



Absarokee Public Schools

327 South Woodard Avenue – Absarokee, Montana 59001

www.absarokee.k12.mt.us

Home of the Huskies

Issue # 8

April 2021



Superintendent's & HS Principal Report *by Meredith Feddes*

A year ago we were in virtual learning and missing out on educational opportunities. This year we are back in person and able to hold classes without the masks and virtual learning. This may seem a simple thing after we have been in school all year, however there are some schools across the country that are either not back at all or just returning a couple of days a week. Thanks to a fantastic staff, amazing students, and our understanding community we have had the chance to work through some bugs, yet be in it together.

We will have our benchmark testing during April. Our students are required to be assessed in grades 3-8 and 11. Our juniors completed their ACT test March 23. Grades 3-5 will be assessed by their classroom teachers and grades 6-8 will be assessed by their content area teacher. Students are encouraged to get plenty of rest and eat a good breakfast in order to be able to do their best on each assessment.

Earth Day will be held for both elementary and junior high and high school students. The first date we are planning for is April 23, however, if the weather does not permit we will try for April 30. If you have a project that you would like help with please contact the elementary school to get on the list. Our students enjoy the outside activity and the ability to help in our community.

The elementary school will be holding a Farm Fair April 16th. There will be stations for each group to move through. There will be presentations on vet science, beef byproducts, balloon shearing, rangeland/weeds, chicks, and animal observations.

Policy and Procedure of the Month: Student Dress, 3224

The District recognizes that a student's choice of dress and grooming habits demonstrates personal style and preference. The District has the responsibility to ensure proper and appropriate conditions for learning, along with protecting the health and safety of its student body. Even though the schools will allow a wide variety of clothing styles, dress and grooming must not materially or substantially disrupt the educational process of the school or create a health or safety hazard for students, staff, or others. Building administrators shall establish procedures for the monitoring of student dress and grooming in school or while engaging in extracurricular activities. Students attending public events sponsored by the school district are permitted to honor their American Indian heritage through the display of culturally significant tribal regalia at a public event sponsored by the school district. Any item that promotes drug use, weapon use, threats of violence, sexual harassment, bullying, or other intimidation, or violates another district policy, state, or federal law may not be worn at a public event sponsored by the school district. Specific regulations shall be published annually in student handbooks.



Yearbook and BPA News *by Chad Baver*

Business Professionals of America:

BPA members are finishing up competing in the Virtual State Conference.

This included the following members:

Nila Dawson: Presentation Management Team and Medical Terminology Concepts

Avery Gates: Website Design Team

Monique Mondragon: Website Design Team, Presentation Management Team, Computer Programming Concepts and Information Technology Concepts

Shayla Russell: Medical Terminology Concepts and Parliamentary Procedure Concepts

Depending on the results, we will then be focusing on the Virtual National Conference.

Yearbook:

The Yearbook Staff still needs Senior Pictures and Senior Baby Pictures for this year's graduating class. Please send photos to Mr. Baver (baverc@absarokee.k12.mt.us) or drop them off at the front office.

Thank you to the Seniors who have brought in pictures so far, we appreciate your timely response.

Science Bowl *by Catherine Frazer*

The 2021 Big Sky Regional Science Bowl was held via Zoom on March 5 and March 12. This is a quiz bowl competition with questions on Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math, Energy, and Earth Science. This year the competition was held on Zoom and the questions were markedly more difficult than in prior years where there is head to head competition using buzzers. Two Absarokee teams competed in the middle school event and two AHS teams competed in the high school event. They were the only teams from either Stillwater, Carbon or Sweet Grass County, and one of only two Class C schools in the entire competition.

In the middle school competition the team of Absarokee 6th graders (Tristan Russell, Brody Pelton, Garrett Ferster, Justin Wright) lost out in the preliminary rounds. The team of Absarokee 8th graders (Logan Young, Amber Peterson, Alli Noble, Ella Schlachter) made it to the elimination round and finished 4th.

In the high school, competition the team of AHS freshmen (Allison Howes, Tom Murphy, Shayla Russell, Dillon Ferster) lost out in the preliminary rounds. The second AHS team (Adree Langley, Nila Dawson, Isaac Boyce, Avery Gates) made it to the final 8, before losing out. The other final teams were all from AA schools.

The Absarokee Science Bowl teams had been practicing during lunch twice a week since early January. These students represented AHS very well. Good job Huskies!!

Science Fair *by Catherine Frazer*

The 23rd annual Absarokee Science Fair was held on Tuesday, February 23. Forty-nine middle school students presented a total of 39 projects. The following students won awards:

6th grade -

1st place - Tristan Russell - "Strength of electromagnets"

2nd place - Garrett Ferster - "Shooting sparks"

3rd place - Brody Pelton - "Brush your teeth"

Other blue-ribbon projects were by Riley Adams, Justin Wright, Cain Hanson and Zeb Mutchler.

7th grade -

1st place - Cooper Hoines - "The effect of music type on running speed"

2nd place - Mary Arthun - "Cheesecake bake off!"

3rd place - Adisyn Kennedy & Haylie Clark - "Shampoo for you"

Other blue-ribbon projects in 7th grade were presented by Summer Heimer, Mackenzie Wood, Josie Thomsen, Bella Riddle, Tevyn Taylor, Brooke Patterson, Gracie Best, Lyric Routen, Emma Kennedy, and Travis Alston.

8th grade -

1st place - Logan Young - "Does sand affect concrete?"

2nd place - Alli Noble - "Which fabrics dye best?"

3rd place - Amber Peterson - "Sphere quality vs type of juice"

Other blue ribbon 8th grade projects were by Lane DeSaveur, Jaxon Gallagher, Ella Schlachter, Alexiah Mullins, Julianna Feddes, and Ame Riddle.

The overall top science fair winner was Cooper Hoines.

Thank you to all the judges who helped: Dawson Lester, Haley Richardson, Emily Routen, Keara Young, Colton Young, MaKenzie Walton, McKayla Walton, Lexi Feddes, Gwen Aubrey, Donna von Nieda, Kurt von Nieda, Meg Hatch, Sarah Barlau-Russell, Cathy Barch, Kayce Arthurn, Kevin Chandler and Noel Keogh.

Stillwater Valley FFA *by Mr. Yates, Advisor & Kaegan Sandlin, Reporter*

The chapter has been very busy this month. On March 1, the Vet Science team took a trip to Sheridan Wyoming. This was a practice contest for our district competition on March 9th. We had nine girls participate from our chapter. They were; Lexi Feddes, Mekenzie Walton, Makalya Walton, Emily Routen, Keagan Sandlin, Shayla Russel, Braelynn Williams, Hattie Baver and Haylee Baver. They got to experience how our actual competition was going to be like. They got to practice on an identification test, practicums, and an overall test. All of the girls that participated in this "Border Wars" competition benefited greatly from it and were glad to get a hands-on opportunity.

On March 3rd, the Farm Business team participated virtually in the contest. The team consisted of; Trevor Zumbrun, Dillon Ferster, Taytin Young and Hattie Baver. The team placed 5th overall.

On March 9th, our chapter hosted the Southern District Livestock Evaluation and Vet Science competition. We had right at 130 chapter members from our district participate. The following were on the Junior Livestock teams; Logan Young, Amber Peterson, Alli Noble, Wyatt Kornick, Ella Schlater, Jullianna Feddes, Hattie Baver, Saige Nye, Haylee Baver. The Junior Teams placed 4th and 5th. Ella placed 6th and Logan placed 7th individually. The following were on the Senior Livestock teams; Keagan Sandlin, Shayla Russell, Emily Routen, Alexia Feddes, Bailey Kornick and Jacob Matin. The teams placed 2nd and 9th.

The Vet Science Senior Team was; Emily Routen, Shayla Russell, Alexia Feddes and Braelynn Williams. The team placed 2nd with Shayla Russel placing 2nd and Braelynn placing 10th individually. The Junior Team was; Haylee Baver and Hattie Baver and Keagan Sandlin and the team placed 3rd. The Livestock and Vet Science Teams will be participating at state this year. We want to thank Anipro Event Center and Big Sky Performance Horses for letting us host the event there. We also want to thank Meredy Robbins, R Heart Catering and Barbeque, for catering the event.

Horse Evaluation was held virtually. The team members were; Saige Nye, Braelynn Williams, Keagan Sandlin, and Shayla Russell. The team placed 1st in our district. Individually; Shayla placed 2nd, Keagan Placed 3rd, and Saige placed 4th.

Agriculture Sales is our last district contest to compete in. The contest will be held March 22, in Park City.

State FFA is going to be held at two different times. March 26th and 27th in Missoula and April 7th-10th in Billings. State is looking different this year and only the top two teams in the different contests get to compete at state. So far we will be competing in Ag. Mechanics, Vet. Science and Horse, and Livestock Evaluation.

By Mr. Yates and Keagan Sandlin.

Shop and Greenhouse

The plants were delivered last week and kids have been busy putting them in 4 packs and getting ready to start making up the baskets. The hydroponics unit is up and running and we have lettuce and peas growing. We have been germinating different varieties of tomatoes and pepper plants.

The students have been working on their individual shop projects. The 7th graders are working on their gumball machines. The woods classes are working on greenhouse planters and shelves. The welding classes are working on metal flower planters and one student is building a snow blade for a tractor. Also, some of the students from different periods are working on a small building.



Visual Arts *by Matthew Mullen*

AHS Visual Arts- Art Studio students are developing their own styles and approaches to their favorite art mediums of choice. Students have successfully worked on building studio habits that lead to productive sessions. Their completed set of artworks can be seen in this Google Photos Album: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/5vmc5LN3kFkxt9se7>

Elementary Art- Students have recently completed tempera, acrylic paintings, watercolor, and colored pencil drawings. Inspiration for the art lessons have used artworks by contemporary artists such as Jay Bigam and Charley Harper.

Adult Art Education: Watercolor painting class (Beginner-Intermediate) will be offered during the month of April on Thursday evenings from 6-8 pm. The cost is \$25 per person/session. All materials are included. Please contact Matt Mullen if interested mullenm@absarokee.k12.mt.us



Husky Music Notes *by Debbie Seibert*



Mark your calendars!! If things go as planned, Absarokee Schools Music Students will be performing their first public concert in over a year... **"A MILLION DREAMS"** will be the theme for both the Elementary (K-5th) and the JH/HS (6-12th Grades) Bands and Choirs!! **Monday, May 3, 6:30 PM will be the K-5 Spring Program, while the JH/HS Spring Program will take place on Tuesday, May 4, 7:00 PM.** They will be held in the HS Gym, allowing social distancing to take place... similar to a sporting event. We hope to see EVERYONE there!!

TRI-COUNTY HONOR BAND has been rehearsing weekly in two separate groups, in two separate locations, so as to stay safe. As soon as concert dates for this elite touring group are finalized, it will be added to our school calendar! Our own Emily Routen is an Honor Band flute player.

KUDOS to our High School Vocal Ensemble!! They performed before the student body during this year's National Honor Society Induction. The lilting celtic melody, embellished with lush harmonies, including the original gaelic language, was a romantically beautiful addition to this ceremony. Great job, Huskies!!

MHSA MUSIC FESTIVALS are via recording this year. The window for submission is early this month... so we will not have results for a while. However, the pieces being performed by your Absarokee music students are already winners in both expression and technique!!



Board of Trustees Meeting *by Tanya Lester*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING – February 8, 2021

The Board of Trustees of School District 52 & 52C met at a regular meeting on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. in the High School Library and over Zoom with the following in attendance: Diana Scollard, Kayce Arthun, Superintendent Feddes, and Clerk Tanya Lester in person and trustees Clayton Young, Mike Pasiecznyk, Terry Ekwortzel, Joshua Royce, Justine Dawson, Donna von Nieda, and Principal Zumbrun attended the meeting by Zoom. Trustee Eric Esp was absent. Also present were Heidi Gunderson and Chris Gunderson in person and Tammy South, Jenny Sullivan, Jimmie Lester, Nicki Reissig, Mindy Young, Brian Young, Brande Young, Emily Schabacker, Kate Howes, Jessica Griffin, Anna Donohoe, Shari DeSaveur, Sandy Johnson, Johna Zumbrun, Kennedy Royce, Jackie Walker, Janel Brunckhorst, Catherine Frazer, Katrina Feddes, Stephanie Young, and Jordan Hicketier by Zoom. Jackie Zupke and Galaxy were not admitted on-line because they were unknown to the administrator and not on the list. Chairman Scollard called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. After standing for the pledge, she recognized all visitors.

Due to the fact that the Executive Session minutes could not be sent out with the packet and the trustees met by Zoom, those minutes needed to be removed from the consent agenda. **Arthun/von Nieda moved to remove the January 11, 2021 Executive Session minutes from the consent agenda. Motion carried.** Per the remaining consent agenda, **Arthun/von Nieda moved to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2021 Board Meeting, pay elementary bills, pay high school bills, and approve the activity account. All trustees voted in favor.** The minutes of the January 11, 2021 Executive Session - Superintendent Evaluation will be approved at the next in-person meeting.

Supt. Feddes presented a report on the number of spectators allowed at all 6-C sporting events. A letter of information from the Absarokee Education Association regarding contracts was received. One letter of interest was received for the junior high track position. An interview will be scheduled on the 16th. Spring child count was Monday February 1st. Average number Belonging (ANB) was recorded as 178 students K-12. Congratulations to Mrs. Gunderson for being chosen Montana Teacher of the Year for National Center for Women in Technology (NCWIT). Monique Mondragon was chosen as Honorable Mention from the same organization. The Science Fair will be held February 23rd in the high school gym. PAX district leadership met February 1st. The literacy grant leadership team also met February 1st to go over test results. An overview of the results was presented to the board. FFA, BPA, Robotics, and Quiz Bowl are all starting up competitions. There are three AP Computer science students on track to test this spring for college credits. Updates were presented on consultants for both the Continuing School Improvement and Literacy Grants.

Principal Zumbrun updated the board on enrollment changes at the elementary. Paraprofessional week was celebrated Feb 1st - 5th. MAPS and DIBELS testing is finishing up. Child Find and Kindergarten Roundup are scheduled for March 17th at the Cobblestone. In transportation, a route bus was taken to Motor Power Equipment for repair and the yellow activity bus has an issue with passenger heaters and has been taken to Sarpy Transportation for repair.

Athletic Director Chris Gunderson reported on changes to the spectator policy. The girls basketball team was quarantined the last week of January. He discussed the District Tournament Plan for spectators and thanked the workers that keep our games going throughout the year. On the third reading of the 7000 series, **von Nieda/Arthun moved to approve policies 7000, 7110, 7121, 7225 - Option 2, 7251, 7260, 7310, 7320, 7326, 7329 with change on line 13, 7332, 7335 with removal of line 24-30, 7405 with change in line 12 to \$50,000, 7425 with change to line 25, 7535, 7610, and 7515 with addition of Absarokee to line 21 pg.1, 10% to line 20 pg. 2, business manager to line 45 pg.2, and remove Stabilization Arrangements lines 9-18 pg. 3. Motion carried.**

Supt. Feddes recommended adding Shayla Stemple to the substitute list. She has previously worked in the Three Forks district. **Young/von Nieda moved to hire Shayla Stemple as a substitute as recommended. All trustees voted in favor.**

Supt. Feddes explained that the passage of Legislative Referendum 130 and Initiative 190 made it necessary for districts to update the following required policies with regards to marijuana and weapons. **Arthun/Ekwortzel moved to approve policies 3310, 4315, 4332, 5223, and 5226 as updated - Motion carried.**

Out of district applications from two students from Fishtail District were presented. Their older sibling will be in high school in Absarokee. **Young/Arthun moved to accept the out of district applications from Fishtail students. All elementary trustees voted in favor.**

Kathy Shortridge has been moved to help in the kitchen. **Ekwortzel/ Young moved to approve this as a temporary position for Covid Relief. Motion carried.**

Supt. Feddes asked the board to table the decision on renewal of the principal's contract until she had more information for a recommendation based on mediation. **Young/von Nieda moved to table until next month. All trustees voted in favor.**

Tanya Lester read the resolutions for the upcoming school elections. **Arthun/von Nieda moved to pass the resolution calling for an election for the purpose of electing two trustees and approval of additional levies to maintain the general fund for the fiscal year 21-22 in the elementary district. All elementary trustees voted in favor. Ekwortzel/Royce moved to pass the resolution calling for an election for the purpose of electing two trustees and approval of additional levies to maintain the general fund for the fiscal year 21-22 in the high school district. Motion carried.**

Supt. Feddes found in research of the policy updates that the required policies from the 3000 series were missed. **Von Nieda/Arthun moved to approve required policies 3120, 3123, 3125, 3210, 3225, 3226, 3300, 3520, 3600F1, 3606, 3606F, 3608, 3612, 3612F, and 3612P as updated. Motion carried.**

In Public Comment there was an online question about meeting procedure and a thank you to everyone. With no further business, **Ekwortzel/Arthun moved to adjourn at 7:45 P.M. All trustees voted in favor.**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING – February 15, 2021

The Board of Trustees of School District 52 & 52C met at a special meeting on Monday, February 15, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. in the High School Library with the following in attendance: Diana Scollard, Donna von Nieda, Justine Dawson, Kayce Arthun, Terry Ekwortzel, Joshua Royce, Supt. Feddes, Principal Zumbrun, Clerk Lester. Trustees absent were Clayton Young, Mike Pasiecznyk, and Eric Esp. Also present were Heidi Gunderson, Chris Gunderson, Sharon Cavender, Chad Cavender, Brian Young, Mindy Young, Stephanie Young, Johna Zumbrun, and Mark Ferster. After standing for the pledge Chairman Scollard recognized all visitors.

The Robotics group and FFA are both requesting to do in-person competitions in Wyoming and need approval from the board to travel out of state with students. Arthun asked about the COVID-19 protocols for the competitions. **Arthun/von Nieda moved to approve the Robotics trip**

to Powell, Wyoming in February. Motion carried. Ekwortzel/von Nieda moved to approve the FFA trip to Sheridan, Wyoming for Border Wars. Motion carried.

During the cold snap last week one of the two boilers at the high school went down. The part to repair the boiler is quoted from MTI for \$6,258.

Von Nieda/Arthun moved to accept the quote from MTI for the boiler repair. All trustees voted in favor.

In response to the changing Governor's directive the Board needs to update District Emergency Policy 1905. Supt. Feddes took a survey of the staff and found that most would like to use Option 1 on Physical Distancing and Option 2 on Face Coverings. Supt. Feddes read a letter in favor of Face Coverings from Kate Howes. Principal Zumbrun spoke on the difficulty of maintaining 6 feet of distancing and other problems of Option 1 in Physical Distancing. Discussion of changes to the Physical Distancing options ensued regarding liability and feasibility of enforcement. **Von Nieda/ Ekwortzel moved to update policy 1905 with Option 1 on Physical Distancing striking paragraph 2 (Line 1 & 2 page 2) and Option 2 on Face Coverings as recommended. After more discussion, Arthun/von Nieda moved to amend the policy by adding "attempt to" after the word will (Line 41 page 1). Motion on the amendment carried. All trustees voted in favor of Policy 1905 as amended.**

At 6:40 P.M. the session was closed for a student issue. Chairman Scollard deemed the student's right to privacy clearly exceeded the merits of public disclosure. Diana Scollard, Kayce Arthun, Joshua Royce, Terry Ekwortzel, Donna von Nieda, Supt. Feddes, Clerk Lester, and the student's parents remained in the meeting. Jeff Wheldon joined the meeting by Zoom.

Chairman Scollard reopened the special meeting at 7:45 P.M. Upon reopening, **Ekwortzel/Royce moved to affirm that the superintendent's decision followed school policy. Motion carried.**

During public comment, von Nieda thanked Heidi Gunderson and Rob Yates for their work with Robotics and FFA. She also reiterated her appreciation for Heidi's work on the Literacy grant. Terry thanked Supt. Feddes for all her hard work during these difficult times. With no further business, **Ekwortzel/Arthun moved to adjourn at 7:49 P.M. All trustees voted in favor.**

Resolution of Intent to Impose an Increase in Non-voted Levies

As an essential part of its budgeting process, the Absarokee Elementary School District is authorized by law to impose levies to support its budget. The Board of Trustees estimates the following increase/decrease in revenues and mills for the funds noted below for the next school fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, using certified taxable valuations from the current school fiscal year as provided to the district:

	Estimated Change in Revenues	Estimated Change in Mills	Estimated Impact Home of \$100,000	Estimated Impact Home of \$200,000
Transportation	\$0	0	\$0	\$0
Bus Depreciation	\$0	0	\$0	\$0
Tuition	\$0	0	\$0	\$0
Adult Education	\$0	0	\$0	\$0
Flexibility	\$0	0	\$0	\$0
Building Reserve	\$0	0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	0	\$0	\$0

***Impacts above are estimated and based on current certified taxable valuations from the current school year.

Be it resolved this 8th day of March, 2021 that the above resolution was presented at a regular school board meeting and adopted by the Board of Trustee of the Absarokee Elementary School District.

Resolution of Intent to Impose an Increase in Non-voted Levies

As an essential part of its budgeting process, the Absarokee High School District is authorized by law to impose levies to support its budget. The Board of Trustees estimates the following increase/decrease in revenues and mills for the funds noted below for the next school fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, using certified taxable valuations from the current school fiscal year as provided to the district:

	Estimated Change in Revenues	Estimated Change in Mills	Estimated Impact Home of \$100,000	Estimated Impact Home of \$200,000
Transportation	\$0	0	\$0	\$0
Bus Depreciation	\$0	0	\$0	\$0
Tuition	\$0	0	\$0	\$0
Adult Education	\$0	0	\$0	\$0
Flexibility	\$0	0	\$0	\$0
Building Reserve	\$0	0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	0	\$0	\$0

***Impacts above are estimated and based on current certified taxable valuations from the current school year.

Be it resolved this 8th day of March, 2021 that the above resolution was presented at a regular school board meeting and adopted by the Board of Trustee of the Absarokee High School District.

Absarokee Schools
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Absarokee, MT 59001

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Absarokee Schools Spring Music Programs

Kindergarten ~5th Grade
Monday, May 3rd at 6:30 pm
AHS Gymnasium



Grades 6~12, Band & Choir
Tuesday, May 4th at 7:00 pm,
AHS Gymnasium