Superintendent Harwood’s Challenge,
Join Expectations with Support

At the General Session of the All-Staff Workshop, Superintendent Frank Harwood shared thoughts and data on improving education.

As educators we need to expect more from ourselves. “What we do makes a difference in student learning,” said Harwood.

Harwood presented sources and data showing the impact improved practice in district leadership, building leadership, and instruction can have on student learning outcomes. “Knowing that we can have this kind of impact by improving our practices should drive us to expect more from ourselves and our students,” he said.

Assessments of student learning show positive improvements with increased expectations. However, Harwood warned that increased expectations without appropriate support will lead to frustration. “As we expect more from ourselves, remember to ask for and offer support. Your colleagues can be your greatest assets.”

Harwood concluded: “Start with yourself. Expect more from yourself. Support others in education. You are educators. Education is a more inclusive term than schooling. Educators set goals for themselves and others that go beyond the classroom.”

BPS Board President Nina Wolford Shares Board Members’ Philosophies

Nina Wolford asked each of her fellow board members to write a sentence or two about education and the Bellevue Public Schools. She then read these statements for the staff at the General Session of the All-Staff Workshop.

A variety of thoughts were expressed: “Test scores are important, but they should not make education rigid and boring because we need to teach the love of learning; the entire BPS staff is a team that works together for the education of Bellevue’s children; every staff member is important.”

Vice President Frank Kumor advocated patience when working with children. He said that, “he once had a teacher who told him that he was the naughtiest boy she had ever seen. Teachers need patience.”

Wolford told a story regarding a complaint from a parent about a class assignment and her grading of that assignment, when she was teaching at West. After a conference, the school district supported her right to make assignments and expect students to do the assigned work. Wolford spoke about the need for supporting teachers in their work with children.
Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System's (NPERS) Office is Relocating

On September 3, 2013, the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System’s office will begin their relocation to the fourth floor of 1526 K Street in Lincoln. Their moving dates will be September 3-13.

During the week of September 3-6, their office will be unavailable to visitors. There may be some disruptions in call center availability during the process of relocating their phone service. They hope to have limited visitor access at their new location beginning September 9.

The move should not disrupt any monthly benefit payments to current retirees. Members applying for retirement benefits, rollovers, refunds etc. during the move may see some delays in processing times. They will make every effort to process all requests as quickly as possible.

If you plan an in-person visit, please call ahead to confirm their office is open. Metered parking is available for visitors on L and K Streets.

After the move, their phone numbers and P.O. Box will remain the same.

Their new mailing address will be:
Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems
1526 K Street, Suite 400
P.O. Box 94816
Lincoln, NE 68509-4816

BPS Board Elects New Officers

The BPS Board elected Nina Wolford, President, following the resignation of Alicia Richards from the Board. The Board elected Frank Kumor, Vice President, a position that had been held by Nina Wolford.

BPS Recognition Program

The “Making A Difference” program has returned for the 2013-2014 school year and nominations are now being accepted.

Each month students, staff, parents, and community members are invited to nominate a staff member for the “Making A Difference” program.

The program recognizes the outstanding efforts of BPS staff members that have gone above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of students and/or staff members. Each month (October-May) one recipient is selected and will receive $250 through a partnership with Bellevue Public Schools and Great Western Bank.

To nominate a staff member e-mail the following information to bps@bpsne.net:
- Person being nominated
- Building where nominee works
- Nominee’s contribution
- Person making the nomination’s name, phone number, and e-mail address.

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Two New Members Join BPS Board of Education

This summer former Board President Alicia Richards resigned from the Board. The BPS Board elected Mike Kinney to fill the vacant position. Kinney is an attorney with Cassem, Tierney, Adams, Gotch and Douglas of Omaha.

The Board also welcomed Colonel Gregory Guillot, Commander of the 55th Wing at Offutt Air Force Base, as the new Military Advisory Member on the Board.

Bellevue Public Schools Foundation Awards Gifts to Staff and Classroom Grants to Teachers

At the All Staff Workshop, Superintendent Frank Harwood explained changes to the Bellevue Public Schools Foundation. Near the end of the last school year, a new committee of community leaders helped plan the first Annual Foundation Breakfast, a very successful fundraiser.

Harwood then announced the recipients of the first-ever Classroom Improvement Grants. The grantees may use the $100 grants any way they wish to improve education in their classrooms.

Elementary school recipients are Betz reading specialist Patty Rieple and Fairview second grade teacher Tenie Brown. Secondary school recipients are Logan Fontenelle language arts teacher Jen Schneider and Logan Fontenelle math teacher Chris Daniels.

BPS Foundation President Frank Kumor, owner of Erwin’s Jewelry, donated two watches for an all-staff drawing that morning. Fairview sixth grade teacher Tori Padre won the woman’s watch. Two Springs sixth grade teacher Mike Polak won the man’s watch.

Throughout the year, the Ed News will report on the Bellevue Public Schools Foundation happenings and how the foundation will provide some funds for teacher-directed educational projects.

IN MEMORIAM

Alice Penny
April 6, 1961 - July 13, 2013

Alice Penny began her employment with the Bellevue Public Schools on September 21, 1998. From that date until her death, Alice was a member of the Food Service Team at Mission Middle School.
First Day of School

Arrows to Aerospace Parade
# District Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 13</td>
<td>Teacher Training (no school)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>End of First Quarter (Early Dismissal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 14-17</td>
<td>Parent/Student/Teacher Conference Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>No School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>Teacher Training (Early Dismissal)</td>
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**Superintendent Harwood To Address BEARs**

All BPS retirees are invited to attend the Bellevue Education Association-Retired meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 5, at the Welcome Center. A program will follow refreshments, socialization and a brief business meeting.

BPS Superintendent Frank Harwood will share thoughts about recent BPS events and discuss future BPS challenges with thoughts about how the BEARS can help.

The BEARS meet at 9:30 at the Welcome Center, the first Thursday of the month, September through May, except for January. The BEARS invite all BPS retirees. BEAR’s officers are President Steve Lebedz, Vice President Milt Butcher, Secretary Barb Vaughn, and Treasurer Sylvia Pelzer. Come and enjoy.

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**Education News**

[www.bellevuepublicschools.org](http://www.bellevuepublicschools.org)

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Please send contributions to Phil Kaldahl, Editor, at the Welcome Center or email [bps@bpsne.net](mailto:bps@bpsne.net)

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