



**Superintendent's Report
May 14, 2010**

This is my last superintendent's report! This is my 42nd year overall. The picture above is from 1974 – my first year as a superintendent. It has been my honor to serve as your Superintendent the past thirteen years. I am confident the office of the superintendent is in good hands as John Skretta moves into the position July 1.

Staff Recognition Picnic – 6:00 May 18, High School Cafeteria

Please consider taking time in the flurry of year-end activities to come honor your colleagues who are retiring this year, leaving the district, or who reached Norris anniversaries:

Retiring: Ray Henning, Nancy Martin, Marcella Rademacher, Pat Severson, and John Votta.
Departing: Tammy Belew, Leigh Krueger, Becky Kruger, and Lin Risenhoover.

10 years at Norris

Allen, Tom
Boesiger, Christina
Brandt, Bob
Braun, Cindy
Eigsti, Kelly
Faz, Jennifer
Goracke, Rachel
Hart, Jan
Henke, Media
Hier, Terry
Hruska, Betty
Koenig, Rich
Lindersmith, Linda
Mitchell, Pam
Reed, Jeff

15 years

Callicot, Wendy
James, Julie
Menard, Martha
Plouzek, Nan
20 years
Myers, Janet
Weekly, Brenda
Zimmerman, Anita

25 years

Bentzinger, Barb
Oltman, Kent
Rettele, Greg
Wubbels, Ann

30 years

Zink, Jan

35 years

Rademacher, Marcella

40 years

Evelyn Janousek

Please contact Nicole (ext. 2001) to make a reservation.

May 13 Board of Education Meeting

Personnel: Kathy Osborn of Firth has been selected as the new nurse for the Elementary, replacing Leigh Krueger who is moving to Illinois. That leaves the Elementary Media para as the only position remaining to be filled.

ESU 6 report: ESU 6 administrator Dan Shoemake attended the meeting, along with ESU board member Jeff Filbert. The board received information about the services provided by ESU 6, their mission, and goals.

Paperless meeting software demonstration: our board has been operating on a paperless basis this year. It is working acceptably, though there have been some glitches. We started out using SharePoint, but board members at times had trouble logging in from home. We then turned to scanning the various documents and reports – often 70 pages or more – into a pdf document, and attaching it to an email to board members a week prior to the meeting, and also having the information on flash drives that members can put into their laptops at the meeting. That has worked reasonably well.

A handful of districts in Nebraska have been using the Nebraska Association of School Boards' paperless meeting software. One of those districts is Sutherland, where our new assistant superintendent Brian Maschmann serves as superintendent. Three NASB staff members came to our meeting last night to demonstrate the capabilities of their program. Most of our board members were reasonably impressed. The cost is fairly nominal. The board decided to hear what Brian Maschmann has to say about Sutherland's experience with the program. If the report is favorable, it is likely that we will go that way.

The NASB staff stated that in other schools, it seems to work best if the school has computers all set up and logged in before board members arrive. We can use the District's netbooks for that purpose. That will save board members from the trouble of having to lug their laptops to and from every meeting.

2010-11 bus purchase: Gaylen learned of the availability of a good used 2010 Bluebird bus from one of the vendors. I solicited proposals from all of our bus vendors for late model used buses, 71 passenger or larger. We received two proposals. The board approved the purchase of a 2010 77 passenger Bluebird diesel bus for \$82,900 from Masters School Transportation. A new bus would cost in the upper \$90's. This bus is coming from Illinois, where Masters operates contracted bus services for a number of large districts. It has never been on a gravel road, and comes with full warranty.

Power School. Approval was given for continuing the contract for the SE Nebraska PowerSchool Cooperative, at a cost of \$5,250. Forty seven school districts band together. ESU 5 hires staff members who do nothing but work with the PowerSchool program, make needed updates, and provide direct assistance to members as they work with a mountain of student and staff data, most of which must be uploaded into the Nebraska Department of Education's computer data system. The switch from SASI to PowerSchool has proved to be greatly advantageous for us, and the support received is invaluable.