed during the screening are provided free of charge and take approximately one hour.

The locations, dates and times for the registration and screenings are as follows:

### Sturgis Elementary

**Tuesday, March 8:** 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 9:** 7 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

At Sturgis Elementary School, 1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis. Call Marsha Ford in the nurses' office at 347-2610 to schedule an appointment.

### Piedmont Valley Elementary

**Tuesday, March 15:** 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 16:** 7 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

At Piedmont Valley Elementary School, 16159 Second Street, Piedmont. Call Cara Wise in the school office at 787-5295 to schedule an appointment.

### Whitewood Elementary

**Tuesday, March 22:** 2:30-6 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 23:** 7:30-11 a.m.

At Whitewood Elementary School, 603 Garfield Street, Whitewood. Call Cheryl Delzer in the school office at 269-2264 to schedule an appointment.

### Rural Area

**Thursday, March 24:** 9 a.m.-Noon

Kindergarten registration will be held at the rural school office in Union Center while the screenings will be at the Central Meade County Community Center. Call Karen Speed at 985-5532 or 269-2264 to schedule an appointment.



*Meade School District counselors are, from the back left, Kellie Thomas, Ginger Johnson, Shawn Koontz and Kristi Ortiz; front left, Natalie Serbousek and Julie Nelson. Not pictured are Dadra Avery and Karyl Boldt.*

## School Counseling Week observed Feb. 1-5

National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association, will be observed Feb. 1-5 as a way of focusing public attention on the unique contributions of school counselors and the

impact they can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. Theme is "School Counseling: The Recipe for Success."

Meade School District counselors include Dadra Avery, Sturgis Brown High School; Karyl Boldt, Sturgis Williams Middle School; Shawn Koontz, SBHS; Natalie Serbousek, Whitewood Elementary and Sturgis Williams Middle School; Julie Nelson, Piedmont Valley Elementary; Kristi Ortiz, Sturgis Elementary; and Kellie Thomas, Sturgis Elementary and Piedmont Valley Elementary. Social worker Ginger Johnson works with all students in the district.

School counselors are actively engaged in helping students examine their abilities, strengths, interests

and talents. They work in partnership with parents as they encounter the challenges of raising children in today's world and they focus on positive ways to enhance students' social, personal, educational and career development.

School counselors also work with teachers and other educators to provide an educational system where students can realize their potential and set healthy, realistic and optimistic aspirations for themselves.

Each school counselor is a certified, experienced educator who holds at least a master's degree in guidance and counseling.

Parents or community members who have questions about the school counseling programs should contact one of school counselors listed above.

### **In Touch**

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Questions or comments about the contents of this newsletter should be directed to the editor.

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## Three inducted into Hall of Fame

*The ceremony for the sixth class of honorees inducted into the Sturgis Brown High School Athletic Hall of Fame was held Jan. 29 at the high school during the halftime of the boys basketball game. Hall of Fame inductees Brent Pickar, Brittny Hubbard and Dan Kessler are pictured during the social held in their honor by the S Club and Sturgis Booster Club. Refreshments included the cake, held by Hubbard, and steak and chicken tips, chips, vegetables and fruit. To view the induction photos, go to the following website: <https://sbhsathletichalloffame.shutterfly.com/>. Site password is Scoopers.*

## Nominations sought for Hall of Fame

Nominations for the next class of inductees into the Sturgis Brown High School Athletic Hall of Fame are being accepted until Friday, April 29. The categories of nominees are athlete; coach, adviser or administrator; and community member or contributor. Athletes become eligible for consideration on the fifth anniversary of their graduation from SBHS. Those nominated as a coach, adviser or administrator must be retired or no longer employed with Meade School District for a minimum of three years. There is no time restriction for community members or contributors.

The nominations of those not selected this year will be kept on file and active for the next five years. The nomination form and criteria are available at the activity director's office and main office at SBHS and on the school district website [www.meade.k12.sd.us/index.php/sturgis-brown/activities/hall-fame/](http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/index.php/sturgis-brown/activities/hall-fame/)

# Feb. 8 school board meeting includes approval of remodeling plans for SBHS

Meade School Board members will act on the final plans for the remodeling of the high school entrance and relocation of main office during their Feb. 8 school board meeting scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Monday in the board room of the Williams Administrative Building, 1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis.

Prior to that action, a presentation on the cost analysis and final plans will be given by representatives of Architecture Incorporated, the firm hired to oversee the project.

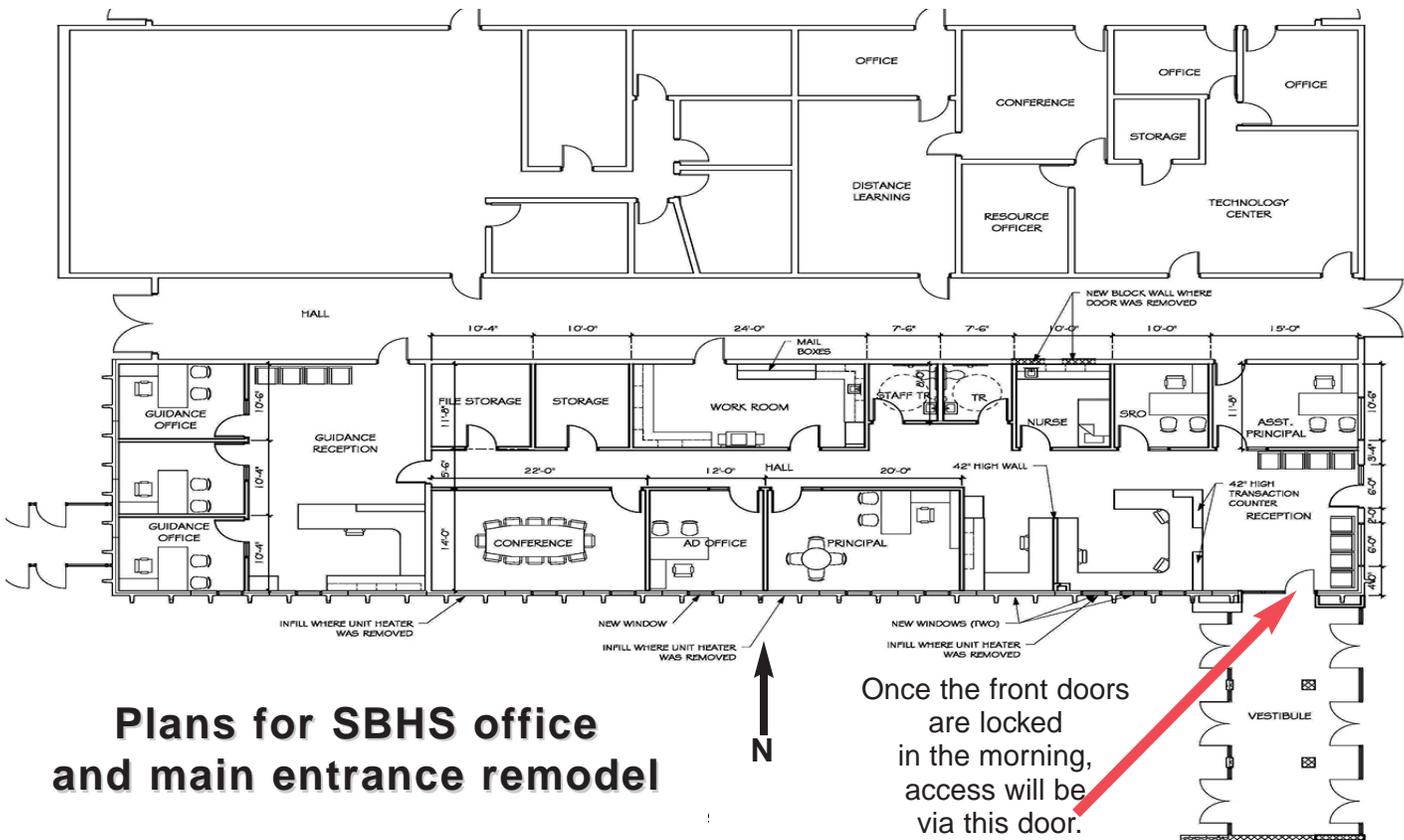
The school board approved this project as a way to provide more security and safety to the high school and its students and staff, and to be more efficient with the services and workload of administrative and support staff.

"I would say we are the last school of any size in the state that doesn't have some type of secure entrance," said Superintendent Don Kirkegaard. "This is a move in the right direction from a security perspective."

That project will include not only relocating the offices of the principal, assistant principal, activities director, nurse, counselors, administrative assistants, staff work room and conference room across the hall into the area now occupied by four classrooms, but will also consist of redoing the front entrance and enlarging the interior vestibule.

Other action items include financial reports, personnel, school board election polling locations, 2016-17 rural calendar and amending the 2016-17 school calendar. Discussion items consist of staffing for the 2016-17 school year, 2017-18 school calendar, soccer cooperative agreement with the Newell School District, and school board recognition week.

An executive session will be held at 5 p.m. to discuss personnel and marketing/negotiations. The agenda and attachments are located on the district website at: [www.meade.k12.sd.us/index.php/school-board/agenda-information/](http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/index.php/school-board/agenda-information/).



# Scholastic books fairs are this month

As a way to instill a lifelong love of books and reading, Scholastic Book Fairs are being held this month at Sturgis Williams Middle School, Sturgis Elementary School and Piedmont Valley Elementary School.

"Peace, Love, Books" is the theme of the Feb. 22-26 book fair at Sturgis Williams Middle School. The book fair will be open for student shopping from 8 a.m.-3:15 p.m. every day that week. Parents and community members are invited to shop every day from 3:15-4 p.m. and from 4-7 p.m. during Parent-Teacher Conferences on Feb. 22 and Feb. 25.

Special family events are also planned as follows: Tuesday, Feb. 23: 7:15-8 a.m., 6th grade Hold Hands with the Grands; Wednesday, Feb. 24: 7:15-8 a.m., 7th grade Muffins with the Mamas; and Thursday, Feb. 25: 7:15-8 a.m., 8th grade Pastries with the Papas. The book fair is also open for shopping during these special events.

The SWMS book fair will also be on-line from Feb. 20 to March 4. Click on the following link:

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/sturgiswilliamsms>

In addition, the middle school is also holding an All For Books fundraiser, the money from which will be used to purchase books for the school. Other theme-related events will be held including a 60s dress-up day and a Read In.

SWMS librarian Scottie Bruch is in need of volun-

teers to help with the set up and tear down of the book fair, and to assist on the shopping days.

"Last year's book fair was a huge success," said Bruch. "We are hoping it will be even more successful this year." She extended a big thank you to the Sturgis Optimist Club for donating \$350 to help defray the cost of this year's book fair.

The Sturgis Elementary School PTA-sponsored book fair is Tuesday, Feb. 23, through Thursday, Feb. 25, in the school library. Hours are 3-7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, which also coincides with parent teacher conferences, and 3-4 p.m. Wednesday.

The theme of the fair is "Feelin' Groovy." Fun activities and drawings with prizes for students and staff will be held all three days.

The Sturgis Elementary book fair will also be on-line the entire month. To access that page, Go to [www.scholastic.com/bookfair](http://www.scholastic.com/bookfair). Click on "Find a Book Fair" at the bottom of the page; choose "South Dakota," then "Sturgis" and "Sturgis Elementary."

The PTA at Piedmont Valley Elementary is sponsoring that school's book fair on Feb. 22-26 in the arts and science room. The book fair will run from 7:15-7:45 a.m. and 2:30-3 p.m. each day. The book fair will also be open from 4-7 p.m. during parent teacher conferences on Feb. 23 and 25.

## Mobile dental bus stationed at Piedmont Feb. 8-12

Delta Dental's Dakota Smiles Mobile Dental Bus will be returning to Meade School District Feb. 8-12 when it will be stationed at Piedmont Valley Elementary School.

Services provided include cleanings, preventive services, fillings and oral health education, and are available to students who have not seen a dentist in two years, or who live more than 85 miles from a dentist.

Local financial support has been received from Sturgis Rally Charities Foundation, Grace Lutheran Church and First Presbyterian Church.

For more information or a copy of the consent and patient information forms, call the school nurses' office at 347-2610. The forms are also at Piedmont Valley Elementary and on the school district website:

[www.meade.k12.sd.us/files/8014/5210/0133/Dakota\\_Smiles\\_2016.pdf](http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/files/8014/5210/0133/Dakota_Smiles_2016.pdf)

## SBHS Youth Leadership Team fundraiser now underway

A fundraiser to benefit the Youth Leadership Team at Sturgis Brown High School is currently underway. YLT members are selling raffle tickets for a Scooper-themed fleece tie blanket and a Scooper t-shirt quilt. Tickets are being sold at all Scooper activities for \$1 each or six for \$5. Custom made Scooper pavers are

also being sold at a cost of \$20-25, depending upon the design.

Money raised will pay to send students to the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America Youth Leadership Conference this month in Washington, D.C. Call SBHS, 347-2686, for more information.

# First semester in a new location a success

The high school's newest career and technical education class - machining - has just concluded the first semester of the school year from its new location in the Sturgis Industrial Park.

The class instructor, Cyle Miller, has also just concluded his first semester as a high school teacher. Though he has more than 30 years experience in the field and seven years experience teaching firefighters, he has never before taught in a public school system.

"The joy of teaching has been rekindled in me," he said of his first semester teaching machining as well as welding at the high school. "The amount of time it takes to prepare was also brought to memory. I had forgotten how much a teacher invests in a lesson."

Miller had two main goals for that first semester: one, to teach the students how to operate the mills and lathes in order to make the "fancy engines" and two, to get each engine to function.

"I feel I reached my goal," he said. "Each student grew in knowledge of the machines and completed the components and assembly of the "fancy engines." I was very pleased with how the students progressed," he said.

Enrollment has doubled for this second semester. In order to accommodate the number of students per machine, Miller said the class will involve more preparation drawings. "This will allow for better efficiency on the machines and a buddy system," he explained.

"The machine tool industry is

changing rapidly in today's world," he explained. "Computerized machines are what is being used in industry but a firm understanding of the basics is still necessary. I hope to help prepare my students for a rich and diverse future that may or may not include machining."

In early 2014, the school district received a state economic development grant and matching funds for the machines for the new class.

Later in 2014, an additional grant from the state's Future Fund and money from the U.S Department of Agriculture Rural Development were awarded, both of which helped the Sturgis Economic Development Corporation construct the building which houses the classroom.



***Instructor Cyle Miller, back row third from the right, is pictured with the first class of SBHS students to take the machining class in its new location at the Sturgis Industrial Park. The students are, from the back left, Christopher Mullen, Tanner Seidel-Zaste, Shon Williamson, Austin Shoun, Jesse Jones, Connor Caneva, Kyle Larimore and Jordan Hart; front left, Carl Gifford, Dominic Fischer, Ryan Wilen, Cole Job and Kody Cox. In front of the students are their "fancy engines," which are motors they built that run on air.***

# Rachel's Challenge returns to SWMS

Sturgis Williams Middle School is bringing Rachel's Challenge back to the school on Feb. 4 for the fifth time since 2013 thanks to a donation of \$2,000 from the Sturgis Rally Charities Foundation.

The money will be used for two certified presenters from the organization to lead an all-day interactive leadership training for approximately 85 students and 16 adults.

Topics include "Take Off Your Labels-Be Who You Really Are,"

"Appropriate Affection," "Our Words have the Power-to Hurt or Heal," "You are Not Alone-We have Shared Experiences," and "Today is Your Chain Reaction Moment."

The students who participate in the training will then use the information and skills learned to host events and activities for the other students from now until the end of the school year.

Rachel's Challenge, a national non-profit organization that strives

to equip and inspire individuals to replace acts of violence, bullying, and negativity with acts of respect, kindness, and compassion, is based on the life and writings of Rachel Joy Scott, the first victim of the Columbine School shootings in 1999.

Past presentations from Rachel's Challenge Foundation at SWMS have included school assemblies and community events.

## Hunger in America is topic of oration contest

Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students from the rural schools of Meade School District will participate in the Modern Woodmen Oration Contest beginning at 8:30 a.m. Friday, March 4, at the Union Center Baptist Church.

The speeches, 3-5 minutes in length, must be about the topic

"Hunger in America." In writing their speeches, students may choose to consider the following questions: Who is affected by hunger? How does hunger in the United States compare to hunger in other countries? How does hunger impact my school or community? What are some of the

contributing factors to hunger? What can individuals, communities or governments do to combat hunger?

Students will be judged on material organization, delivery, presentation and effectiveness.

Organizer is Hereford School teacher Carrie Benda.

## DI team holding reverse garage sales for CISS

The Sturgis Elementary second grade Destination Imagination (DI) team, Creative Kids, is hosting a series of reverse garage sales to benefit the Sturgis Crisis Intervention Shelter Service. Dates are Feb. 6, 13, and 20 at the Sturgis Community Center with the team members present from 8 a.m. to noon those days to accept donations.

Items the students are collecting include adult and children's clothing, hats and gloves, toiletries, toys and books. Donations of money are also accepted.

The reverse garage sale serves

as the team's community service project for next month's DI competition. Team members selected this project after meeting with the director of the Crisis Shelter, who told them about the shelter and its challenges, and the needs and wants of the program.

The Creative Kids team consists of Quinn Bruch, Brody Foster, Ariana Haugen, Sully Jost, Madyson Richter and Tori Williams. Coach is Deb Hefner. The students meet every Thursday to work on the project, which includes creating advertising for the event, and preparing a performance about the

project which they will present at the competition on March 12 in Custer.

A collection box will be set up at the Community Center so that donations can be dropped off on the days the students aren't present.

### Piedmont DARE Feb. 9

Piedmont Valley Elementary School fifth-graders will take the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) pledge to stay off drugs during a culmination ceremony set for 8:15 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, at the school gym. The public is invited.

# Nominations open for Teacher, Professional Technical Support Staff of the Year

Nominations for Teacher of the Year and Professional Technical Support Staff of the Year for 2016 are now being accepted.

The nomination forms are available at the district office and at all school administrative offices and on the district website:

[www.meade.k12.sd.us/index.php/communications/](http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/index.php/communications/)

Nominations are welcome from parents, community members and staff members. The official nomination form must be used and must be accompanied by a minimum of three letters of recommendation from persons other than the nominator.

All nominations must be received by Friday, March 18, by the principal or supervisor of the person being nominated. Each administrative site will then select one person for each award as their nominee from among the nominations .

Once the nominees from each administrative site have been finalized, a committee consisting of administrators and school board members will select one Teacher of the Year and one Professional Technical/Support Staff of the Year.

These two winners and the nominees from each administrative site will be honored at the May Recognition and Retirement Reception.

All nominees for Teacher of the Year should be exceptionally skilled and dedicated, should be poised and articulate, and should have the respect and admiration of students, parents and co-workers. The nominees should play active and useful roles in their communities and schools, often distinguishing themselves as leaders.

The most important qualification to consider when nominating a

teacher is his or her ability to inspire learning in students of all abilities and backgrounds.

The purpose of the Professional Technical Support Staff of the Year award is to recognize outstanding staff members who are not teachers. The award is based on a variety of criteria including motivation on the job, performance, cooperation with others, knowledge of the job, and contributions to the betterment of the school and district.

Nominees for Professional Technical Support Staff of the Year should also exemplify a genuine commitment to professionalism and exhibit excellence in his or her work.

Nominees for both awards must be planning to return to Meade School District for the 2016-17 school year.

## High school career fair will be held Feb. 17

Students at Sturgis Brown High School will soon be choosing courses for the coming school year and to assist them in making those selections a Career Fair will be held Wednesday, Feb. 17.

The staff at the high school and area businesses are gearing up to present the school's ninth annual fair when students will have a chance to explore a variety of career opportunities.

Representatives of area businesses, governmental agencies

and post-secondary institutions will be present to answer questions and discuss their careers with the students. "All students are career bound and this fair will

help them make informed choices about their options," said Coleen Keffeler, career and technical education coordinator at the high school.

## SWMS students are featured artists

The art work of Sturgis Williams Middle School sixth, seventh and eighth grade students of teacher Kristi Cammack are on exhibit this month at the Sturgis Public Library.

The exhibit, sponsored by the Sturgis Area Arts Council, is open to the public daily Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Saturday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

# School Board Recognition Week is Feb. 15-19

Meade School District will join school districts throughout the state in saluting its school board members during School Board Recognition Week Feb. 15-19.

This is a time for all citizens to thank their school board members for their leadership in setting direction for public schools.

In the Meade School District, school board members develop policies and make tough decisions on complex educational and social issues that affect all communities within the district's 3,100 square miles. The nine school board members also bear responsibility for 2,687 students, 350 employees, 24 buildings and an annual budget of \$26.5 million.

The board members contribute hundreds of hours each year lead-

ing the district. Whether it's crafting policies or hiring administrators, board members always focus on what is best for the students.

Time spent in board meetings represents just a small fraction of the time school board members devote to leading the district. They also work hard at seminars and training sessions to keep abreast of the latest trends in educational leadership, are involved in community activities and spend many hours in the schools at extracurricular events.

Those serving Meade School District as school board members, their years of service, occupation and residence are:

•Bob Burns: 6½ years, small business owner, Black Hawk

•Dennis Chownen: 9½ years,

retired educator and retired military, Sturgis

•Corey Johnson: ½ year, rancher and chiropractor, Sturgis

•Michael Isaacson: ½ year, dean of students at BHSU, Sturgis

•Courtney Mack: 4½ years, volunteer and stay-at-home mom, Sturgis

•Curt Nupen: 12½ years, retired military, Piedmont

•Bryce Richter: 2½ years, banker, Sturgis

•Joe Urbaniak: 1½ years, rancher and small business owner, Union Center

•Charlie Wheeler: ½ year, small business owner, Piedmont

Meade School board members will be recognized during the regular school board meeting on Monday, Feb. 8.



*Meade School Board members for 2015-16 are, from the back left, Michael Isaacson, Bob Burns, Charlie Wheeler, Bryce Richter and Corey Johnson; front left, Joe Urbaniak, Courtney Mack, Dennis Chownen and Curt Nupen.*

# Governor proposes hike in teacher pay

In his state-of-the-state address, Gov. Dennis Daugaard proposed a half cent increase in the state sales tax that would bring more than \$80 million to schools to raise teacher pay.

The proposal is based on the Blue Ribbon Task Force Report, which can be viewed by clicking:

[www.meade.k12.sd.us/index.php/communications/](http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/index.php/communications/)

The Governor proposed a number of other items based on the task force's recommendations, including the following:

- o An e-learning proposal would expand the capacity of the Northern State University e-learning center and create a "classroom innovation grant fund" to incentivize teacher training and classroom access to virtual education and customized learning tools.

- o A mentoring program would be created for first and second year teachers.

- o The bonus for achieving National Board Certification (and payment to those teachers who achieved this in the five years since it was suspended) would be reinstated.

- o Expansion of voluntary shared services, to include areas such as purchasing, payroll and software licensing.

The following summary of the Governor's proposal is provided by the Associated School Boards of South Dakota.

## **The Funding**

A half cent increase to the state sales tax, which has not been raised since 1969, would

provide the new, ongoing revenue source schools need to support an increase to teacher salaries.

More than \$80 million would be dedicated to the general fund of school districts to support teacher salaries for the 2016-17 school year.

Approximately \$62.5 million in new money would be provided to schools through the half cent increase.

\$19.2 million would be transitioned from the school district pension fund to the general fund through a \$0.263 mill levy increase to all school districts' general funds.

## **Teacher Pay**

The goal is to increase the state average teacher salary from \$40,000 to \$48,500.

School districts are expected to put the increased funding they receive towards teacher salaries.

## **The New Funding Formula**

The new formula will be based on a target student-to-teacher ratio with the target state average teacher salary of \$48,500 for the 2016-17 school year.

The target ratio will be based on a sliding scale for enrollments:

- o Less than 200: 12.5 to 1
- o 200 to 600: 12.5 through 15 to 1
- o More than 600: 15 to 1

It is important to note that class sizes will not be mandated based on these ratios.

To cover additional salary and benefits costs, the formula will include a benefits factor of 29 percent and an overhead factor of 31 percent, which factors in administrators and other district employees.

## **Capital Outlay**

The total amount a school district could raise based on a \$3/\$1,000 mill levy will set their capital outlay total going forward. This total is based on the \$3/\$1,000 mill levy, NOT on what your district's current levy is set at.

For example: if your district was able to raise \$1 million based on a \$3/\$1,000 mill levy, \$1 million would become your capital outlay total going forward.

Your district's capital outlay total would grow each year by 3 percent or inflation, whichever is less; plus any new construction.

For example: If your district's capital outlay total was \$1 million, it would grow to \$1,030,000 the following year based on the inflationary calculation

Districts will be required to request a total amount needed for Capital Outlay and the levy would be set based on the total amount requested.

Capital Outlay flexibility will become permanent and districts will be allowed to transfer up to 20 percent of their capital outlay dollars to the general fund, to be used for ANY purpose.

An alternative maximum capital outlay cap will be imposed on a per-student basis at \$2,800 per-student, which is double the approximate state average of \$1,400 per-student. The alternative cap will increase at 3 percent or inflation, whichever is less, but will not take effect until the 2020-21 school year.

# For new SBHS principal, Sturgis is home

Pete Wilson is a month into his second semester as principal of Sturgis Brown High School, and by all accounts his inaugural year is progressing splendidly.

An affable man with an engaging and friendly manner, Principal Wilson strives to cultivate a culture of openness where both students and staff feel comfortable approaching him.

"Sometimes you just need to listen," Wilson says of being approached by students, "and react afterwards, because sometimes it takes awhile to figure out what's best for this kid. Students shouldn't be scared of approaching their teachers or administrators or counselors."

Part of his approachability also comes from his frequent attendance at a variety of high school events. In a single night he may be found early in the evening enjoying a play, and later seen cheering on the girls and boys basketball teams out at the high school gym.

Wilson sums up his first semester at SBHS as a "learning experience." Coming from a small school of 15 teachers and less than 100 students to SBHS's near 680-student population has "been a

learning experience just to figure out everything that goes on." And while transitioning from a small school has presented challenges, the principal is clearly excited about the opportunities it provides.

From teacher and staff collaboration, to developing new curricula and programs, to maintaining and improving current successful programs - the future is bright.

When asked if there are things at the high school he wants to change, Principal Wilson is thoughtful. "Change does not happen overnight, even though sometimes we wish it would, but we have put together a number of committees to look into what is working and what needs to change. Teachers have come to me and said, 'This needs to change,' and so we're looking at those things." He says it's like a puzzle with many different puzzle pieces, where changing one piece must still fit in with the overall vision. In the end, though, "any change that happens has to be best for the students."

The principal is happy to return to his native South Dakota after working in Wyoming for the past five years. His wife, a Spearfish native, was excited to return to the Hills area, and both of them look forward to raising their four children in Meade School District.

Rather than being a stepping stone on his way to a bigger school, Principal Wilson hopes that SBHS will be his home for years to come and Sturgis will be a place he and his family can put down roots and become a part of the community.

As for the impact he hopes to make, he wants students to leave SBHS feeling, "Hey, this guy had a positive effect on my life." As for staff, "I want them to feel that I always provide them the help they need, that I treat them fairly, and that I hold them accountable for doing the jobs they are hired to do."



*Sturgis Brown High School Principal Pete Wilson takes time to talk to students passing in the hallway between classes.*

# Meade School District calendar for 2015-16

The following is the approved calendar for the remainder of the 2015-16 school year. As of Feb. 1, two snow days have been taken. Those days have been added to the end of the school calendar, making the last day of school now May 26. Furthermore, Feb. 15 (Presidents Day), March 11 (Spring Break), and March 28 (Easter Monday) could be used as make-up days at the discretion of the Meade School Board upon recommendation of the superintendent.

Please note that the date of the high school and middle school parent teacher conferences, as listed below, is different than previously publicized.

Presidents' Day (no school)	Feb. 15, 2016	Inservice Day (no school)	Mar. 10, 2016
Parent-Teacher Conferences:		Spring Break (no school)	Mar. 11, 2016
Middle School: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 22, 2016	Good Friday/Easter Monday (no school)	Mar. 25-28, 2016
High School: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 22, 2016	Graduation	May 22, 2016
Elementary Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 23, 2016	Last Day of School	May 26, 2016
All Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 25, 2016		

## Check out the Website and Facebook Pages

Meade School Board firmly believes that communicating accurate, complete and timely information about the school district - its programs and operations, staff and students - not only enhances the district's image but also promotes support for education in the community while also strengthening its relationship and partnership with parents and community members.

The district's website and Facebook pages are two ways of accomplishing this.

Check out Meade School District and its schools at the website and Facebook as follows:

[www.meade.k12.sd.us](http://www.meade.k12.sd.us) and [www.facebook.com/MeadeSchoolDistrict](http://www.facebook.com/MeadeSchoolDistrict)

## Subscribe to **In Touch**

To have **In Touch** automatically sent to your inbox, go to:

<http://www.k12.sd.us/Listserv/MeadeInTouchNewsletter.htm>.

Fill out the form on that subscription page, or send an email to [listserve@k12.sd.us](mailto:listserve@k12.sd.us) with the following in the message body: **subscribe MeadeInTouchNewsletter**. This newsletter is also posted on the school website: <http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/index.php/communications/intouch/>.

# Directory for Meade School District

## Schools

### Rural Schools

Bev Rosenboom, principal.....	269-2264
<b>Atall</b> .....	985-5916
16375 Atall Road, Union Center, S.D. 57787	
<b>Elm Springs</b> .....	798-2492
21309 Elm Springs Road, Wasta, S.D. 57791	
<b>Enning</b> .....	985-5364
Highway 34 Box 22, Enning, S.D. 57737	
<b>Hereford</b> .....	985-5380
15998 Cross S Road, Hereford, S.D. 57785	
<b>Opal</b> .....	748-2426
18010 Opal Road, Opal, S.D. 57765	
<b>Union Center</b> .....	985-5367
1700 Highway 34, Union Center, S.D. 57787	
<b>Office</b> .....	985-5532

### Piedmont Valley Elementary School

16159 Second Street**	
P.O. Box 90, Piedmont, S.D. 57769	
Ethan Dschaak, principal.....	787-5295

### Sturgis Brown High School

12930 E. Highway 34, Sturgis, S.D. 57785	
Toll-free 1-888-568-3514	
Pete Wilson, principal.....	347-2686
Chad Hedderman, assistant principal.....	347-2686
Mike Paris, activities director.....	347-4487
<b>Academy</b> .....	347-9349

### Sturgis Elementary School

1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, S.D. 57785	
Chantal Ligtenberg, principal.....	347-2386
Dave Olson, assistant principal.....	347-2386

### Sturgis Williams Middle School

1425 Cedar Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785	
Toll-free 1-888-567-8274	
Ann Nonnast, principal.....	347-5232
Dave Olson, assistant principal.....	347-5232

### Whitewood Elementary School

603 Garfield, Whitewood, S.D. 57793	
Bev Rosenboom, principal.....	269-2264

## Superintendent

1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785	
Don Kirkegaard.....	347-2523 x2
Toll-free 1-877-522-6251	

## Business Manager

1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785	
Brett Burditt.....	347-2523 x1
Toll-free 1-877-522-6251	

## Buildings and Grounds

12940 E. Highway 34, Sturgis, S.D. 57785	
Cody King, maintenance foreman.....	347-2649

## Communications Office

1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785	
Kristine Hubbard.....	347-2523 x3

## Curriculum and Technology

1610 Fulton Street, Sturgis**	
Jeff Ward, director.....	347-4454

## Food Service

1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, S.D. 57785	
Joe Schaffer, director.....	347-3601

## Nurses' Office

1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, S.D. 57785	
Marcia Potts.....	347-2610

## School Social Worker

1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, S.D. 57785	
Ginger Johnson.....	347-2386

## Special Services

1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785	
Chrissy Peterson, director.....	347-2523 x4
Deb Kerstiens, assistant director.....	347-2523 x4

## Harlow's School Bus Service

2237 West Sherman, Sturgis, S.D. 57785	
Andy Ellingsen, transportation manager.....	347-5066

## Woodle Field

600 Woodland Dr., Sturgis** .....347-2003	
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\*\* Not a mailing address