

USD#291 NEWS

March 2019



Thunderhawk Pride!

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Superintendent News From Mr. Kraus

In all but four of the past fifteen years, the State of Kansas has been the defendant in lawsuits over school finance. During a special session in 2006, the Legislature took the action necessary to satisfy the Supreme Court decision in the *Montoy v. Kansas* lawsuit. The funding plan passed by the Legislature phased in increases over a three-year period. When fully funded, the state aid per pupil would have been \$4,492. Unfortunately, the Great Recession prevented funding from reaching that level as scheduled.

The current court case, *Gannon v. Kansas* was filed because the Legislature was making little to no effort to return to the path laid out in the previous suit. During the 2018 legislative session, a new plan was developed to phase in funding over a five-year period. In its latest decision, the Supreme Court was receptive to this phase in of funding. However, it determined that the legislature did not allow for inflation over the phase in period. In all other aspects, the court deemed the funding plan presented was constitutional.

This legislative session is now key to the future of our educational system and our children. The task of the Legislature is to determine how many dollars it will take in 2022 to equal \$4,492 in 2009. Last fall, the Kansas State Dept. of Education and the State Board of Education made a recommendation based on an average inflation rate of 1.44%. That rate amounts to roughly \$92 million per year.

Some conservative legislators and representatives of political action committees (PACs) believe education is already overfunded. They contend that funds are wasted and that not enough is “spent in the classroom.” I would contend that

90-95 cents out of every dollar spent reaches the classroom in one way or another. Items like transportation, food service, utilities and extra-curricular activities all contribute to the educational experiences we provide for students.

Others might ask why more money is needed when we already do a relatively good job of educating our students. Numerous studies have shown that there is a direct relationship between academic achievement and the level of funding. That relationship was evidenced in Kansas when funding was reduced during the Great Recession. As the funding decreased, academic achievement declined dramatically.

I further believe we must be able to do more for teachers as individuals and for the profession as a whole. Kansas currently ranks 41 in the nation in average teacher salary. It is possible that Kansas will soon have an average salary lower than all four of our border states. We must do better than we currently are. The teaching profession is no longer attractive to our young people. We are now in a time in which we hope to have applicants when a position needs filled. Reversing the current teacher shortage will require more than just raising salaries to a competitive level, but it is a good first step.

Regular Board Meeting **February 20, 2019**

Be thinking if you want to get a Summer Workbook for your child, notes with prices and information will come home with GGS students towards the end of March.



The Board of Education for USD #291 Grinnell Public Schools met on Wednesday, February 20, 2019. Attending: Board members Jody Beckman, Julie Dickman, Alan Suter, Robert Fellhoelter, Joyce Baalman, Holly Beckman, and Loren Stephens; Superintendent Gary Kraus; Principal Jesse Vincent; Clerk Elizabeth Rietcheck; Staff member Les Barnhart.

Meeting called to order by President, Jody Beckman, at 7:30 p.m. Agenda approved as presented.

Les Barnhart reported for the technology committee. E-Rate is submitted. Renewed subscription for Microsoft Open Value. Mr. Barnhart discussed potentially purchasing new Ipads for the upcoming 5th graders and Kindergarteners. New copier at the grade school is working well, haven't had any complications. Also, the new smartboards are being utilized in the science and math room with their new sound bars purchased through the GEA.

Mr. Vincent reported on activities. The basketball teams at the WKLL tournament were all playing in the championship games. Boys varsity and Girls varsity placed 2nd. The scholars bowl 7th and 8th grade teams placed 1nd at the WKLL meet. Track started this week, estimating 40 students going out. New coaches Shaylyn Rucker and Jenna Wolf will have help from either Mr. Vincent or Mrs. Kraus to get them started.

Alan Suter reported for NWKTC. New Tech School in Quinter is a go. The location of the building is convenient. They received a Dane G. Hansen grant for this project. Wrestling is going well and the heavy weight enrolled there is ranked 1st in the nation.

Meeting will be held this coming weekend.

Mr. Kraus reported on legislative updates. He updated the board on different bills that had been changed. Negotiations training is Monday February 25, 2019 Alan Suter and Loren Stephens are signed up. Loren already finished his. The scoreboards listed on PurpleWave sold on February 19, 2019 for \$210.00. The KSDE audit will be held the week of March the 4th. Briefly discussed the Neighborhood Revitalization Plan and next steps. ACT and WorkKeys offered for high school Juniors and Seniors free of charge has been postponed until April.

The board approved regular meeting minutes of January 21, 2019 meeting and checks for February in the amounts of General Fund \$145,871.64, Supplemental General \$15,196.80, 4 Year Old at Risk \$2,604.26, K-12 At Risk \$9,481.99, Capital Outlay \$99,649.99, Food Service \$7,075.36, Special Education \$22,754.77, Professional Development \$167.54, Gifts & Grants \$336.91, Title I \$2,549.24, Title IVA \$272.44, Title IIA \$75.00.

The board discussed Mr. Kraus' salary and evaluation. Board approved Mr. Kraus' contract for the 2019-2020 school year. They already conducted

a meeting with the executive committee with USD 292. There was discussion on where the Warrior painting would be placed.

The board accepted and approved the GEA funds and purchases of \$1,733.22.

Mr. Kraus wanted to recognize Mr. Vincent's hard work on the gym. The heating and cooling system in the gym area are not working like they should be. They are systems that had been cleaned and worked on since the fire. Currently waiting on a bid to resolve the issue.

Julie Dickman addressed that the playground should be sprayed for weeds and stickers this spring. Robert Fellhoelter addressed that the flags haven't been flown and wanted to see a change.

The daycare's contract is up for renewal due March 1. Board discussed questions and concerns with the daycare.

Board approved resignation from Mary Patty at the end of the school year.

Two executive sessions were held for the purpose of discussing personnel performance.

One executive session was held for the purpose of discussing Negotiations.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.



Scholar's Bowl



Thunderhawk 7th grade scholars' bowl team were WKLL Champs at the league meet on Wednesday, February 13. Deagon Herl, Marsha McDonald, Jordyn Beckman, Karoline Schroeder, Madison Zerr



Thunderhawk 8th grade scholars' bowl team were WKLL Champs.

Matthew Teeter, Jett Vincent, Kaleb Dohm, Emma Thompson, Nathan Vollbracht, Miguel Galeana

League Tournament



Thunderhawk Girls placed 2nd at the WKLL JH Basketball Tournament

Front Row: Jillian Gallentine, Kerri Heier, Halle Habiger, Mary McDonald

Back Row: Coach Kraus, Emily Heier, Madison Zerr, Jordyn Beckman, Karoline Schroeder, Coach Martin



Preschool Screening will be on Thursday, March 21st at the Grinnell Catholic Church Center. Please call Melissa at the Grade School office, 824-3296, to set up a time to bring your child.



Preschool enjoy snack



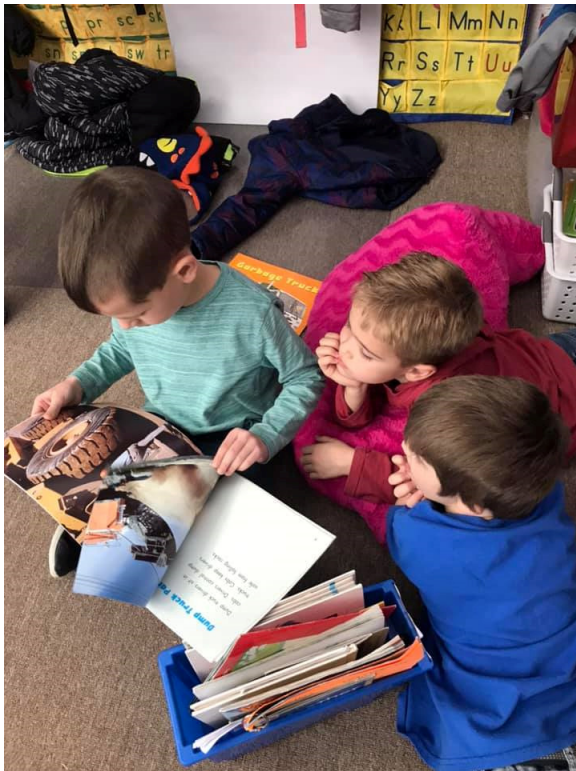
Thunderhawk Boys placed 2nd at the WKLL JH Basketball Tournament

Front Row: Devin Zimmerman, Deagon Herl, Hunter Stroup, Jordan Perez

Back Row: Coach Rucker, Treven Humphries, Jett Vincent, Nathan Vollbracht, Kaleb Dohm, Dakota Dossey, Adam Phillips, Coach Vincent



Preschool learned about blubber and experienced what it would feel like in icy water!



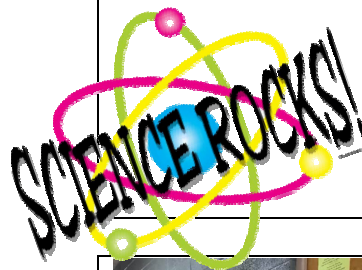
1st Grader Philip Leiby, reads to Kindergarteners, Nala Teeter and Deason Dockendorf.



1st Grader Taryn Dickman, reads to Kindergartener, Kensie Laubsher.



Addison Ostmeyer and Treyten Price making scuba divers.



Sawyer Beckman and Italy Teeter work on finding out if a Hot Wheel will go farther on carpet or tile.



March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 End of 3 rd Nine Weeks	2 Sub State BB
3	4	5 JH Instrumental Clinic @ Logan 1:00, Concert 6:00	6 State BB	7 State BB	8 Muffins with Mom 7:40-8:10 Report Cards Go Home State BB	9 State BB
10	11 Spring Break	12 -----	13 -----	14 -----	15 -----	16
17	18 Board Meeting 7:30	19	20	21 Preschool Screening	22	23
24	25 4-H After School	26 HS Track @ Greeley Co. 3:00	27	28 HS Golf @ Oberlin 2:00	29	30
31						

March Breakfast/Lunch 2019

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
					1 Uncrustable Sloppy Joe, Bun, Roasted Red Potatoes, Salad and Fruit	
	4 Breakfast Pizza Hot Ham and Cheese, Bun, Potato Wedges, Broccoli and Fruit	5 Pancakes Pepperoni Pizza, Salad, Cherry Tomatoes and Fruit	6 Mini Waffles Chicken Patty, Whole Wheat Roll, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Okra and Fruit (non-meat alternative will be available)	7 Biscuit and Jelly Corn Dog, Green Beans, Tater Tots, Cookie and Fruit	8 Muffin with Mom Cheese Pizza, Broccoli, Carrots and Fruit	
	11 NO SCHOOL	12 NO SCHOOL	13 NO SCHOOL	14 NO SCHOOL	15 NO SCHOOL	
	18 Cereal Mini Meatball Sub, Ranch Potato Wedges, Salad and Fruit	19 Uncrustable Soft Tacos, Rice, Mixed Veggies and Fruit	20 Breakfast Pizza Chicken Sandwich, French Fries, Peas and Fruit	21 Pancakes Tater Tot Casserole, Green Beans, Roll and Fruit	22 Peanut Butter and Jelly Bar Stromboli, Salad, Peas and Fruit (non-meat alternative will be available)	
	25 Ham and Cheese Bar Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Carrots and Fruit	26 Biscuit and Jelly Taco Burger, French Fries, Corn and Fruit	27 Mini Bagels Beef and Bean Burrito, Rice, Peas and Fruit	28 Cereal Taco Salad, Refried Beans, Rice and Fruit	29 Mini Waffles Mac and Cheese, Peas, Roll, Salad and Fruit	
		Milk and fruit are served with each breakfast.		All lunches are served with milk. Middle School students can choose a sandwich instead of the main entree	USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.	



Grade School students are walking laps in the mornings to get across the state.
They've logged 132.70 miles in 8 days!



Halle Habiger cooking in class with the help of FACS teacher, Mrs. White.

Jeff Ostmeier, Grand Knight, presents a check from the Angelus Knights of Columbus to USD 291 superintendent Gary Kraus for the special education department



USD 291 does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, handicap, or age in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Any questions regarding the board's compliance with Title VI, Title IX, or 504 may be directed to Mr Kraus, including information about the existence and location of services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and useable by disabled persons

**Unified School District No. 291
Mr. Gary Kraus, Superintendent
Grinnell, KS. 67738**

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