



School calendar continues to draw school board discussion

Should Clark School District 12-2 have a four-day school week, a five-day school week or a modified four-day school week?

Four years ago the Clark School Board changed from a 5-day schedule to a 4-day schedule, but this topic was on the front burner Wednesday night at the December meeting of the Clark School Board.

Every year since 2009 the school calendar has been a somewhat volatile issue and at the December meeting it seems as if the school board is searching for a direction in which to go regarding the school schedule.

Kim Seefeldt, the board president, is the one member who was on the board four years ago when the board voted to go with the four-day schedule and she is very much in favor of sticking with the four-day schedule.

"Our teachers still need staff training. If we go to a five-day schedule, where would they get it," queried Seefeldt. She also feels that a four-day schedule provides consistency and she stated that it's important for all involved to have a consistent schedule.

Board member Amy Sass expressed her opinion that it wasn't a board decision at the November board meeting to go ahead with a survey to the parents.

A survey was requested to be done by superintendent Brian Heupel, as he wanted to be very up front about the 2014-15 school calendar. The results were to be looked at

during the December meeting, according to the *Courier* write-up of the November board meeting. The board minutes stated: "A survey of parents is going to take place to see where parents stand on the four-day school week."

This survey, as well as almost all surveys done for the Clark School four-day school week schedule has brought about mixed results, causing this 'non-consensus' by the Clark School Board.

Board member Trudi Gaikowski was absent from the December meeting.

The school board then talked of how professional development days should be handled, as currently Fridays are used for staff development as well as days students can receive individual help.

Said principal Jerry Hartley, "I don't care what you do," he told the board. "You guys need to decide what you're going to do and just do it. But, we need professional development."

The school administrators are going to present three different calendars to the board for the January meeting and board members will decide at this meeting if a four-day school schedule, a five-day school schedule or a modified four-day schedule is the route to go.

With Clark co-opting in athletics with Willow Lake it is important to have similar schedules and board member Todd Fjelland mentioned that Willow Lake is looking at perhaps going back from their four-day

schedule to a five-day schedule, with Wednesday afternoons set aside for professional development, like the current Sioux Valley schedule. Fjelland said he liked that idea. This will be one of the three calendars worked up by the administration.

Several more scheduling issues were discussed, such as starting after Labor day; does research prove what schedule provides better academic test results and will the state reward school districts for more hours.

Heupel explained why Clark begins the school around August 22, it is because the first semester now ends by Christmas and the Dakota Step test window work very well with this start date. Athletic scheduling also comes into play.

Test research, noted Heupel hasn't shown an increase in test scores or a decrease, due to a four-day school schedule versus a five-day school schedule.

Also, the state is offering an incentive to increase school hours. If Clark increased by 16 hours total it would add \$17,000 to the school district's general fund for teacher allocation.

In other business:

▲ Terri Ladwig, because of student teaching obligations, resigned the ABC supervisor position. Heupel is in the process of filling this position.

School board (continued on page 3)



Having new iPads this year in art class is enabling the students to become high tech in their art classes at Clark High School. Taught by Kristin Janisch, the students are exploring drawing and painting, graphic design, digital photography, animation and movie making with the various art-related apps on the iPads.

Above, left to right, eighth graders, Bradyn Rusher, Mekel Sanchez and Josh Weisbrod use the iPad that projects their art work on the big screen TV in the background for the class to see. Alien animations were their most recent projects critiqued last Thursday.

iPad technology enhances learning

When one walks into Kristin Janisch's art classroom at Clark High School, they will see the traditional paint, brushes and traditional supplies, but one will also see a large 55" HDTV on the wall and an Apple iPad at each work table.

Seven iPads have been made available to Mrs. Janisch's art and photography class, 10 iPads to the elementary school and 10 iPads to the middle school. "Ten iPads were made available through the Sunshine grant," stated high school technology coordinator Brenda Jenkins. "The iPads are providing different opportunities for the students with technology to enhance their learning."

"Students live in a digital world and classrooms need to address this reality, even in art," says Janisch. "Art education is changing to help students think critically by creating digitally. My students are now

exploring how their creativity can transcend traditional supplies and evolve with technology. Specifically with the use of the Apple iPads and art related applications or 'apps' for their art projects."

Recently Janisch's eighth grade art students have been having fun using airplay to transmit their animated aliens onto the big screen for class critiques. At last Thursday's critique session, students found out by learning from their mistakes how to make a cartoon or animation. Not moving a green dot to make a path for their alien to move or adjusting the timer at the bottom of the screen they found, made a big difference in the outcome. Also did their creature have a face, two eyes or one in profile and if so, does he blink in the time he's walking along? How were his legs and arms in position and did it look natural or not so much?

"It's all about engaging my students," continues Janisch. "The iPad is a catalyst to being innovative in so many areas of my art curriculum. There is an iPad at each one of my tables with several students sharing one iPad. We have a great deal of collaboration, moving around to see what others are doing, students voicing their opinions or ideas and working on trial and error. One may think that making art can get messy, but now it's also loud with everyone engaged in a project and sharing ideas together."

"Students are curious and eager to learn about art-related applications, which engage their critical thinking skills. Their team building and project management skills are enhanced because students collaborate with their classmates to learn and create using the technology."

iPad technology (continued on page 3)

Courier Merry Christmas edition will be next week

Next week's paper will be the *Clark County Courier's* Merry Christmas Greeting edition with Christmas greetings from many area businesses.

The *Courier* will be printed on Monday the next two consecutive weeks, December 23 and December

30 and will be in your mailbox (in county and Watertown) on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, respectively.

This Merry Christmas edition will be coming on a short week so all news and advertising will have to be received in time for publication.

WEATHER

Ryan Eggleston - Official Weather Observer

| | HI | LO | PR |
|----------------------------|--------|-----|----|
| Dec. 10 | 13 | -13 | tr |
| Dec. 11 | 11 | -18 | 0 |
| Dec. 12 | 25 | 8 | 0 |
| Dec. 13 | 12 | 2 | tr |
| Dec. 14 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Dec. 15 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Dec. 16 | 31 | 4 | 0 |
| 2013 precipitation to date | 25.56" | | |
| 2012 precipitation to date | 18.49" | | |



Christmas carols provided by third graders

Christmas is a great time for music and Christmas songs rank right up there annually, so what could be better than kids and Christmas carols?

At the Dacotah Bank open house held last Friday, these Clark third

graders from left, Tiffany Carroll, Preston Sundvold, Turner Fjelland and Mason McElhone were part of their class that performed several songs for the audience.

Special services are planned for Christmas

Christmas songs on the radio, store windows and area decorations all remind us of the upcoming Christmas holiday. Through all of the hub-bub about Santa, his elves on their shelves and all that goes with him - we must remember and make sure and tell the young ones

In Raymond, Pastor Donna Nickels will lead the Christmas Eve Candlelight service with communion at the First Presbyterian Church at 5:30 p.m.

At Bethlehem Lutheran in Raymond, Pastor Mark Guthmiller will lead the Christmas Day, Glory to God worship at 9:00 a.m. On December 24, Peace Lutheran will have their Christmas Eve Carols of Christmas worship at 5:00 p.m.



At St. Paul Lutheran, their Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service with communion

will be held at 8:00 p.m. The service will be led by Pastor Gary Anderson.

At the United Methodist Church in Clark, Reverend Jen Tyler invites members to the Christmas Eve Candlelight service held on the 24th at 3:00 p.m. At St. Michael's Church in Clark, a Christmas Eve Mass will be held at 5:00 p.m. with Father John Short. In Garden City, the Reverend Jen Tyler will be hosting a 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service.

In Carpenter, the United Methodist Church will have their Christmas Eve Candlelight service and Sunday School program at 7:00 p.m.

Worship services in our area include: In Clark, at the Plymouth Congregational (UCC) Church, a Christmas Eve Candlelight worship will be held at 11:00 p.m. with Pastor Fawn Lamb.

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