

# Dike-New Hartford Community Schools

## Communique MARCH 2012

www.dikenh.k12.ia.us

"Dike-New Hartford School District is an equal opportunity provider."



### Online Parent-Teacher Conference Registration

Online registration opened February 21st for the March 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> PreK-12 parent-teacher conferences. In order to access this capability, log-on to our website ([www.dikenh.k12.ia.us](http://www.dikenh.k12.ia.us)), and click "Parent-Teacher Conference Links" (a set of instructions will be available on this web page). Click the correct school (Dike Elementary, New Hartford Elementary, Junior High School, or High School), and enter your username and password.

Username = Parent's last name with first initial capitalized (e.g. Smith)

Password = Family Lunch ID (e.g. 123)

If you have difficulty logging into the program, please contact Jeremiah Lehr, Technology Coordinator. Phone: 989-2552 or E-mail:

[jeremiah.lehr@dnhcsd.org](mailto:jeremiah.lehr@dnhcsd.org) .

If you cannot schedule conferences online, call 989-2487 for Dike Elementary conferences, 983-2206 for New Hartford Elementary & Junior High conferences, or 989-2485 for High School conferences. If you forget to call in, please be aware that others have already scheduled timeslots. Schedules will be posted outside teacher's classrooms, so if you walk-in and haven't scheduled, write your name next to an available timeslot.

#### Dike & New Hartford Elementary Conferences:

Parents, when registering online for elementary conferences, please remember to schedule a conference time with Title 1 Reading or Resource Room teachers if you have a child involved in either of these programs.

High School Conferences will be held in each teacher's individual classroom. A dinner break is scheduled from 7:15-7:40 p.m.

Junior High Conferences will be held in each individual teacher's classroom. Report cards will be available. Dinner breaks for teachers will be staggered throughout conference time.

**Shared teachers will be available at the following dates and sites:**

#### March 6:

**At Dike** - Cuvelier, Loger, Smith, Thompson, Timmerman

**At New Hartford** - Hempen, Miller, Rokes, Slack, and Sentman

#### March 8:

**At Dike** - Miller, Hempen, Rokes, Slack, Sentman, Thompson

**At New Hartford** - Cuvelier, Loger, Smith, and Timmerman

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## SPRING BREAK



**March 12 - 16**

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## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade History Day



Eighth grade History Day was Thursday, March 1. Student projects can be viewed during parent teacher conferences. There are 33 exhibits, two documentaries and three websites. **Your students are to be commended for a job well done.** Many thanks to our judges: Rita Amling, Mike Bennett, Jenny Connolly, Dr. Richard DeMott, Sherrie Dreyer, Cindy Hahn, Dan Mehner, Jean Richardson, Mike Rokes, and Tom Singewald. **Friday, March 23 is the Regional competition at the Grout Museum in Waterloo, where parents are invited to join.**



### Prom 2012 "Promise Me The Stars"

Prom 2012 is quickly approaching! The theme has been set and the Junior Class has chosen deep purple, silver and black as this year's colors. Prom will be April 21 at Maucker Union on the UNI Campus. The Grand March will begin at 7:30pm and all students are required to be in attendance by 8:00pm. The evening will begin with a short program by students at 8:00pm and dance from 8:30pm - 11:30pm. Please notice the time change! We are looking for parents to help decorate, chaperone the dance, and organize valet parking. If interested please contact Shelley Viet or Katie Slack at the high school.



### Grand View College Choir

The Grand View College Choir from Des Moines will be performing in the auditorium on Saturday, March 24th at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Admission is a cash donation. DNH is responsible for two pieces in the concert -- one alone and one with the Grand View choir. High school choir members and community members are encouraged to participate and perform. Music and CD's are available for individual rehearsal, plus group rehearsals will be held Monday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. March 24th. Community members should contact Mrs. Loger anytime for music and a CD.

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### D-NH Music Contest Updates

Dike-New Hartford will host state solo/small ensemble music contest on Saturday, March 31. Guest schools include AGWSR, Aplington-Parkersburg, Denver, Hudson, Jesup and Wapsie Valley. **Workers/volunteers are needed.** Please contact Mrs. Slack or Mrs. Loger.

D-NH high school band and choir members will participate in large group music on Saturday, May 5 at Cedar Falls High School.

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## Dike in Get Energized!



### Iowa Energy Saving competition during 2012 Get Energized Iowa is a community energy challenge among several Iowa communities including yours!

Dike is part of a friendly competition against Hudson and Readlyn/Fairbank (Wapsie Valley) to see which community can reduce the most residential electric use during 2012. Dike residents can help their community by **completing a survey about home energy use and returning it by March 15** to City Hall or the Library. When they return it, residents will receive five free Dike garbage bags and have their name put in a drawing for compact fluorescent light bulbs. **One survey per house-hold is requested and the survey form must be signed on page 2.** The Dike Community Betterment Association (DCBA) is the guide organization working with city officials for the community energy challenge. They hope students will be involved and are open to suggestions from students and teachers. Similar community energy challenges have been held in other states, but this is the first in Iowa. The challenge will be a model for other communities and utilities. This project is coordinated by Iowa Policy Project in partnership with the UNI Center for Energy & Environment Education, Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative, the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, and participating communities' municipal utilities. For more information visit <http://getenergizediowa.org> or contact Patti Freese, City Hall, 989-2291, or Karla Meester, [karla.meester@bankpsb.com](mailto:karla.meester@bankpsb.com)

## FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Trisha Ames, 9-12 School Counselor

### Sophomores & Juniors

#### **Get Help with College Planning!**

Mrs. Ames has invited a representative from the Iowa Student Loan College Access Network (ICAN) to answer questions you and your parents have about the college planning process.

**Day:** Monday

**Date:** March 5, 2012

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Room 122

#### **Topics will include:**

- Preparing for college
- What to consider when choosing a college
- How to compare colleges
- What to look for and ask during campus visits
- Overview of the financial aid process

### **ACT APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL 14<sup>th</sup> TEST DATE IS MARCH 9, 2012**

All juniors who are planning to take the ACT are urged to test on the April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 test date. The rationale for testing in April is that the ACT is based on junior level curriculum and April is the latest date during the junior school year to take the test. There is a June test date after the academic year has ended if the student wishes to test after school is no longer in session. The deadline for the June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 test date is May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012. To register for the April or June test dates please pick up an application in the guidance office or register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

### **Dollars for Scholars Applications Due March 9th.**

The Dike-New Hartford local Dollars for Scholars organization will be awarding several scholarships to qualified seniors for this year. All seniors, including early graduates, are urged to apply if they are planning to attend any type of vocational-technical school, community college or 4-year institution.

**Once again, all seniors should apply!**

Applications were distributed to all seniors on February 3, 2012. Early graduates were sent an application through the mail.

**DEADLINE TO HAND IN AN APPLICATION**  
**IS MARCH 9th, 2012.**



I would like to congratulate all of the Large Group Speech members and coaches on their excellent showing at the State Speech contest last month. The students did an outstanding job and we are very proud of their accomplishments. Special recognition goes to Sloan Beninga, Ian Greer, Casey Bonwell, and Erica Fernandez for being recognized as All-State Speech performers in Improve. We would like to congratulate Individual Speech students on their performances at District competition and wish the best of luck to Abby Klug, Amber Rich, Danae Dieken, Jared Murphy, Mackenzie Johnston, and Lauren Sharp as they have qualified for the March 10 State competition.

Congratulations also go out to the wrestling coaches and wrestler Terry Mooty for qualifying for the State Wrestling Tournament. Terry represented DNH very well and we are very proud of him.

One of the issues we have been dealing at school, has been the adoption of the school calendars for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years. I believe there are a lot of conversations being held out in the community about these calendars and I hope to put your minds at ease with some explanations. First of all, the four schools (Aplington-Parkersburg, Dike-New Hartford, Gladbrook-Reinbeck, and Grundy Center) that share programs at the Western Outreach Center held an informal Board meeting with superintendents and board members from each district. Discussion was held about programs the four schools currently share and programs that could be shared in the future. There was also conversation that outlined some of the struggles the districts and students go through due to each district following a different school calendar. At the conclusion of this meeting, the attending board members directed the superintendents to devise a school calendar that would be the same for all four districts.

In an attempt to make this happen, the superintendents met on several occasions to look at different options for common school calendars. One of the calendars that was discussed for the 2013-2014 school year was released in the Grundy Center paper a couple months ago. This calendar had us taking a two week break in the fall at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester, a three week break during the winter, a two week break in the spring at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester, and getting out of school in late June. This was a calendar that was discussed, but was never really considered as a proposal for any of the four districts. It was simply a way to "think outside of the box" and ask some "what if" questions. Please do not think that we are moving to this type of a calendar.

Over the years, concerns have been brought up such as; we are starting school too early in August when it is still rather hot, or we start school so early in August that families are unable to attend the State Fair. In a way to help alleviate some of these concerns, a calendar for the 2013-2014 school year was presented to the school boards for discussion that looked at the possibility of starting school more toward the end of August, which would allow for the end of the trimesters to fall at more "natural breaks" of the year. The end of the first trimester would end over Thanksgiving and the end of the second trimester would end in correspondence with spring break. With these changes, the school year would not end until the second week of June. We have had a lot of discussion around this calendar, but at this time there seems to be more people that would oppose this change than would support it. However, I do believe it is good to explore different options from time to time because it helps us realize if we are doing what is best for our students and families.

The DNH Board of Education did adopt a calendar for the 2012-2013 school year that is very similar to the current calendar which will be in alignment with the other districts sharing programs at the Western Outreach Center. The beginning and ending dates are basically the same as this year with some of the vacation dates being moved around to accommodate the different contractual obligations of the four different school districts. It is our hope that these changes will allow the districts to share resources and staff development opportunities to help provide the best education possible for our students.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of these calendar options, please feel free to give me a call at 989-2552.

## Dike-New Hartford Board of Education February Board Minutes

The Dike-New Hartford Board of Education met February 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 122 for the regular monthly meeting with Lizer presiding and members Dieken, Hinde, and Koop. Absent-Nielsen and Graves. Also present were administrators Hunt, Williams, Martinek and Textor, technology coordinator Lehr and business manager Merfeld.

Minutes of the January 16, 2012 regular meeting and January 23, 2012 work session were approved on motion of Dieken and second of Hinde. Vote all aye.

Visitors present at the meeting included Valerie Ballhagen, Joe Huck, Mike Myers, Eric Andersen, Wanda Christensen, John Fritch, Darla Andersen, Jean Loger, Don McCallum, Sarah McCallum, Suzanne Perez, Greg Schmitz, Lisa Schmitz, Nate Stewart, Denniss O'Neil, Kenny Roeder and Dana Foster.

The agenda was adopted as amended on motion of Koop and second of Dieken. Vote all aye.

Mike Myers spoke with the board about constructing a 40 x 70 foot outdoor basketball court on school property. Myers plans to secure donations to fund the project. No action was taken with the proposal to be placed on the March agenda for possible action after further research.

Nielsen now present at 7:10.

Discussion was held about the proposed school calendar for 2012-13 and future planning for 2013-14 along with concerns about the trimester system currently in use. Superintendent Hunt and Principal Williams answered questions from those in attendance with no action taken.

The Board moved back to the school board room for the remainder of the meeting. Principal and technology reports were reviewed. Williams reported on the status of the Safe School Certification process which will take 12-18 months to complete. It was the consensus of the board to continue seeking this certification.

On motion of Koop and second of Nielsen, the early graduation request of Mitchell Thompson was approved subject to meeting all requirements. Vote all aye.

Approval of policy 704.2R1 Post-Issuance Compliance Regulation for Tax-Exempt Obligations was tabled until a later meeting in order to obtain further legal advice. Revisions to Policy 507.9 Wellness were approved on motion of Koop and Second of Dieken. Vote all aye.

On motion of Nielsen and second of Hinde, changes to Policy 104 Anti-Bullying/Harassment and 102.E1 Notice of Non Discrimination were approved as presented by Principal Williams. Vote all aye.

The open enrollment request from an Aplington-Parkersburg parent for their daughter to attend Dike-New Hartford for the 2012-13 school year was approved on motion of Nielsen and second of Hinde. Vote all aye.

On motion of Dieken and second of Nielsen, the 2012-13 School Calendar was approved as presented. Vote all aye.

2011-12 Contracts for Sean Leonard, Head Varsity Baseball Coach; Andrea Koch, Junior High Play Director and Don Betts, Assistant Boys Track Coach were approved on motion of Dieken and second of Koop. Vote all aye.

Resignations were approved on motion of Hinde and second of Dieken for Mark Parker, 7-12 Athletic Director; Dianna Bass, Head Cook at New Hartford and Julie Rokes, JH/HS Science Teacher, all effective at the end of the 2011-12 school year.

After review of possible summer maintenance projects, Hunt was directed to spend up to \$75,000 on motion of Dieken and second of Nielsen with proper bidding procedures to be followed and costs reported to the Board as projects are finalized. Vote all aye.

The proposal for new bleachers in the high school competition gym was approved on motion of Dieken and second of Nielsen. Vote all aye.

Koop moved and Dieken seconded up to \$15,000 being spent on a new football/track scoreboard at the high school with the remainder of the project being funded with donations and fundraising. Vote all aye.

After reviewing the monthly bills of the general, activity and nutrition funds, they were approved for payment on motion of Dieken and second of Koop. Vote all aye.

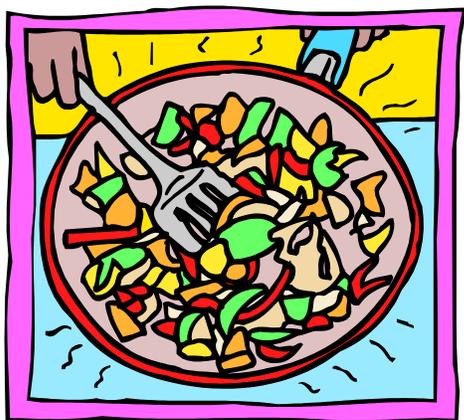
The monthly financial reports of the general, activity and nutrition funds were reviewed and approved on motion of Nielsen and second of Koop. Vote all aye.

Nielsen moved and Dieken seconded to approve the 28E Sharing Agreement with Aplington-Parkersburg CSD to share a business manager for the 2012-13 school year. Vote all aye.

The board set April 9 at 7:00 p.m. for the 2012-13 Budget Hearing. A work session will be held to establish budget parameters at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 19, prior to the regular board meeting. Lizer will contact Harry Hilengenthal from IASB to set up possible dates for continued goal setting for the Board and Superintendent Hunt.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 followed by a negotiations strategy session.

# Dike-New Hartford Dollars for Scholars Annual Spring Dinner & Pie Sales



High School Multipurpose Room at Dike

**Sunday April 1st, 2012**

2 Settings - 11 AM and 12:15 PM

## Menu

**Chicken Breast, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans,  
Cole Slaw, Dinner Roll, Beverage and Dessert**

**Adults – \$9<sup>00</sup> .....Children under 10 – \$5<sup>00</sup>**

**Tickets are available at:**

**State Bank & Trust . . . . . Dike and New Hartford  
Peoples Savings Bank . . . . . Dike Public Library  
Dollars for Scholars Board of Trustees**

**→ Advance Sale only ←**

**Sales close on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Variety Of Homemade Whole Pies Will Be On Sale**