

M A R C H 2 0 1 7

Upcoming Events

Back to the Basics Workshop March 21 | Lincoln

NSBA Conference March 25-27 | Denver, CO

SWEAT Conference April 12-13 | Kearney



NASB Legislative Lunches April 18 | Lincoln May 16 | Lincoln

NASB Member Golf Outing June 8 | Kearney

> School Law Seminar June 8-9 | Kearney

BOARD NOTES



A monthly publication from the Nebraska Association of School Boards

STEM Ready America: The Nebraska Way

Jeff Cole, Network Lead, Beyond School Bells Julie Sigmon, Omaha STEM Ecosystem Director Anna Wishart, Nebraska State Senator, District 27

The following is an intro to just one of 40 papers recently done for <u>http://stemreadyamerica.org/</u> This particular piece focuses on what Nebraska is doing on the STEM front. To view the full piece, along with the others, we encourage you to visit and explore the site.

Education in Nebraska is a communitybased endeavor, and as befits our largely rural state, this emphasis on local control defines our approach to building the systems of support that help to ensure that young people in urban and rural Nebraska alike have access to the learning opportunities they need to thrive in the 21st century. Within this context, education in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math) has emerged as a key area of focus and investment in communities across the state.

Communities across Nebraska, rural and urban, are faced with an array of challenges related to our state's lagging economy.

In particular, expanded learning opportunities (ELO)—which, in Nebraska, means high-quality, school-based, and community-powered afterschool and summer programs—have been essential to advancing STEM learning statewide.

In the full article linked here <u>http://stemreadyamerica.org/article-nebraska-way/</u>, you will see how the ELO sector in Nebraska has become a key platform for increasing the number and quality of STEM learning opportunities in our state by cultivating local partnerships, coordinating systems-building efforts across the state, and broadly communicating the importance of STEM learning for improved educational and economic outcomes.

On the next page you will see a study done by 1,600 youth in over 160 programs in 11 states, including Nebraska, showing the impact of participating in quality STEM programs, especially in the areas of STEM identity and interest in future STEM careers.

To find out more about how STEM is changing the face of afterschool programs across Nebraska, contact Jeff Cole at jcole@nebraskachildren.org



The Nebraska Association of School Boards provides services to School Boards to strengthen public education for all Nebraska children.



Afterschool Learning is a Powerful STEM Solution

The number of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related jobs is increasing much faster than overall employment. To fill these jobs, we need to engage youth early to get them excited about STEM and help build the skills they will need for the future.

New research shows that STEM afterschool programs are an effective part of the solution.

With an innovative research design, a team from the PEAR Institute at Harvard University and McLean Hospital and IMMAP: Institute for Measurement, Methodology, Analysis & Policy at Texas Tech University surveyed nearly 1,600 youth and their program leaders in 160 programs across 11 states. They collected and analyzed data from observations of programs, student self assessment and teacher/facilitator questionnaires to create a fascinating new look into STEM in afterschool.

STEM Learning in Afterschool Works



78% of students said they had a more positive attitude about STEM because of their afterschool experience.

73% of students said they had a more positive STEM identity

afterschool experience.

because of their



their STEM career

because of their

knowledge increased

afterschool experience.



72% of students said their perseverance and critical thinking skills increased because of their afterschool experience.

Youth Gain STEM Skills



More than 70% of students across all states reported positive gains in areas of STEM interest, STEM identity, STEM career interest and career knowledge, and 21st-century skills, including perseverance and critical thinking.

Focus on Quality Yields Positive Youth Outcomes

STEM afterschool programs with the highest quality ratings demonstrated the most positive student outcomes. The gains in STEM interest and skills underscores the return on investment from building capacity in programs and focusing on quality.



I think of myself as a STEM person.

Great things happening at your schools? Let us know, and share your success!

You Are Invited ... Buffett Early Childhood Event



The Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska and Senator John Stinner Invite You to a Special Event in Scottsbluff

> Urban and Rural Nebraskans Speak About Early Care and Education

> > Friday, March 24, 2017



Please join the Buffett Early Childhood Institute for the statewide release of a new report from the Buffett Early Childhood Institute and Gallup that tells the dramatic findings from the largest survey ever conducted in Nebraska about early care and education.

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

SEN. JOHN STINNER | District 48 Representative, Nebraska Legislature; SAMUEL J. MEISELS | Founding Executive Director, Buffett Early Childhood Institute, University of Nebraska; KIM ENGEL | Director, Panhandle Public Health District; KATHLEEN GALLAGHER | Cille and Ron Williams Community Chair, University of Nebraska at Kearney and Buffett Early Childhood Institute, University of Nebraska; JEFF WEST | Chair, Scottsbluff/Gering United Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Administrator, ESU 13; CAROLINE WINCHESTER | Superintendent, Chadron Public Schools

> Friday, March 24, 2017 Survey Findings and Panel Discussion | 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM MDT Lunch and Conversation | 12:15 - 1:00 PM MDT

> > Hampton Inn & Suites Scottsbluff Conference Center 301 West Highway 26 | Scottsbluff

Kindly RSVP to Machaela Cavanaugh at 402-554-5924 or mcavanaugh@nebraska.edu



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Cedar Bluffs Hosts Open House



By Sam Pimper | Fremont Tribune

In a village consisting of not many more than 600 people, a school district is going above and beyond in regard to providing students with an assortment of opportunities enabling them to pursue a wide array possibilities after high school graduation.

Following major faculty changes in 2012 and 2013 with the hiring of Superintendent Harlan Ptomey and Principal Kevin Janssen, respectively, the Cedar Bluffs Public School District once again began thriving under the new leadership.

During Ptomey's inaugural year, a meager 189 students comprised the district, grades kindergarten through 12. But through diligent efforts from the district and several partners, approximately 370 students now pass through Cedar's halls daily.



Cedar Bluffs Public Schools Superintendent Harlan Ptomey, left, Deb Jensen, village board member, Kevin Janssen, Cedar Bluffs principal, and Chris Lichtenberg, village board chairman, stand in front of new playground equipment in the park at Cedar Bluffs. Photo by Tammy Real-McKeighan

At Cedar Bluffs there is a philosophy, Ptomey has said, and that is to always put students and their needs first. With every decision made, or with anything brought before Ptomey by his staff, that is the question that needs answering.

How will this benefit the students?

Earlier this month, the community was invited to the Cedar Bluffs Public School Annual Open House to see just how the school is puts its students first.

Following dinner, attendees had the opportunity to see some of the big-picture things happening inside of the school. In addition to seeing how students are being cultivated inside of the classroom, people also had the opportunity to participate in numerous fun activities including: Gladiator Wars, Sumo Wrestling, Bowling, Putt-Putt Golf, a Bouncy House, three-lane obstacle course, pictures with a Disney princess, Face Painting, a Virtual Reality Interaction in the Science Lab and the opportunity to learn about domestic animals in the FFA Petting Zoo.

Attendees also got to witness the first showing of the Cedar Bluffs School Commercial, as well as taking a tour of the schools new Vocational Building.

After joining a Joint Public Agency (JPA) in 2014, the school district started selling bonds to fund the project – a 14,000 square-foot facility providing students with real-world opportunities like never before.

The new Vocational Building consists of: a technology center, full automotive paint booth, a car lift, a water plasma machine, multiple welding units, a grinding booth and a 3-D printing room. In addition, there's a CNC plasma cutter and an art kiln available for students.

"The JPA has been a benefit to the school and to the community. The question that is asked is what's good for kids. This applies to the community and the school. In addition to the school portion, the community has seen the auditorium updated, new playground equipment in the city park and a splash pad just to name a few. The one project I believe that ties everything together is the wellness center that the students and the patrons of the district can use the equipment to their benefit."

- Garlyn Grosse, School Board Member and President of JPA









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Bringing the Midwest to the Rockies Nebraska Reception at the NSBA Conference

Saturday, March 25 | 4:00 to 7:00 PM Henry's 16th Street Tavern - Denver

1CBCOL 1041D6





RSVP to sendorf@

Rely on NASB's Natural Gas Programs





Two things come to mind with NASB's natural gas programs. Competitive prices. Budget certainty.

NASB has over 100 school districts and ESUs across Nebraska participating in a pair of natural gas purchasing consortiums to leverage their purchasing power and achieve lower utility bills. As you work on budgets for the upcoming year, consider how these consortiums can give your district or ESU a high degree of natural gas price certainty at competitive prices.

Rather than pricing the entire year's gas needs on one day, the consortiums lock in fixed prices as market opportunities become available by purchasing in layers over time and in percentages of total projected volumes. This approach achieves an average price that removes much of the volatility of the market and provides members with a higher level of budget certainty than they could achieve on their own.

After a year's experience in the CJUMP program, Ord Public Schools Superintendent Jason Alexander said, "The CJUMP program has been very competitive price-wise and has made the purchasing process for natural gas very painless."

The Nebraska Joint Utilities Management Program (NJUMP) purchases natural gas for school districts and ESUs on the Black Hills Energy natural gas pipeline in southeast Nebraska. Choice Joint Utilities Management Program (CJUMP) supplies natural gas on the SourceGas distribution system in northern, central and western Nebraska. Both programs operate as independent Interlocal Pools created and governed by their own Board of Trustees drawn from consortium members. The trustees hold their annual meeting at the State Education Conference in LaVista each November. NJUMP works with CenterPoint Energy Services, Inc, as its program administrator. CJUMP works with Public Alliance for Community Energy (ACE) in a similar capacity. Both companies provide a wide range of energy products and services to various users of natural gas and can provide an individual user analysis for interested school districts or ESUs.

Now is the time to sign up for membership in NJUMP or CJUMP for the 2017-2018 heating season. For more information, NASB members on the Black Hills Energy distribution system can contact Brenda Christensen of CenterPoint Energy Services at 1-888-710-4707 and members on the SourceGas distribution system can contact Mandy Heermann of Public Alliance for Community Energy at 1-800-454-4759. Jim Luebbe of the NASB staff can also discuss the program with you and help you enroll in this time-saving, dollar-stretching consortium.

PAPERLESS BOARD MEETINGS CHANGE THE WAY YOUR BOARD DOES BUSINESS

To a room of current users, as well as interested administrative education professionals, Craig Caples left no stone unturned when showing off the latest upgraders, improvements, and features of Sparq Data Solutions Paperless Board Meeting software, currently eMeetings at the NAEP Annual Meeting in Grand Island. A number of <u>"Ohhh's"</u> and <u>"Ahhh's"</u> filled the room. So what garnered such reaction?

First off, *EVERYTHING* has been looked at. Incredible user feedback from day one has allowed for a number of add-in's and enhancements that will provide transparency, better governance, and a program that ties everything together in one portal like:

- Policy manuals, handbooks, full document repository
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- Automate distribution of packets
- Automate creation of Public Notice, Agendas, and Minutes
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To learn more, or schedule a demonstration, contact Nicole or Craig today at 800-422-4572.





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Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund - NLAF Barry Ballou - 402-705-0350 balloub@pfm.com | www.NLAFpool.org (Liquid Asset Fund, financing programs)

Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust Becky Ferguson - 402-323-1334 becky.ferguson@ubt.com | www.npait.com (Investment tool providing liquidity and safety.)

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Public Risk Management Sheri Shonka - 402-884-3751 / 877-649-4612 sheri.shonka@prmne.com | www.alicap.org (ALICAP, Insurance services)

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Through a collaborative working relationship with the Board of Education, the NASB Education Leadership Search Service ensures a highly-professional search process that will not only attract the very best applicants, but will bring credit to the board for the manner in which the search is conducted.

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Does your district have ALICAP? For more information, or to join please contact: Megan Boldt | mboldt@NASBonline.org



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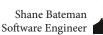


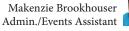
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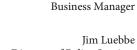
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Back to the Basics of School Law Rarch 7 | Geing March 14 | Reamey March 16 | Norfolk March 21 | Lin



FINAL Back to the Basics of School Law! | March 21 | Lincoln

Perhaps the most imposing demand society places on school board members is the requirement that they know, and adhere to, the intent and limitations of the law. Nearly everything your board does is influenced by statutory regulations. Your board has a duty to be informed about the basics of school law and when to reach out for legal services. This workshop, taught by attorneys who work with school law on a regular basis, will get you started in the right direction. This is a "must" for all people serving in a position of school leadership. The workshop focuses on the basics: the fundamental concepts of school law which locally elected school board members need to know. Register onsite. Learn more at www.NASBonline.org.



SWEAT | Student Wellness Education & Training

April 12-13 | Kearney

Make plans now to attend the 2017 SWEAT Conference, April 12 & 13th at the Kearney Holiday Inn. SWEAT is a student health and wellness conference with breakouts and general sessions on physical, mental and behavioral health, and how it affects your school policies. Wednesday evening, April 12, starting at 6:00 PM, hear from Dan Meers, a.k.a., KC Wolf. Kick off the day Thursday with Dr. Ali Khan, Dayle Hayes who will share how school meals improve learning environments, and enjoy 'Brain Break Exercises' led by public school students and Nebraska athletes throughout the day, as well as 12 breakout sessions on a variety of subjects. Learn more now, and register at www.NASBonline.org





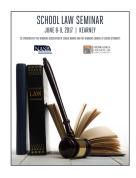




NASB Member Golf Outing

June 8 | Kearney Country Club

Join fellow NASB members for the annual Golf Outing! To learn more or sign up yourself, or a foursome, contact Sharon Endorf at sendorf@NASBonline.org



School Law Seminar

June 8-9 | Kearney

This popular program, geared towards board members, superintendents, ESU administrators, and lawyers across Nebraska will bring you the most recent developments in school law at the state and federal levels. Thursday evening, meet and greet your peers at the exhibitor reception and a hospitality suite. Friday sessions begin at 8:00 AM. Topics this year include a Legislative Update from NDE; Copyright Laws, Creative Commons Licensing, and the Creation of Free Textbooks; Better Watch Your Step - A Procedural Primer for the Nebraska Student Discipline Act; Student Data Privacy; Stay Up on Stay Put ; Managing Off Campus Conduct - Students & Staff; Recent Open Meetings and Records Request Issues; Injured and III Employees; Immigration Issues in K-12 Schools; Effective Communication: Navigating the Intersection of Section 504, the ADA and the IDEA; and Let's Get Physical - Senator Groene's LB 595 (if enacted). Registration will be available shortly at www.NASBonline.org

NAEP Workshops: July

Area Membership Meetings: Aug - Oct

July 19 | NASB Orientation | Lincoln

Labor Relations Conference | Sept 6-7 | Lincoln

Learn more on all under the EVENTS tab of

State Education Conference | Nov 15-17 | La Vista

www.NASBonline.org



NASB provides services to School Boards to strengthen public education for all Nebraska children. March 2017



March 2017

A monthly publication from the Nebraska Association of School Boards

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