

The PawPrint

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KALIDA BOARD OF EDUCATION HOLDS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The Kalida Board of Education held their annual organizational meeting on January 1, 2014 at 3:00 pm. The Board of Education took care of a number of procedural issues, committee appointments, and the election of officers. The Board of Education set the meeting dates for the remainder of the calendar year, and addressed the need to fill a vacant seat on the Board. Please review the minutes of the January 1, 2014 meeting online for a more detailed description of the meeting. The four current members adopted the following language as part of a resolution establishing the requirements for any district resident interested in filling the open seat.

The Kalida Local School District has a vacancy on the Board of Education, and in order to fill the open seat, the district will be accepting letters of interest from individuals wishing to be considered for the position. Anyone interested must submit a letter to Cindy Webken before the close of business on January 10, 2014. Candidates must be residents of the Kalida Local School District, and meet all other legal requirements to be considered a candidate.

The Kalida Local Board of Education will review the letters of interest and appoint a new member at the regular Board of Education meeting on January 13, 2014.

Please mail all letters of interest to Treasurer Cindy Webken at:

301 N. Third Street

P.O. Box 269

Kalida, OH 45853 **Letters may also be emailed to Cindy Webken at: ka_treas@kalida.k12.oh.us**

Teacher Evaluations are Different this Year

Karl Lammers, Kalida Elementary Principal

Ohio's new system for evaluating teachers is in full implementation this school year. Each teacher will be evaluated according to Ohio Revised Code and the evaluation framework which is aligned with the standards for the teaching profession adopted under state law. In the case of Kalida Schools, the evaluator is the building principal. In some districts, extra personnel or outside resources are hired to take on this responsibility.

The purpose behind this new legislation is to provide educators with a richer and more detailed view of their performance, with a focus on specific strengths and opportunities for improvement. The components of each teacher's evaluation include similar elements.

The first 50% of the evaluation is derived from a teacher's performance rating, determined from:

a) A profession growth plan; b) two full observations; and c) informal observations.

The other 50% is based on student academic growth ratings. Based on the evaluation, teachers receive one of four ratings: Accomplished, Skilled, Developing or Ineffective.

The implementation of the new system has changed the role of principals and added extra work for many teachers. As the system stands now, every teacher is required to go through an extensive observation two times each school year. This usually includes a pre-observation meeting, the observation, and a follow up meeting to discuss the results. Changes are being discussed in Columbus to reduce the number of observation for proven teachers and to decrease the amount based on student performance to 35 percent, instead of 50. Skilled level teachers could be evaluated every other year and accomplished teachers could be evaluated every three years, as in the past. Most principals, including Mr. Pfahler and myself, support this proposal.

Despite the added workload, I see the reformed evaluation system as an opportunity to work closely with teachers to improve the profession and to stay up on effective classroom teaching procedures and methods. Our staffs have made special efforts to make this a smooth, non-threatening transition.

Music Boosters Drawings

November Winners:

\$50 Rita Iliff
\$50 Dave/Shirley Buss
\$50 Dan/Becky Fanger
\$50 Dwayne/Annie Ketcham



December Winners:

\$200 Mark Remlinger
\$150 Hunter Klausing
\$100 Ben Wilhelm
\$100 Mike Knueve
\$75 Barb Mueller
\$75 Dan/Becky Lucke
\$50 John/Sue Gerdeman
\$50 Mallory Ferris
\$50 Brad Niemeyer
\$50 Kevin Kaufman
\$50 Rhonda Osterhage
\$50 Marilyn McCollum

Superintendent Don Horstman
419-532-3534
HS Principal Chris Pfahler
Elem. Principal Karl Lammers

School Board Members
Sue Gerdeman-President
Gerry Vorst-VP
Nicole Niemeyer
Greg von der Embse

School Board Meetings
Second Wednesday 7:00 PM
Kalida School Board Room

CHANGES IN WEATHER & OTHER SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kalida Local Schools has traditionally worked with many local media partners to get information out to the public regarding school delays, cancellations, and event scheduling as a result of inclement weather. Due to policy changes at some of our media partners in no longer making these announcements on air, Kalida Local Schools and a number of other county districts will be using a more limited number of outlets for information. We will also continue to make use of the school text message and email announcement system through Ohio Alerts. Please go to <http://www.ohioalerts.org/> and look up Kalida Local Schools to sign up for these announcements. If you are currently receiving these announcements and would like to change or cancel your service you will also need to log in through the Ohio Alerts website to make changes.

Kalida Local School delay, cancellation, and event scheduling announcements will be sent to the following media outlets: WFIN 1330, WKXA 100.5, WTVG Channel 13, WNWO Channel 24, WLIO Channel 11, and WLIO Channel 35.

Learning from a Chef at KHS

Kalida Local Schools has been awarded a grant through the United States Department of Agriculture. As part of the grant, there will be a visiting chef giving us hands-on training. Recipes that will be prepared during this session will incorporate dark green, orange/red, legumes, and whole grains into tasty recipes. These recipes have been taste-tested successfully with students in Ohio schools. This event will take place on January 16 from 4:30 PM -7:30 PM in the high school cafeteria. If you would like to join us for this cooking session, we have a few spots available. Please email Sarah Neidert at ka_neidert@kalida.k12.oh.us or you may call the high school office at 419-532-3529.

KALIDA BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOX 269
KALIDA, OH 45853

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Correction from last month: Jim Klausing was not mentioned in our last newsletter. Jim was very helpful in guiding our students and staff at the BK Tool open house. Thanks Jim!

JANUARY IS SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

Boards of Education are a mature and tested institution in Ohio. School board members make policy; approve contracts with employees; choose curriculum; adopt budgets; and select a superintendent and treasurer to administer the district. They do all these tasks with the emphasis on what's best for the children they serve.

Being an effective school board member is no easy task, particularly in today's climate of change and challenge. School board members need to be knowledgeable about many complex education and social issues, and carry out initiatives and directives from both federal and state governments. To face these demands of governing our public schools, they give countless hours of personal time.

A public board of education is a legislative body of citizens elected locally by their communities. Most Ohio school boards consist of five or seven members who serve four-year terms of office. The number of board members for career center boards of education varies. Members usually are appointed for one-year terms representing their "home" districts. As copartners with the General Assembly, which created boards of education, school board members are designated to carry out the constitutional mandate to administer the school system of each district.

Say "thanks!" to our school board members.