

School Board Meets:

Building Project Nears Interior Completion

By Mary Kilen
Stanley School Board held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, Apr. 16. Highlights of the meeting included building project updates, finance committee recommendations, and updates on staffing needs.

Financial Reports
Business Manager Barb Reese reviewed financial reports with the board. She reported that the Title V funds itemizations have changed to reflect the uses, including the purchase price of part of the iPads approved earlier this year.

She also reported they continue to receive bills from activities from seasons that have been completed. Those will be reflected as they come in.

The audit for the 2023-2024 year has been approved by the state auditor. They accepted the Rath and Mehrer audit report.

Building Committee Report
Superintendent Tim Holte reported the high school building project continues with ceiling tiles, tile and carpet being installed. The construction has reached the point where it looks like a school building inside. Holte said the interior work is anticipated to be complete by May 23 and then they will have access to start moving things into the classrooms. He offered tours to board members when they want, saying that the CTE advisory board had toured the building on Wednesday.

Holte presented a list of change order proposals.

The first is to upgrade the HVAC system for the meats room. The room needs to be cooled further than the existing system is capable of. The board asked how this was missed in the original plans, with Holte saying that he is hoping that EAPC can answer those questions. He said that Comstock also did not notice it when it was bid. This comes at a change of \$34,588.19.

The second is a change to the ceiling tile in the meats room to make them more easily washed at a cost of \$1,417.50.

There will be revised lighting in the tiered seating room to put grid lighting in the back rows at a cost of \$1,583.85.

There are also changes to add doors to the bathrooms in the new addition to provide additional privacy. The design had too much visibility from the hallways. This is a cost of \$6,095.41.

The board approved the four changes, but asked for clarification on how some of these items were missed in the design and bidding process.

Holte said that the contingency fund for the project was at \$349,308 before approving these, a figure higher than when the project started

because of some cost-saving changes that have been made. Following these changes, the contingency will be at just over \$300,000.

Holte noted that they will be asking for pricing to increase the weight limit for the meat rail system in the meat lab. The original bids had \$140,000 allocated for this system, but the increase to the system could cost \$30,000. He has asked for an explanation on the cost and how this could have also been missed.

Other upcoming change proposals could include additional concrete for sidewalks, a ramp by the south door where the dumpsters are, a mow strip and between the school and greenhouse. Holte is asking for these to be priced individually so the board can determine what they want to proceed with. They are looking at filling in some of the doors between the greenhouse to the school including between classroom spaces and the shop, or replacing some of those doors. They are asking for a larger door from the existing shop to the school as the custodians will be using that space and have asked for this for access when moving things. They are looking to change walls in the new welding shop/plasma table room to a fiberglass composition to reduce impact damage and increase flame resistance. They are looking for prices for blinds for all of the windows. There is also an electrical conduit that needs to be enclosed.

As for other projects, they are looking for pricing for new doors at the elementary school by the gym and playground as these older doors are not closing or latching properly at all times. They are looking at the high school gym hoop lift system as they are not functioning properly and are outdated. Holte said they will also be looking for a quote for redoing or repairing the high school parking lot.

Looking at the most recent pay application from Comstock, Holte said that the district should get credit from the snow removal budget which had \$16,000 set aside, with them having spent \$3,214 as of the end of March. They had funds of \$12,000 set aside for temporary electric service, but they were able to tie into the school's existing system instead. They also had \$54,000 set aside for heat and have used \$35,000 so far.

Finance Committee
The finance committee met to look at end of year projections. Holte said that he and Business Manager Reese looked at the tax levy money received. In previous years by February they would have received over \$1 million. This year, so far, they have received \$665,000. By April they would have received 94% of the levy requested, with this year being at 82%. They will meet

with the county office to see if they can find what the difference is this year. Being \$600,000 lower in revenue can have a large impact on the budget at the end of the year.

They have started to work on the 2025-2026 budget, revising from the 2024-2025 budget. Looking at revenue, they are adding a potential 3% increase in state aid, but there are two plans in the legislature that have not yet been approved.

As for expenditures, they have used this year's figures for salaries and benefits with no raises reflected as they are just starting negotiations.

Holte said there are a few positions they want to add to this year including an additional counselor position to meet state requirements for the number of counselors per student numbers, an EL teacher and a kindergarten teacher.

Holte said that the proposed budget is about where they started last year with an \$800,000 deficit, however the 2024-2025 budget will be close to balanced if they receive all of the projected revenue.

The board said that all three teachers are needs the district has and approved advertising to fill those positions. They also discussed potential classroom renovation needs at the elementary school if they need to split classes more.

Extracurricular Committee
The extracurricular committee met and recommended adding mock trial as an extracurricular organization/activity. This is a program that is actively going, but they would like to look at compensating the advisor. They also recommend adding an assistant advisor to the FCCLA program for the 2025-2026 school year.

The board moved to approve both recommendations. They also moved to pay Nick Peterson for this year for the mock trial organization.

The board was also informed that Heath Hetzel has submitted a letter of resignation as girls' basketball coach and they are looking to fill that position as well.

Policy Committee
The board moved to update their extracurricular salary schedule to add Mock Trial and the Honor Society Advisor. As a board regulation this requires only one reading.

Technology Purchases
The board previously approved the purchase of student devices. At this month's meeting, they were given a proposal for technology purchases for some student devices, but mostly staff device purchases at a cost of \$54,000. The budget had \$150,395 for technology purchases. With this purchase, they would have spent \$133,000 of that budgeted amount. The board moved to approve this purchase.

There was also discussion about purchasing Promethean boards for

the classrooms in the new addition, and a monitor and computer for the demonstration room at a cost of \$15,500. The board moved to approve this purchase with the finance committee to decide where to fund this purchase.

The board discussed the remaining smart boards at the high school and elementary school, with Superintendent Holte recommending they be replaced with the Promethean boards. The board asked that tech coordinator Chris Beehler put together a plan for those replacements for them to review at next month's meeting. Teachers have also applied for a grant for the purchase of Promethean boards.

Summer School
The board moved to approve submittal of the district's application for K-8 and high school summer school programs.

Tuition Waivers
The board moved to accept the tuition waivers for ten students that qualify as the children of teachers in the district for the 2025-2026 school year.

Extracurricular Contracts
The board moved to approve the contracts for Kerrington Lee, assistant wrestling coach; Karoline Martens and Kindel Cushman, assistant softball coaches; and Nick Peterson, mock trial advisor.

Teacher Contracts
The board moved to approve the contract for Arik Napoles for high school music for the 2025-2026 school year.

Superintendent Report
Superintendent Holte reported enrollment is at 767, down 4 from last month with 449 students at the elementary and 318 at the junior/senior high.

Gross production tax revenue is at \$1,071,000, meaning they need to average \$76,000 per month to reach the budgeted figure. They are averaging \$119,000 per month so far this year.

Looking at the legislative session, Holte said they are waiting for funding bills to finalize. That includes waiting to see what the state aid payment increase percentage will be, and how the transportation funding will change. Holte also noted they are watching the cell phone bills to see what will come out of conference committees. The district's policy already meets most of what is being proposed and they hope that will continue once a bill is passed.

The items are being ordered that will be covered by the CTE grant. Furnishings are being ordered for the new addition. The LED lighting project should be starting soon.

Principal Reports
Elementary Principal Brooks Stafslie said they are starting to wrap things up for the end of the year.

The elementary school uses the Amira dyslexia scanning program.

This had been paid for by the state, but that could be impacted by funding cuts. The state has looked to prioritize which schools are using the program successfully. Stanley has been identified as one of the schools using the program with Stafslie saying they are hoping they can continue to use it at least in the K-3 classrooms.

Kindergarten registration is set with Stafslie saying that if they anticipate that to be in the mid-50s based on the preschool numbers and other information. Based on historical data, that would mean they would have at least in the mid-60s to start next year.

Upcoming events include a vaccination clinic with UMDHU on April 17. Donuts for Grownups will be May 2. The Math Meet is also set for May 2. The sixth grade will visit the high school on May 7. The fifth grade girls will be having a dance on May 16. The last week of school will include grilling day on Monday, track and field day on Tuesday, clean-up day on Wednesday, and end with picnic day and a half day of school for students on Friday.

Assistant Elementary Principal Jenn Tronset said that reading month is going well with the students excited about this year's theme.

She said the high school job shadow day at the elementary went well, as did the visit by the seventh graders to read with the first graders.

She said that end of year things are starting and they are looking at needs for next year.

High School Principal Alecia Pulver said that while it was a lot of work to work around the regional music competition on April 3, the events they scheduled including job shadowing and fields trips provided a good day for students and staff.

They are finalizing next year's schedule.

Spring is hectic at the high school with so many events and students and staff gone. Pulver said that it creates some anxious moments and they would like to continue to build their substitute pool.

They are focusing on engagement strategies in the PLCs, noting that some of those changes have made the advisory period more productive.

Assistant High School Principal Paula Brown said they will be rolling that engagement strategy work into the next week, working in groups and the PLC meetings to get the whole staff ready for implementation next year.

Juniors finished taking their ACT tests on Wednesday.

Upcoming events include the band concert on May 8, Class Night on May 13 and Baccalaureate on May 14.

Board Concerns
Board president Matthew Ruland discussed the order of contact when there are issues with a coach. He

pointed out that if there are issues, it should start with a discussion with the coach and then the coach's supervisor if necessary. He said that by the time it reaches the board level, there are quite a few steps that need to be taken. He said that if handled properly, it is a process that can work best for everyone.

Teacher Negotiations
The board entered executive session to discuss teacher negotiations. The negotiating units from the staff and board met on May 8 to go through the ground rules. The meeting for first proposals will be on April 28. With the board's negotiator unable to attend the meeting, Superintendent Holte noted they will likely need a special meeting to meet with her to prepare for the April 28 meeting.

Memorials Received By Mountrail Community Food Pantry

The Mountrail Community Food Pantry received a donation in memory of Debby Brenner, Brad Bruhn, Chester Johnson, and Vonnice Willson from Judy Vedaa.

Donations are very appreciated and may be mailed to 6989 84th Ave NW, Stanley, ND 58784.

Letter To The Editor

I would like to say "kudos" to all the hard work the Sybil Center members do to convey the message of musical arts and entertainment to Stanley and the surrounding area!

Since its beginning in 2003, there has been oodles of great entertainment!

Don't miss out on this upcoming season!

Sincerely,
Cheryl Weisenberger

Obituaries

Joanne Rabbithead
Joanne Rabbithead, 60, Parshall, died Thursday, April 17, 2025, at a Bismarck hospital.
(Langhans Funeral Home, Parshall)

Lonnie Olson
Lonnie Olson, 78, of Minot, ND, passed away on Saturday, April 19, 2025, at Somerset Court in Minot, ND.
Springan Stevenson Funeral Home of Stanley is assisting the family. Condolences may be left on the funeral home website at www.springanstevenson.com.

9th Annual

2025

Mountrail County

Home and Garden Show

Friday, April 25, 3:30 pm - 8 pm

Saturday, April 26, 9 am - 2 pm

Mountrail County South Complex & Fair Building

8101 & 8103 61st St NW Stanley, ND

Workshops:

Friday - 25th:

5:30-6:30 pm

- Sourdough Bread

6:30-7:30 pm

- Gazing Balls/Garden Globes

Saturday - 26th:

10:00-11:00 am

- "Backyard Chickens 101"

11:00-12:00 am

- Unlock Secrets of African Violet Propagation

Saturday - 26th:

12:00-1:00 pm

- "Getting a Feel for your Garden Soil"

learn about soil texture, testing, & working with your soil.

4-H Events

Project Expo

Saturday-9:30 am

South Complex

Clothing Revue

Saturday-10:00 am

South Complex

Vendors wanted!

Interested in being a vendor?

For more info. & registration form please visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/MountrailHomeGardenShow>

Click on Vendor Booth Registration Form

Sponsored by:

NDSU EXTENSION MOUNTRAIL COUNTY

Mountrail County Garden Club

Questions or need more information? Contact us @ (701) 628-2835 Ext. 1

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