
Wakefield School News

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March 2008

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

SURVEY RESULTS SHARED

Patrons comment on district needs

The Wakefield Board of Education held a special meeting at the Educational Service Unit #1 on Feb. 3, 2008.



The purpose of the meeting was to share information with the public and also receive feedback regarding the facility needs of our district. There were thirty-eight persons in attendance, including representation from the Wakefield Republican and the Wayne Herald.

Tim Bebee, Building and Grounds Chairman, presented the facility priorities and estimated costs which included: Safety/Security: \$20,000-\$30,000; 15 Passenger Van Replacement: \$60,000; Main Gym Air Movement and Floor Replacement: \$150,000 - \$200,000; Bus Barn: \$100,000; and Track and Field: \$550,000 - \$650,000. The cost estimate for the track project includes site preparation, 8-lane track, football practice field, utility infrastructure and fencing. It

does not include a press box, bleachers, lighting, or concessions/restrooms. The track is included on the priority list due to the safety concerns for students who run on the streets and country roads for Physical Education classes and track practice.

With the exception of the van replacement, which is required by law, the Board has not committed to any of these projects. The meeting was held to gain feedback

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Late starts – early dismissals – cancellations

What's it all mean!

The snow, wind, and inclement weather have caused difficult driving conditions, requiring numerous late starts, early dismissals and cancellations of school. I appreciate the patience and understanding of our parents, students, and staff this winter. We will be making up additional days of school in May, the question is “how many?” Many years we have had snow storms in March and even April. The school calendar lists the last day of school for students as May 15. The calendar also lists May 19-23 as Snow Days. The reason why those extra days are listed on the calendar is for years like this one. For planning purposes, it is safe to state that teachers and students will be finished with this school year no later than May 23. The exact date of dismissal will depend upon what happens during the next six weeks.

from the public before undertaking any of these projects. Information was also shared on how these projects will be financed. The district's General, Depreciation and Special Building Funds will be utilized and no public bond issue should be necessary. The time frame for most of these projects may be 1-3 years depending upon available funds.

There was a question and answer session and participants were asked to complete a survey. The survey results, with individual (unedited) comments are included. The next step in the process will be a recommendation from the Building and Grounds Committee to the full board to consider project priorities. If you have questions or comments regarding these projects, please contact me or a member of the board of education.

Survey Information	Yes	No	Undecided or no opinion
1. Agree with board priorities			
a. Safety/security	31	0	2
b. Air movement in Gym	24	4	5
c. Main Gym Floor	24	3	6
d. Bus Barn Facility	22	4	7
e. Track Facility	29	1	3

Comments from the surveys (unedited):

1. Safety of the students should be the first priority of our facilities/grounds improvement. With that in mind, the track facility should be first on the list.
2. All are important as we look to the future of maintaining our school as we see districts declining in other communities. It's important to secure the safety of the students and general public and to continuously make improvements as needed.
3. I feel that all of the priorities are important. We are long overdue for improvements to our track/practice field though. Every year we risk tragedy during track season and injury during football season. We need to address these first I believe. If the decision is to not go through with the facility some work at least needs to be done to get a good start of grass and soften the ground up there for track and football practices.
4. Thanks for taking time to inform the community.
5. From a safety standpoint the track facility is a no brainer to me. This Facility will not only provide safety for the students of the district, but also another resource for PE classes to use within the PE curriculum.
6. Nice to see the board proactive. Before you know it the future will be here.
7. I feel our students are most at risk running on the streets. An 8 lane track would be a great addition to our facilities for safety and improving the program.
8. My concerns are for the kids. I have circled "yes" on the things that directly affect the children now.
9. All items are needed, those circled I see as TOP priorities. But I also know the financial boundaries will dictate the board's actions.



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10. If we can build a pool we can build a track!!
11. To avoid too much opposition and confusion, it needs to be made very clear to the people that their tax burden is not increasing due to any of this.
12. If you lived on a street the students have to run on (and the country roads they run their mile on) you would want the track to be a first priority.
13. Not a full-scale track complex, but enough of a track to get kids off the street.
However, getting infrastructure is wise for possible improvements in the distant future.
14. I have coached at 3 high schools that have not had a track as a head coach. I have tried to structure workouts to keep the kids as safe as possible, but in the end when you send kids out onto the streets they are put at risk. I feel the district has dodged this bullet long enough. How much longer are we willing to put our kids' lives at risk?
15. Track facility but after the other projects are taking off.
16. Practice track facility.
17. (Air movement) A simple exhaust fan in the peak.
18. If new busses won't fit in the barn-where will they be serviced?
19. Wants north terrace along the street by the playground made into parking.

Bill Heimann, Superintendent

Principal's Notes

Jason Heitz, Secondary Principal

Winter sports season comes to a close

 It seems that no matter how long the basketball and wrestling seasons seem, and no matter how successful the student-athletes have become, the seasons always comes to an end sooner than planned. The wrestling team ended their season at districts with a few close-calls and near-misses. Both the boys and girls basketball teams ended their seasons in sub-district play with hard-fought losses. All our student-athletes should be proud of themselves and should have no regrets about their successful seasons.



Onward to track and golf season!

Quiz bowl team places 2nd in competition

The Wakefield High School Quiz Bowl Team placed second in the KNEN competition.

The Wakefield team, comprised of members Jessica Berns, Lane Clay, Kelsey Bard, and Tim Suing, (and team sponsor Mr. Mike Clay) earned a check in the amount of \$250 to be contributed to the school.

The championship included ten rounds of questioning before Wakefield was defeated by Newman Grove. 53 schools from northeast Nebraska entered the KNEN Quiz Bowl competition this year.

Congratulations to the Quiz Bowl team on an outstanding performance!

Speech season nearly complete

The Wakefield Speech Team performed in the Lewis and Clark Conference Speech Meet in Winnebago on Saturday, February 23.

The team placed 2nd in the competition.

The speech team has been very successful this year and they are looking forward to District competition on March 5 in Wisner. Good Luck to the Wakefield Speech Team!



DEAR groups to do team building activity

The DEAR groups (Drop Everything And Read) are planning activities for Thursday, March 6. The cafeteria will supply a sack lunch for everyone that day, and DEAR groups will eat together in the classrooms. During lunch they will discuss the project to be completed that day. The project involves putting their minds together to construct a tower made of only spaghetti noodles and tape. Each DEAR group will build a tower during a limited amount of time. Towers will then be judged on height, stability, creativity, etc. DEAR Activity Day should prove to be a fun way to build relationships among the students and faculty/staff.

- *March 7 marks the end of the 3rd quarter. Report cards will go home during the week of March 10.*
- *NO SCHOOL March 20, 21, 24 (Easter Break)*
- *PROM is April 5.*



From the Principal's Pen

Craig Patzel, K-6 Principal

Top Wakefield spellers advance to county contest

The Wakefield Spelling Bee was held on Wednesday, February 13, 2008. Eighteen students participated in the Bee. To qualify for the competition, written exams were given in the 5th through the 8th grades. The exams were scored and the students that had the 18 best scores were selected to compete in the oral contest. To begin the competition, contestants drew numbers in order to determine their order of participation. The champion of this year's contest was fifth grade student Ryan Bodlak. The following students

rounded out the top five: Diana Ruiz, Anthony Munson, Lane Foote, and Valeria Perez.

The Wakefield Republican once again sponsored this year's competition and donated prizes to the class winners. Ryan Bodlak, the overall winner and 5th grade class winner, received a plaque. The other class

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winners received medals: Zach Nelson (6th), Shelby Lierman (7th), and Diana Ruiz (8th).

Kathy Johnson pronounced for the contest and Mr. Metzler, Ms. Tello, and Mrs. Youngmeyer served as judges.

The top five overall place winners also competed in the County Spelling Bee held at the Northeast Station in Concord on Thursday, February 21. Ryan Bodlak placed 4th in the county competition and Anthony Munson finished 5th.

Parents can help prepare students for Terra Nova testing



During the week of March 31-April 3, the 4th and 6th grades will be taking the Terra Nova. The Terra Nova is a norm-referenced-standardized achievement test

designed to measure the basic skills that are taught in schools. The test measures performance in the following categories: Reading/Language Arts, Word Analysis, Vocabulary, Language Mechanics, Spelling, Mathematics, Mathematics Computation, Science and Social Studies.

There are several things that parents can do to help ensure that their child will do his/her best. The following suggestions will be helpful.

- Adequate rest is an essential component of your child doing well in school. Be sure that your child gets plenty of sleep during this week.
- Having a full belly also has an impact on student performance. Making sure that your child eats a good, healthy breakfast

will help his/her concentration throughout this series of tests.

- Send a snack to school with your child this week. Providing nourishment at mid-morning and mid-afternoon will also help ensure that your child is mentally focused and able to concentrate for an extended period of time.
- Check your calendar and try to schedule any appointments that you may have around this time. Students do have to make up any test they miss, so being present during this week will make the coming weeks easier on your child. Rescheduling tests can often times take students out of the activities they enjoy doing.

Report cards to go home March 14

Third quarter report cards will be sent home on Friday, March 14 with the students. Please contact your child's teacher if you have questions concerning grades or your child's performance.

Other important dates...

Monday, March 3 – Casual Pictures

Monday, March 10 – 2-hour late start (teacher in-service)

Tuesday, March 18 – Jump Rope for Heart (4:00-6:00)

Thursday, March 20 - Monday, March 24 – Easter Break

Tuesday, March 25 – Elementary Assembly (Illusion)

~ There are never moments of failure, only moments of learning ~

Second graders donate quilt to pool committee

Wakefield 2nd grade students in Mrs. Jan Johnson's class are pictured with the quilt they recently made and donated to the Wakefield swimming pool committee. The twin-size quilt features orange, yellow and purple fish swimming on a blue background. Debbie Borg donated much of the fabric for the top of the quilt. Hannah and Heidi Borg helped by sewing the fish together, while 2nd graders sewed all of the pieces together and the two borders. The quilt was put into a frame and also tied together by the students. Tickets for the quilt will be sold during up-coming school events and may also be purchased at the Iowa-Nebraska State Bank. All process will go towards the new swimming pool.



*We make a living by what we get;
We make a life by what we give.*

~Winston Churchill ~

Wakefield Community School Kindergarten Round-Up Friday, April 4, 2008

Eligible children must turn 5 before Oct. 15, 2008

**Parents & Children with last names beginning A- M
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

**Parents & Children with last names beginning N-Z
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**For more information call
287-9892**



From the counselor's desk

By Branis Knezevic,
K-12 Guidance Counselor

Juniors: It's time to start looking at colleges

Start looking at colleges your junior year so you can narrow your choices by the time you're a senior. Follow these tips for successful campus visits.

Visit your top college choices while the schools are in session. You won't get the true flavor of the school during breaks or finals week.

Schedule your visits at least two weeks in advance. Ask for appointments with an admissions representative, financial aid counselor and a faculty member in your area of interest.

Talk to a faculty member about upper-level classes in your anticipated major. Many students change majors because they don't understand the subject matter or the degree of difficulty.

Ask the financial aid counselor how the college may offset tuition costs and about college-based scholarship applications and deadlines.

If possible, stay overnight in a residence hall and eat in the cafeteria. Ask about the personality of each hall so you can request one that suits you.

Check out the school's website. You'll find admission requirements, academic and social information, and campus photos or a virtual tour.

Web resources to help with your college search

Find information about Midwest colleges in the *College Profiles* section at www.educationquest.org.

College Fairs coming up in March and April

If you live in the Omaha/Lincoln vicinity, or plan to visit in late March or early April, make note of two upcoming college fairs.

Omaha College Affaire

Thursday, March 27

6-8 p.m.

Millard North High School

144th & Pacific Streets

Lincoln College Affaire

Thursday, April 3

6-8 p.m.

Lincoln Southwest High School

7001 S. 14th Street



Each event will feature representatives from Midwest colleges and financial aid sessions.

EducationQuest will sponsor statewide college fairs next fall.

Seniors: What happens after you submit the FAFSA?

By now, you have probably submitted your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Here's what happens next.

Expect your SAR and Award Letter

You'll receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) after you submit the FAFSA. This acknowledges that your form was processed and can be used to make corrections to your FAFSA. You'll need the PIN you used to file the FAFSA to make electronic corrections.

The colleges you listed on the FAFSA will send you a financial aid award letter detailing the assistance they're offering. They may offer a combination of scholarships, grants, work-study and student loans.

Compare Award Letters

Compare award letters from the colleges. Some may offer more in scholarships and grants, while others rely on student loans. Calculate your out-of-pocket expenses for each school to get the whole financial picture. Use the [Award Letter Comparison Calculator](#) on www.educationquest.org to determine which school offers the best deal. Sign and return the award letters.

Keep looking for scholarships!

Many local, state and national scholarships have deadlines in March, April and May. Talk to your guidance counselor about scholarships that meet your criteria. For local and state scholarships, visit [ScholarshipQuest](#) at www.educationquest.org.



New grants available for low-income students

Two new federal grant programs are available for low-income students — the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and the National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART).

The ACG is available for first and second year college students who qualify for Pell Grant and have completed a rigorous high school curriculum. For details, visit www.educationquest.org/acgrant.asp.

The National SMART Grant is available during the third and fourth years of undergraduate study for full-time students who qualify for Pell Grant and major in specific areas. For details, visit www.educationquest.org/smartgrant.asp.

ACT Preparation Workshop

Northeast Community College offers an ACT Preparation Workshop on March 29, 2008. The cost is \$25. If you're interested please pick up an application form from the guidance office.