

**August-September
2013**

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Board considers land purchase

Final action on the purchase of land adjacent to the old Stagebarn School building will take place during the Aug. 13 meeting of the Meade School Board set for 6:30 p.m. in the board room of the Williams Administrative Building, 1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis.

The nine members of the school board have been discussing the issue since the June board meeting when they voted to sign a 90-day option to

purchase the six acres of land located southeast of the building.

“Whether you do something next year or 20 years from now, that property is valuable to the district,” said Meade District Superintendent Don Kirkegaard.

The purchase price of \$575,000 would be paid in interest free installments over the next three years.

Purchase of the property would give the district about 23 acres of land at that location.



The land being considered for purchase is a storage unit business, indicated by the red star above, and is southeast of the Stagebarn building, pictured at the left, which has been vacant for the past two years.

First day of school is Monday, Aug. 26

The 2013-14 school year in Meade School District begins Monday, Aug. 26. Prior to that day, new student registration, orientations and open houses will be held.

All students new to the district are required to bring to registration a report card or transcript of grades from their previous school and a certified copy of their birth certificate. In addition, they will be asked to provide their Social Security Number and race and ethnicity information.

Also required are immunization records. New students will not be admitted to school until and unless the school nurse has received and verified those records.

Sturgis Brown High School and Academy Grades 9-12

New students may register at the high school student services office any time between 8 a.m.-3 p.m. beginning Wednesday, Aug. 14. Those accepted into Sturgis Academy, which is located at the high school campus, may register at the same time.

In Touch

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

An orientation for freshmen and an activities meeting for freshmen and students new to SBHS who will be participating in extra-curricular activities will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20, in the west gym at the high school. Parents are encouraged to attend this meeting. Meal tickets and activity tickets will be available for purchase at this time.

Sturgis Williams Middle School Grades 6-8

New students may register from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday Aug. 13-14, at the office of Sturgis Williams Middle School, 1425 Cedar Street, Sturgis.

An open house and orientation for all students and their parents will be held 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 21. Meal and activity tickets will also be on sale.

Piedmont Valley Elementary School Grades K-6

Registration for new students will be 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 13-14, at the school. Students who were enrolled at Piedmont last year do not have to re-enroll. Any changes in phone numbers or addresses should be made at this time. Food service personnel will be present to sell meal tickets. A representative from the Sturgis Bus Company will be present to answer questions about the bus routes.

An open house and orientation for students and parents will be 2:30-4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22.

Whitewood Elementary School Grades K-6

Registration for new students is 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday, Aug. 12-16, at the school at 603 Garfield. An open house will be held 1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, also at the school, during which meal tickets will be available for purchase.

Sturgis Elementary School Grades K-5

Registration for new students will be 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12, through Thursday, Aug. 15, at the office of Sturgis Elementary, 1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis. Students who were enrolled at Sturgis Elementary last year or kindergartners who registered last spring do not have to re-enroll.

An open house at Sturgis Elementary will be held 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22.

Rural Schools Grades K-8

Registration and open houses will be held at each rural school from 9-11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 22. Free school physicals for rural students will be offered from 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, in the Union Center School basement.

Additional information such as bus route schedules, Capable Kids after-school program, meal ticket information, student handbooks, student accident insurance and school supply lists can be found on the Meade website:

www.meade.k12.sd.us/parent/enrollment.htm

SBHS homecoming to be Sept. 16-20

"Mardi Gras" is the theme of this year's Sturgis Brown High School homecoming to be held Monday, Sept. 16, through Friday, Sept. 20.

Spirit Week kicks off Monday with coronation, which begins at 7 p.m. in the west gym at the high school. Each day of Spirit Week will have a theme, when students and staff dress according to that day's theme.

The parade will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, beginning from Ball Park Road near Sturgis Elementary School. The parade will head north to

Farley Street, east to Third Street, north to Douglas Street, east to Junction Avenue, north to Main Street, west to Third Street, south to Sherman Street and west to Fifth Street and Ball Park Road, where it will disband.

Homecoming week concludes Friday with the football game against Belle Fourche at 6 p.m. at Woodle Field followed by a dance at the high school.

Area businesses and organizations interested in participating in the parade with a float or other entry should call the high school at 347-2686.

Registration open for after-school program

Meade School District's licensed after-school program, Capable Kids, begins Monday, Aug. 26, at Piedmont Valley Elementary School. Open to any child in kindergarten through sixth grade, the program runs from 2:10-6 p.m. during the school week. Cost is \$9.57 per day or \$183.89 per month.

Each day students receive a snack and participate in physical and enrichment activities. Time is also provided for the completion of classroom assignments with

homework assistance available. Students also have the opportunity to go swimming on a regular basis.

Enrollment forms and parent handbook are available at Piedmont Valley Elementary School and on the Piedmont School website:

www.meade.k12.sd.us/Stagebarn/capableKids.html

Payment can be dropped off at Piedmont Valley Elementary School or mailed to Capable Kids, 16159 Second Street, Piedmont, 57769.

Activity tickets for 2013-14 are now on sale

Activity tickets for the 2013-2014 school year are now on sale. The activity tickets, which cost the same as last year, can be purchased at the high school, during registration and open houses at

all Meade District schools, and at the first few home football and volleyball games.

The student ticket, available to any Meade student in kindergarten through 12th grade, sells

for \$25 and is good for the entire school year.

The adult activity ticket can be purchased for \$40 while the ticket for senior citizens (55 years and over) costs \$20. Both tickets contain 15 punches each.

The price for a yearly family pass, which is good for parents and K-12 students, is \$100.

The activity ticket will also admit the holder to all high school plays, musicals and concerts. It is not valid for any state-sanctioned athletic tournaments.

Without an activity ticket, admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

Musical instruments are needed

The middle school music department is asking for donations of new and gently used band instruments. Although the district has a small inventory of instruments, students must often rent instruments from music stores.

A student joining band not only learns to play the instrument,

but to read music, perform alone and with others, understand music history and musical styles, and experience first-hand how music is part of life and culture.

For more information call music teachers Connie Feekes or Gary Nelson at Sturgis Williams Middle School, 347-5232.



Meade School District Business Manager Brett Burditt, right, administers the oath of office to new school board members Curt Nupen and Bryce Richter and re-elected board member Bob Burns.

School board reorganizes; adopts budget

The old Meade School Board was adjourned and the new board was seated during the annual July meeting.

Outgoing board members Wanda Blair and Nancy Richter were each presented a school bell and a commemorative slate chalkboard in recognition of their years of service. Blair, from Vale, has served 12 years while Enning resident Richter has been a board member for the last six years.

Following the bell presentation, the oath of office was administered to new board members Curt Nupen of Piedmont and Bryce Richter of Sturgis, and re-elected member Bob Burns of Black Hawk.

A number of organizational items, including election of officers, were decided at the meeting. Burns,

who is beginning his fifth year on the board, was elected president while Courtney Mack, a two-year board member from Sturgis, was elected vice president.

During the meeting, the members of the school board, which also include Dennis Chowen and Chad Legner of Sturgis, Juanita Harrington and Don Williamson of Piedmont, and Shelli Grinager of Summerset, unanimously approved the proposed \$23.7 million budget for 2013-14.

The General Fund of \$15,547,119 represents an increase of \$606,234 or 4 percent. This increase can be attributed to a 9 percent increase in insurance costs plus health care reform fees and compliance

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This Old School House



Dec. 15, 1966, meeting of the Sturgis Independent School District #12:

Principal Williams Brown informed the Board of the results of compiled enrollment data for the Sturgis School System over a 25-year period and illustrated the results with charts and graphs. The study, made by Brown, indicated a steady enrollment increase over the period and a 10-year projection from the study indicated the likelihood of 3,000 students in the year 1977. Current enrollment is 1,324 in grades 1-8 and 692 in grades 9-12.

Feb. 7, 1967, meeting:

Superintendent Ken Hauge informed the board that an invitation has been extended to the Sturgis High School band to perform at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron in September. Motion by [Jerry] Neugebauer and seconded by [Bruce] Walker that the band be authorized to attend the 1967 State Fair and that transportation charges of \$436 and lodging for one night for the band members be approved. Upon roll call vote, all members voted yes.

June 6, 1967, meeting:

Mr. Owen McDermott, chairman of the Sturgis City Park Board, and Sturgis Mayor Francis Langin discussed with the board the desirability of rest rooms at the athletic field and the possibili-

ty of a joint building and operational plan for the provision of such facility. It was determined that the facility could serve city park visitors as well as the public at athletic events. Motion by [Jerry] Neugebauer and seconded by [John] Stingley that the following resolution be adopted: Whereas, there exists a need for rest room facilities at Woodle Athletic Field, and the City of Sturgis and the Sturgis Independent School District #12 can jointly share such a facility, and, Whereas the City of Sturgis has agreed to bring in water and electricity to the site of the facility and has additionally agreed to provide perpetual payment of utility bills, maintenance and janitorial service to the facility. Therefore, Be It Resolved that the District provide funds for construction of a suitable restroom facility at Woodle Field, and that the business manager be instructed to secure plans and specifications for consideration by the board and the City of Sturgis for subsequent bid letting. Upon roll call vote, all members voted yes."

July 27, 1967, meeting:

Superintendent Hauge presented a request by Sister Philomene, principal of St. Francis Catholic School. Motion by [Bruce] Walker and seconded by [Chris] Mechling that if possible with available, staff, Sturgis School District #12 extend the use of facilities and instructors to

St. Francis Catholic School on a share time basis in the regular school program of physical education, music and science for approximately 15 7th grade and 11 8th grade school students. Motion carried.

Oct. 16, 1968, meeting:

The board was informed of group health insurance premium increase by Equitable Life Insurance Company. The premium for individually insured raised from \$9.20 to \$11.32; and individuals with dependents from \$24.93 to \$30.67 monthly. Justification for the increase, as given by Equitable, was based upon increased hospital costs and the past year's claim experience by the District's group participants. It was moved, seconded and passed that the board's share of one-half the cost per insured individual be changed to allow a \$12.50 maximum per insured individual monthly effective Dec. 1, 1968.

June 25, 1969, meeting:

Business Manager [Wayne] Davis reported that salvageable lumber from the bleachers remaining after the fire at Woodle Field has been used by patients of Fort Meade VA Hospital to build 32 benches for the school and Little League baseball fields in Sturgis. Other salvageable dimensional lumber has been hauled to the school farm site for later use in the construction of corrals, gates and fences.

Free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch are available in Meade School District

Free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch are available in the Meade School District to students from families whose household income falls within eligibility guidelines.

The district is able to offer a lower cost or no charge for these meals because it participates in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, both of which are federally-assisted programs.

The reduced price for breakfast is 30 cents while the cost for a reduced lunch is 40 cents. The full price for those meals are \$1.55 for breakfast and \$2.70 for lunch.

In certain cases, foster children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals regardless of the income of the household in which they reside.

Not only do the participating

children receive a nutritionally balanced meal, but the school district benefits when a high number of students participate in the program.

Those benefits include an increase in Title I services, additional federal funds for the food service department, increased eligibility of the district for federal and state grants, and an increased reimbursement rate of costs relating to school internet use and phone services.

To view the eligibility guidelines and to apply for free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch, fill out the application which can be found online at:

www.meade.k12.sd.us/offices/food.htm

The applications are also available at all schools and the food service office.

Parents can manage their child's meal account via the internet

Parents can deposit money directly into their child's meal account and can receive emails regarding that account balance through the website:

www.MySchoolBucks.com

For parents with more than one child in Meade School District, payments for all children can be done from the same online account.

In addition, automatic email updates about low account bal-

ances or negative balances for each child are available.

For those who choose not to take advantage of the online service, Meade Food Service will continue to accept advance payments by cash or check. When paying in that manner, the student's ID number must be included so payment is credited to the correct account.

For further information, call food service at 347-3601.

For further information or for help in completing the application, call Meade School District Food Service Office at 347-3601.

Meal ticket info

Breakfast and lunch tickets are available through Meade Food Service Office located at 1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. beginning Monday, Aug. 12.

Ticket prices are as follows:

Milk Tickets

20 milk ticket: \$8

Breakfast Tickets

20 meal ticket:

K-12, \$31; adult, \$36

10 meal ticket:

K-12, \$15.50; adult, \$18

5 meal ticket:

K-12, \$7.75; adult, \$9

Lunch Tickets

(Includes ½ pint milk)

20 meal ticket:

K-12, \$54; adult, \$64

10 meal ticket:

K-12, \$27; adult, \$32

5 meal ticket:

K-12, \$13.50; adult, \$16

Single meals are available. Breakfast is \$1.55 for students and \$1.80 for adults. Lunch costs \$2.70 for students and \$3.20 for adults. One-half pint of milk purchased separately is 40 cents.



Outgoing board members recognized

Meade School Board President Bob Burns, right, and Board Vice President Courtney Mack, left, present bells to outgoing board members Nancy Richter, left center, and Wanda Blair, right center. Richter has served on the board for six years while Blair has been a member for 12 years.

BUDGET: _____ Continued from Page 4

costs, increases in staff salaries, and an increase in personnel in the elementary schools due to growth in student enrollment.

The Special Services budget increased by \$7,437 or .02 percent, going from \$3,113,288 to \$3,120,725. The increase is the result of an increase in child count, a 9 percent increase in insurance costs and a 4 percent increase in salaries.

The Capital Outlay fund increased \$461,267, or 11 percent from last year for a total of \$4,668,567. Factors contributing to the increase include technology purchases on the elementary level to meet state testing requirements and the remodeling of the second floor of the Williams Administrative Building to accommodate enrollment increases at Sturgis

Elementary. The Pension Fund increased by \$9,340 or .02 percent for a total budget of \$432,220.

The school board also approved the following property tax requests in dollars per thousand: General Fund: Ag \$2.090, Owner-occupied \$4.296, Other \$9.200; Special Education Fund: \$1.476; Capital Outlay Fund: \$3; Pension Fund: \$0.30.

The general fund uniform levy is determined annually by the legislature. Those taxes paid on land designated as agriculture decreased from \$2.322 to \$2.090 per thousand while the taxes paid on owner-occupied property increased from \$4.029 to \$4.296. The levy on the other category, which is primarily commercial property, increased from last year's \$8.628 per thousand.

Ward is Curriculum Leader of the Year

Meade School District Curriculum and Technology Director Jeff Ward has been named the 2013 Curriculum Leader of the Year by the S.D. Association of Supervision of Curriculum Development. The purpose of the award is to recognize and honor a person who has promoted and implemented innovative curriculum development in the state.

Five years ago Ward transitioned from being a middle school band teacher to district curriculum director. "That move was a tremendous shift in responsibilities," said one of his nominators, who added that he has done so with an incredible flair. "I am truly amazed at how he has taken on those responsibilities and gotten up to speed on so many varied issues in such a short period of time."

Jeff's nominators feel he has risen to the challenges of leading a large, diverse school district in the areas of standards implementation, technology demands, accreditation reviews, curriculum selection and implementation, and curriculum department planning. "Sometimes the people who do their jobs and do them well need acknowledgement also," they wrote in the nomination.

A nominator said he handles himself in front of staff, school board and in other settings with a high degree of professionalism. "Jeff put a great deal of work into preparing the Meade District for its recent



Jeff Ward

AdvancEd Review. That frontloading was greatly appreciated by all district staff who were involved in the process and the review team."

"This award is a testament to the hard work Jeff does for our school district," said Superintendent Don Kirkegaard. "We are fortunate to have him as our curriculum director."

Ward has been with Meade School District for 20 years - the last five as curriculum director. Previous to that, his primary assignment was band teacher at Sturgis Williams Middle School. He also taught band at Jones County School District

and Pierre School District.

He will be honored this summer in Sioux Falls at the joint conference of the Associated School Boards of South Dakota and the School Administrators of South Dakota. He will also be recognized during the Outstanding Administrators banquet Feb. 5 in Pierre.

Ward received a bachelor's degree in music education in 1988 from the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction in 2002 from Black Hills State University, Spearfish. He and his wife Shellie have two children: Matt, a graduate student at the University of Denver, and Kaitlin, a student at South Dakota State University.

Subscribe to 'In Touch'

The Meade School District newsletter *In Touch* is available in an electronic version only...with the exception of a couple hard copies at the public libraries in Sturgis, Piedmont, Whitewood and Union Center.

To have it automatically sent to your inbox, a subscription page has been created at <http://www.k12.sd.us/Listserv/MeadeInTouchNewsletter.htm>.

Fill out the form on that subscription page, or send an email to listserv@k12.sd.us with the following in the message body: **subscribe MeadeInTouchNewsletter**

This newsletter is also posted on the district website: www.meade.k12.sd.us/parent/intouch.htm

Karen Speed selected this year's Educational Office Professional

Meade School District administrative assistant Karen Speed has been selected Educational Office Professional of the Year by the South Dakota Association of Educational Office Professionals (SDAEOP). She was honored at the state conference of that association held recently in Sioux Falls.

She has worked as an office professional since 1991, when she became administrative assistant for Whitewood Elementary School and the rural schools. She is a strong advocate for membership in SDAEOP, having held offices on the local, area and state levels, culminating her service as president of the statewide group.

Her nomination for this award was supported by letters of recommendation. Wrote one nominator, "As a member of the staff at Whitewood Elementary School I found her to be positive, upbeat and genuinely interested in the well being of the people around her. Her work ethic is exceptional and her assistance and insight invaluable. Her cheerful personality and friendly smile is a welcome and stable asset to staff, students and patrons."

While on the job, Karen can be found involved in a multitude of activities such as secretary, nurse, bus supervisor, playground and lunch monitor, creative decorator and researcher - a jack-of-all-trades. "Her job description is varied but her commitment to the well



Karen Speed

being of our school community is unwavering," added another nominator. "No job or task is too difficult for her."

She works out of two offices - one in Whitewood and one in Union Center, which serves the six rural sites in the Meade School District. She drives approximately 60 miles each way on the days she works in Whitewood, and rarely if ever has missed a day due to weather. On the days she is at the rural office she is busy answering questions, dispensing materials and providing other organizational support to the eight rural teachers there. "She is their lifeline between their remote sites and the center of the district which is Sturgis," said a nominator.

"Karen presents a friendly face and voice to the public who call or

stop in the office," said another nominator. "She listens to concerns and has a great ability to sort out what she can help with or what should be referred, and she does so professionally and ethically."

Said one of her former principals, "I found her moral qualities above reproach. Her personal characteristics such as patience, consideration, emotional stability and good judgment were and are a tremendous asset to Whitewood, the rural schools and the entire school district. She is recognized as a leader among the district office staff, teachers and administration."

Karen has trained three principals, including current Principal Bev Rosenboom. "Each of us would tell you that her laughter, sense of humor and ever-present smile make the work day bearable and sometimes interesting," offered Rosenboom, "because she must have a little bit of leprechaun in her. There have been times when I have shook my head in disbelief at what she has done to brighten the day for any and all in the building."

"When I was in college, a professor told us that the most important person in the school is the administrative assistant," said Rosenboom, "and they were right. Karen Speed is the glue that holds Whitewood and the six rural sites together. Any administrator would be blessed to have her working with them."

Substitute teacher training

A training for persons wishing to serve as substitute teachers in Meade School District will be held at 9 a.m. Friday, Aug. 30, in the school board meeting room located in the Williams Administrative Building, 1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis.

The purpose of the training is

to review the district's substitute teacher handbook and to answer questions about local procedures and policies. Tips for a successful classroom experience will also be given.

For further information call the district office at 347-2523 or the curriculum office at 347-4454.

School hours for 2013-14

Beginning with the first day of school on Monday, Aug. 26, the regular hours for the schools of Meade School District are as follows:

Sturgis Elementary

Kindergarten: 8:05 a.m.-3 p.m.
1st: 8:15 a.m.-3:05 p.m.
2nd: 8:10 a.m.-3:02 p.m.
3rd: 8:05 a.m.-3 p.m.
4th: 8:10 a.m.-3:02 p.m.
5th: 8:15 a.m.-3:05 p.m.

SBHS 8:05 a.m.-3:08 p.m.

Piedmont

K-2nd: 7:50 a.m.-2:05 p.m.
3rd-6th: 7:40 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

SWMS 8:10 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Whitewood 8 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Atall 8 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Elm Springs 8 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Enning/Union Center 8 a.m.-2:45 p.m.
for K-5th; 8:15 a.m.-2:45 p.m. for 6th-8th

Hereford 8 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Opal 8 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Schedule for school pictures

Meade School District is again making available to all its students the opportunity to have their pictures taken. The following is the schedule for each school.

Sturgis Williams Middle School: Wednesday, Sept. 4

Piedmont: Friday, Sept. 20

Whitewood: Wednesday, Sept. 18

Rural Schools: Tuesday, Sept. 10

Sturgis Brown HS: Monday, Aug. 26

Sturgis Elementary: Wednesday, Sept. 11



SBHS seniors are reminded that one digital or wallet-sized photo (head and shoulders shot) must be submitted by Friday, Nov. 29, to the drop-box located in the school office or by emailing it to teacher Tere Froelich. The senior photos will be used in the yearbook and by the local newspaper.

Help your favorite school by recycling

Support your favorite school by helping the students earn money. The following is what each school collects and/or recycles.

Sturgis Elementary: General Mills box tops, Grocery Mart cash register receipts, Campbell's soup/food/drink labels, and Land O'Lakes milk caps.

Sturgis Williams Middle School: Campbell's Soup labels, General Mills box tops and aluminum cans.

Piedmont Elementary: General Mills box tops, Campbell's Soup labels, Land O'Lakes milk caps and cash register receipts from Haggard's Grocery.

Whitewood Elementary: Kemps milk caps, General Mills box tops, used printer cartridges, and UPC labels from Country/Village Hearth products.

Rural Schools: Cash register receipts from Lynn's Dakota Mart and Family Thrift Center.

"S" Club: Lynn's Dakota Mart cash register receipts. For every \$10,000 collected in receipts, the club receives \$100.

By participating in these programs, schools can receive money for student trips, school equipment, student incentives and educational supplies.

Scoopers begin a return to the Black Hills Conference

With the start of this school year, the Sturgis Scoopers begin inching their way back into the Black Hills Conference after 15 years as a member of the now-disbanded Greater Dakota Conference.

The Scoopers have membership in the BHC this year in football, only, which will include two divisions: the Mount Rushmore Division consisting of Sturgis, Belle Fourche, Spearfish, Douglas, Hot Springs and St. Thomas More, and the Crazy Horse Division consisting of Custer, Lead-Deadwood, Red Cloud, Pine Ridge, Bennett County and Little Wound.

Next year, cross country, boys and girls golf, and track and field will be allowed to join. Starting with the 2015-16 season, volleyball and boys and girls basketball will become members.

"The BHC will definitely give us great competition with the ability to rekindle old rivalries," said Activities Director Mike Paris. "We will also save a tremendous amount of money and travel time while at the same time playing a well-rounded schedule with schools a little more our size."

The Scoopers will continue to play both Rapid City schools and select schools in the Eastern South Dakota Conference plus the Nebraska schools of Alliance and Chadron.

Prior to the creation of the GDC, which consisted of the four schools from Sioux Falls, the two Rapid City schools and Sturgis (Spearfish had been a member before dropping

out at the beginning of the 2011-12 school year), SBHS was not affiliated with any conference after getting voted out of the Black Hills Conference in 1996.

Public attendance welcomed at all school board meetings

All meetings of the Meade School Board are open to the public and all actions authorized or required by law are taken at those meetings. The school board welcomes attendance at meetings by employees, students, parents, and members of the community.

The school board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the board room located in the Williams Administrative Building, 1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, except for the month of July, when the statutory annual organizational meeting is held on the second Monday.

The following are the meeting dates for the 2013-14 school year:

Aug. 13, 2013	Feb. 11, 2014
Sept. 10, 2013	March 11, 2014
Oct. 8, 2013	April 8, 2014
Nov. 12, 2013	May 13, 2014
Dec. 10, 2013	June 10, 2014
Jan. 14, 2014	July 14, 2014

The school board is an elected body created according to the laws of the state to serve as the governing board of the school district for the purpose of organizing, maintaining and locating schools and for providing educational opportunities and services for all citizens residing within the school district.

The school board has the general charge, direction and management of the schools of the district and control and care of all property belonging to it. The direction provided by the board is not the day-to-day operation of the school system. Rather, the school board is a policy-making entity.

Patrons who wish to discuss a matter with the board or who want items placed on the meeting agenda are asked to contact the superintendent 10 days prior to the meeting by calling 347-2523 x 2.

In Touch to become monthly publication

The Meade School District quarterly e-newsletter *In Touch* is undergoing another transformation beginning this October when the frequency of publication changes to monthly.

“Technology has become a large part of our schools and lifestyles, and as a result we have seen the decline of print and the transition to digital publishing,” said Meade School District Superintendent Don Kirkegaard. “We are once again rebooting for the digital age by increasing the frequency we publish our districtwide newsletter so that we can more timely disseminate information regarding the school district and its programs and operations,” he said.

“The school board is currently discussing a number of issues - such as overcrowding

at Sturgis and Piedmont elementary schools and the future of the Stagebarn facility - of which the public needs to be aware and from whom we want input. Getting this type of information out to our patrons and taxpayers in a more timely fashion is important to the school board,” said the superintendent.

Kirkegaard added that the district's use of local newspapers, broadcast and social media to get the word out to stakeholders will continue.

The first issue of *In Touch* was published in August of 2004 and was started as a pilot communications program. In the spring of 2005, the readers were surveyed, and 82 percent of them considered *In Touch* to be a valuable source of information.

Eighty-seven percent of those same respondents indi-

cated that the district should continue to publish the newsletter in the future. With that level of support from the public, the school board made the decision to continue to fund the program as an ongoing and integral part of school district operations.

During the 2011 legislative session funding for K-12 school districts was cut by 6.6 percent. To save money, the Meade School Board eliminated all publishing, printing and mailing costs associated with *In Touch*, resulting in an online-only publication. The quarterly newsletter in this format has been in existence since the 2011-12 school year.

(A limited number of hard copies of each issue are printed for distribution to the local libraries.)

Fourth grade to pilot iPads in the classroom

Fourth grade students throughout Meade School District and all students at the rural Elm Springs School will be using iPads in the classroom this coming school year as a pilot project through the district curriculum and technology office.

Curriculum and Technology Director Jeff Ward said the plan is to start small and determine the best use of technology for teaching and learning. “This may grow in future years depending on the value of this pilot project,” he said.

Sturgis Brown High School is considering different technology models that may be implemented in the next couple years, so a small group of teachers

at that school will be testing Chromebooks and iPads during the first semester of this school year.

The results of the fourth grade and high school pilots will help provide direction to Sturgis Williams Middle School, who is also considering a variety of options for technology in the classroom.

“The cost of devices such as the iPad has dropped to a point where they are more affordable,” said Ward. “The amount of information and tools available digitally seems to justify the cost. Many decisions will need to be made over the next 12 months as the district considers its classroom technology options.”



New Entrance

46-1 by the numbers

(The following are from the food service department for the 2012-13 school year.)

285,707 servings of chocolate milk

86,400 hamburger buns served

78,000 servings of mashed potatoes

73,930 servings of 1% white milk

450 pounds of popcorn popped in concessions (about 5,400 bags)

61,940 total breakfasts served

14,087 full price breakfasts served

8,266 reduced price breakfasts served

39,587 free breakfasts served

268,458 total lunches served

133,900 full price lunches served

34,331 reduced price lunches served

100,227 free lunches served

Entrance gets a facelift

The east entrance to Grunwald Auditorium at Surgis Williams Middle School is receiving a facelift this summer. School officials want to improve this area, where students congregate before and after school and where the public enters Grunwald. A new façade and paved areas adjacent to a new handicapped entrance are included in the project.



Old Entrance

Meade Teachers and Employee of the Year are skilled, dedicated, inspirational

Meade School District Teachers of the Year for 2013 are Christine Johnson and Kristen Wheaton, and the Employee of the Year for 2013 is Sharon Rank.

The two teachers were chosen for this honor because they are exceptionally skilled and dedicated, are poised and articulate, and have the respect and admiration of students, parents and co-workers. They also have a superior ability to inspire learning in students of all abilities and backgrounds.

Sharon was selected Employee of the Year because she exhibits excellence in her work and a genuine commitment to professionalism. She also demonstrates a willingness to take on added responsibilities and provide exemplary service to the district.

Christine Johnson has been a teacher for 17 years, the last six



Christine Johnson

with Meade School District at Sturgis Elementary School where she teaches fifth grade.

Dedicated and devoted are just two of the words used to describe Christy by her nominators. "Her dedication and devotion to teaching and her students is second to none," said a nominator. "She finds a way to encourage, teach

and challenge each and every one of her students. Creativity is never quashed in her classroom, and her positive feedback on every single assignment encourages students to continue to grow and flourish."

A co-worker said that dedication spills over to staff. "Christy is very willing to share ideas and is always on the lookout for new and innovative ideas she can use in her classroom. She is a true professional and is always willing to step up to the plate and become a leader when it is necessary. When there is a need, Christy is there."

Another nominator, a mother of one of her students, says Christy is a positive, fun-loving yet strict teacher who has high educational expectations of her students and will do her best to eliminate distractions in the classroom so that the students can reach their highest potential. "To students, Ms. Johnson is a teacher who cares. Even students who haven't had her as a teacher think fondly of her. In all of her relationships with parents, students and other staff, she is professional, articulate and poised."

Effort and enthusiasm are two more nouns used by Christy's nominators when describing her. "The extra effort and enthusiasm that she puts forth to embrace every opportunity to continue her learning outside of the classroom translates into an immense understanding of exactly what her students need to become the

best they can be," said a co-worker. Another co-worker said that teaching and learning is a never-ending process for Christy. "She is always looking to try new strategies to use in her classroom to improve student performance. She holds high standards for herself and for her students. She not only expects the best from her students, she expects the best from herself. This is the kind of teacher we need in our schools."

All of Christy's nominators agree that she goes way beyond what is expected. Her thirst for knowledge and go-getter attitude makes her a favorite with students and staff. Said a nominator, "Christy is a phenomenal teacher with a big heart who always has a smile on her face. She truly is a Teacher of the Year."

Kristin Wheaton teaches biology and chemistry at Sturgis



Kristin Wheaton

Brown High School where she has worked for 14 years. Mrs. Wheaton is considered a leader among her peers and exhibits

great teamwork throughout the district. She approaches any and all aspects of the profession of educating children with eager

DEDICATED: See Page 15

anticipation. Passionate is how her nominators describe her. She is passionate about her job, she is passionate about her students, she is passionate about finding new teaching methods that better meet the individual needs of her students, and she is passionate about honing her skills so that her students receive the best from her.

She shows all students compassion and respect, and goes far above expectations for the sake of their understanding of the subject matter which includes providing students with unique opportunities outside the classroom such as cooperative projects with Bureau of Land Management, DC Booth Fish Hatchery, US Forest Service and Black Hills State University, to list just a few.

Inspirational is how a current high school senior described Mrs. Wheaton. "She truly enjoys each day she spends in the classroom and it shows in the way she treats us," said this student. "She is a kind and hardworking teacher who loves helping students learn. She is innovative with the way that she teaches and continuously creates and modifies her lessons to best suit those she is teaching. She has a great ability to identify the strengths and weaknesses of students, and works hard to challenge us."

"Mrs. Wheaton's lesson plans and curriculum are extremely detailed, well thought out, and professional," said a co-worker. "She maintains a level of efficiency that is fueled by her obvious work ethic and her professional concern for her students' progress." Another co-worker added, "Mrs. Wheaton takes the time to connect with peers, parents and most importantly students. It is not uncommon for parents to get phone calls from her telling of good things about their children."

Said a former student, "Mrs. Wheaton's dedication as both a scientist and an educator are what made being her student a significantly beneficial experience. Of all the teachers at SBHS, Kristin Wheaton had the largest impact on my academic career and my life. She is an intelligent, caring, passionate teacher who gives a huge part of herself to her career and her students. Mrs. Wheaton continues to touch our lives even after we have left her classroom, and is well deserving of this award."

Sharon Rank, a 13-year employee of Meade School District, works as the administrative assistant in the district nurses' office headquartered at Sturgis Elementary School.



Sharon Rank

According to her nominators, Sharon wears many hats. She assists the nurses with day-to-day operations tending to sick and injured students, giving out meds, charting, updating Infinite Campus with immunization and medical data for each student, helping with kindergarten registration, distributing backpacks to students who receive food for the weekend as well as scheduling the dental bus appointments and answering the phone. She is a secretary, caregiver, counselor and friend.

Offered a nominator, "Sharon's position is not just a job to her. She loves working with the three nurses and they love working with her. She is able to balance many activities during the day, but is still able to make student care her priority. To be honest, without Sharon the nurses could not do their jobs as effectively as they do."

Said another nominator, "Sharon is a friend to all that come into the office. She gives the students a smile and a kind word, and lets each know how important he or she is. Sharon's caring and loving demeanor toward the students is a trait not easily found. Students turn to Sharon for emotional, physical and even psychological support."

"It is so fun to see how many students will stop by for just a minute to say hi or wave to Sharon as they pass her office," said a co-worker. "Whether or not the student is actually sick, Sharon can always make them feel better." A student wrote, "When hurt kids come in, you doctor them up and help them to get going again. You always make me laugh. I also like that you make me happy with just your smile."

Sharon's nominators all said that her warmth and compassion for people make her a perfect fit for the job and make her a deserving recipient of Employee of the Year.

SBHS to present 'A Year with Frog and Toad'

Sturgis Brown High School drama and music students will be presenting the musical "A Year with Frog and Toad" Nov. 14-16 at the Sturgis Community Center Theatre.

The musical, written by brothers Robert and Willie Reale based on the "Frog and Toad" children's stories by Arnold Lobel, follows the woodland adventures of two amphibious friends, and their assorted colorful hopping, crawling and flying companions, over the course of a year.

A Tony Award nominee for best musical, this whimsical story celebrates an unlikely friendship between an eternally

optimistic frog and a rather grumpy toad as they try to keep their sleds on the ground, kites

by the high school in 2011, which was *Sweeney Todd*.

"What could be more different and more fun than to bring a toad and frog, among other animals, to life," remarked June Dill, one of the directors. Dill explained that the drama department tries to do different types of plays as a way of educating not only the students but also the audience. Musical directors are Bart Torbert and Gary Nelson.

Admission for the performances, which begin at 7 p.m. each day, is \$5 for adults and \$3 for K-12 students. Meade School District activity tickets will be honored.

If You Go

What: Musical "A Year with Frog and Toad"

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Nov. 14-16

Where: Sturgis Community Center Theatre

Cost: Students, \$3; Adults, \$5

in the air, and themselves from devouring cookies. Their friendship flourishes through triumphs and challenges, sending a heart-warming message to the whole family.

This musical is totally different from the last one presented

Volunteer opportunities abound in the schools

The education of youth takes a community effort, and because of that the Meade School Board is encouraging parents, guardians and other interested patrons of the district to volunteer their time, knowledge and talents.

Members of the community bring new energies and resources into the schools and expand the walls of the classrooms. School volunteers enrich the educational program and strengthen the schools' relationships with homes, businesses, public agencies and private institutions.

All volunteers in the Meade School District do so without pay or employee benefits, except for workers' compensation.

For those interested in volunteering, fill out the form on the next page, and clip and mail it to the district office or go online to the district web page <http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/parent/volunteer.htm> and either print out the form or complete it online.

Names will then be entered into the district volunteer database, which is available to all Meade administrators, who will then contact the volunteer.

Have you "clicked" lately?

Meade School District website will get you connected...log on today!

- Catch up on the latest school news
- Read school board minutes
- View photos from school events

Go to:
www.meade.k12.sd.us



MEADE SCHOOL DISTRICT 46-1

VOLUNTEER SIGNUP FORM 2013-14 SCHOOL YEAR

Name (print) _____

Address _____

I want to volunteer at the _____ school.
(If you are willing to volunteer anywhere in the district, leave this blank.)

Phone _____ Best time to call you _____

E-mail address _____

Do you have a physical condition that would endanger the health, safety or welfare of students in Meade School District? If yes, please explain. _____

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes No If yes, please explain below.

Are you willing to submit to a background fingerprint check? Yes No

List two references (Attach a separate sheet of paper listing name, address, phone and relationship to you.)

I am interested in helping in the classroom.

I'd like to:

- work with individual students.
- work with small groups of students.
- read to students.
- help with teachers' clerical work.
- prepare materials.
- chaperone field trips.
- help with dramatic performances.
- help with art projects.
- appear as a guest speaker to:
 - ___ share my professional experiences.
 - ___ share my travels.
 - ___ share my culture.
 - ___ share a talent, skill or craft.
 - ___ other: _____

I am interested in helping in other areas of the school.

I'd like to:

- organize and/or participate in activities that occur during school hours.
- organize and/or participate in activities that *do not* occur during school hours.
- recruit parents, citizens and local businesses to participate in special programs or activities.
- answer the phone, do clerical work.
- work in the library.
- prepare posters, displays, bulletin boards etc.

CLIP AND MAIL TO:

Meade School District
1230 Douglas Street
Sturgis, S.D. 57785

Students write book about Whitewood Schools

"A Journey Through Time - Whitewood Schools 1888-2013" is the title of the 71-page hardcover book authored by the Whitewood Elementary School sixth-graders in celebration of that town's 125th birthday this past summer.

The history book project began last fall and will culminate Oct. 4 when the students, under the mentorship of Dr. Joanna Jones, retired coordinator of Meade School District's Gifted and Talented Program, present at the West River History Conference in Rapid City.

The book is divided into decades beginning with an 1888 photo of the Whitewood Public School No. 66 and concluding with a group photo of the 14 authors, pictured below.

Each of the students was responsible for researching and writing a portion of the history of the

A Journey through Time



Whitewood Schools 1888-2013

By Jill Eymer's Sixth Grade Class
Whitewood School, Meade School District, 2012-2013

schools and education and life during a specific period in time.

The students have been busy promoting their book. They made posters for displays at the S.D. Retired Teachers' State Conference, the Northern Hills Retired Teachers Association meeting and the Whitewood quasiquincentennial celebration. They presented a book to the Meade School Board this past June and have held book sales all summer.

The students will also be the featured authors at the Festival of Books Preconference this September at the Whitewood Public Library.

The John T. Vucurevich Foundation awarded the students a grant to publish the book and the Whitewood PTO donated funds so that copies of the book would be available to the community of Whitewood.

Members of the Whitewood sixth-grade class who were involved in the history book project are, from the back left, Mackenzie Littleton, Hunter Hegdahl, Dylon Colvin and Sabrina Oliver; middle left, Mitchell Knutson, Jordan Minderman, Joan Knutson, Leah Harrison and Karrie Daniels; front left, Kadin Gifford, Nolan Berger, Rachel Vielle, Jamie Cornell and Ian Williams.



Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Meade School District may release the following student information as directory information pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act:

Name, address, parents or guardian of student, date of birth, date of attendance, school attended, participation in school-recognized activities, weight, height, age and grade of members of athletic teams, grade in school, individual and group photographs pertaining to school activities, and awards, honors or achievements.

All or part of the information may also be used in news articles recognizing students. If a student over 18 years of age or the parent or guardian of a student who is under 18 years of age refuses to permit the release of any of this information, written notification of such must be given to that student's principal.

Board Policy JO pertains to this act, and may be seen at the offices of the principals of all schools, the office of the superintendent and online at:

www.meade.k12.sd.us/POLICY%20Manual/FileJO.pdf

Meade School District calendar for 2013-14

The following is the approved Meade School District calendar for the 2013-2014 school year. Any snow days will be made up by adding additional days at the end of the school calendar. Furthermore, Feb. 17, March 14, and April 21 will be used as make-up days if more than three snow days have been used prior to Feb. 1, March 1, or April 17, 2014.

Staff Inservice	Aug. 20-22, 2013	Inservice Day (no school)	Jan. 17, 2014
First Day of School	Aug. 26, 2013	Parent-Teacher Conferences:	
Labor Day (no school)	Sept. 2, 2013	Middle School: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 10, 2014
Parent-Teacher Conferences:		Elementary Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 11, 2014
High School: 4-7 p.m.	Oct. 7, 2013	High School: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 11, 2014
Elementary Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Oct. 8, 2013	All Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 13, 2014
Middle School: 4-7 p.m.	Oct. 8, 2013	Presidents' Day (no school)	Feb. 17, 2014
All Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Oct. 10, 2013	Inservice Day (no school)	Mar. 13, 2014
Inservice Day (no school)	Oct. 11, 2013	Spring Break (no school)	Mar. 14, 2014
Native Americans' Day (no school)	Oct. 14, 2013	Good Friday/Easter (no school)	April 18- 21, 2014
Inservice Day (no school)	Nov. 8, 2013	Graduation	May 18, 2014
Thanksgiving Vacation (no school)	Nov. 27-29, 2013	Last Day of School	May 21, 2014
Christmas Vacation (no school)	Dec. 23-Jan. 3		

Directory for Meade School District

Schools

Rural Schools

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

Piedmont Valley Elementary School

16159 Second Street, 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
Jeff Simmons, principal.....347-2686
Don Lyon, assistant principal.....347-2686
Mike Paris, activities director.....347-4487
Academy.....347-9349

Sturgis Elementary School

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

Sturgis Williams Middle School

1425 Cedar Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Toll-free 1-888-567-8274
Lon Harter, principal.....347-5232
Ann Nonnast, 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
Randi Oviatt.....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

Sturgis Bus Company

2237 West Sherman, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Einar Mortenson, owner.....347-5066

Woodle Field

600 Woodland Dr., Sturgis**347-2003

**Not a mailing address