



# DUNDY COUNTY STRATTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

400 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue West • P.O. Box 586 • Benkelman, NE 69021-0586

*"Every Day...Every Child...A Success!"*

*Tigers*

## Superintendent Report

April 2025

### Tiger Tots Childcare Project:

The Childcare Project is making marked progress on a daily basis right now. The main floor is framed and the schedule is for the roof trusses to be placed on Wednesday, 04/16/2025. At the April Construction meeting, it was decided to go to having meetings twice a month (first and third Thursday of the month) starting in the month of May. The roof and siding colors were selected at the Tiger Tots 501c3 meeting on Wednesday, 04/09/2025 (artist rendering is attached). At that meeting the initial construction payment was approved. That group interviewed candidates for the Program Director position on Saturday, 04/12/2025.

### Stratton Facility:

Dickinson Land Surveying of Ogallala, NE has completed the survey of the Stratton school site. I have them returning to break out the shop area that the district will retain and have the remaining property measured for future sale.

The Dundy County Library will be working in the Stratton building to select the books that they would like to bring to Benkelman and add to the collection in the library. The librarian anticipates that process taking a good share of two (02) weeks. When she completes this task, we will evaluate what remains and formulate a plan as to what we will do with the remaining books as well as the furniture in the library. We will be cleaning out the office in the coming weeks as we begin to approach getting the building emptied on a room-by-room basis.

### NSAA:

Last week was the April Board of Directors meeting along with the Representative Assembly event to evaluate changes recommended for the 2025-2026 school year by the membership. One of the more contentious items was termed as the "School Balance Redistricting" proposal. This was an item that I brought to the board's attention back in November. At the board meeting on Thursday, 04/10/2025 this proposal did not pass as it received a 4-4 vote thus turning it down. Due to that vote, the composition of District V will remain as is in terms of geography and membership. However, I anticipate this proposal to be brought back again in the coming years. Due to the proposal not adding/deleting the overall number of districts, it can be changed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at any regular meeting.

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Another item from the Board meeting that directly impacts the district is the addition of a third 8-man class in football for the 2026-2027 year. With the addition of the third classification group, the regular season schedule will move to a 9-game slate with the playoff's starting with the round of 16 rather than the current format (round of 32). The fallout from that decision is that the additional class will not have its championship game played at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, NE and thus not having it televised on Nebraska Public Media. The University of Nebraska at Lincoln will not expand the window to play the high school state championship(s) beyond the two (02) days currently being in place and Nebraska Public Media cannot televise from multiple sites.

## **Summer Maintenance Project(s):**

The summer work schedule is being developed and the calendar is beginning to fill up. It will be a busy period of activity with the Tiger Tots project underway while the district is completing its own work. It will be a very busy summer.

A project that we had looked at earlier but could not locate a vendor now has had a vendor located and hosted on-campus to evaluate the project is tree removal. In looking at some of the issues at the Elementary, the trees in between the building and the sidewalk around the building contains trees that are causing issues with the sidewalks and underground sprinkler system. We are also looking to take the trees out on the north side of the bus barn to assist in accommodating the propane pump/tank. Weaver Brothers Tree Service from Bartley, NE is working on a state roads project in the area so they came and looked at what we are proposing at the end of last week. Initially, they have said that there would be five (05) trees removed for \$1,000.00 each and seven (07) trees removed for \$1,500.00 each. That has the project coming in at \$15,500.00. Removal includes taking the tree to the ground, removing tree/debris from site for disposal and grinding the stump. They seemed to think that they would be able to get the work completed in late May/early June. The formal bid will be prepared for the May regular board meeting.

There has been a vendor that has formally submitted a bid for a storage facility on the Jr./Sr. High campus. AZ Custom Remodeling from Atwood, KS has forwarded a building proposal that has several options with it for consideration. I have sent requests for bids to Cleary Buildings and Vap Construction Inc. Hopefully I will have completed bids for the May Regular Board meeting.

## **Superintendent Leave (2024-2025):**

Work Day(s): 197 days available

Sick Leave: 10 days available (06 days used) = 04 days remaining

Vacation Leave: 15 days available (03 days used) = 12 days remaining (*current 04/14/2025*)

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