



July 13, 2024

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Treynor School Board Discussion



We were honored to have two Treynor school board members speak: long-time member Brandon Vorthmann and brand-new member Anica

Buckingham Olsen. Brandon began by praising the Optimist Club for their involvement in helping the youth in the community.

Treynor will add a second preschool room this year due to demand. To date, there are 36 students with a maximum of 40 possible. Qualifications for first preference are age (4 is youngest), those having IEP (Individual Education Plans) and in district students. The state doesn't require a preschool, but Treynor, until last year, was one of 4-5 that didn't have one. Funding is through Iowa West Foundation and other grants. A teacher and para are required in each classroom.

The Board is using a book study: Governance Core, to help further educate themselves. A chapter is read and discussed.

The Iowa Association of School Board promotes and helps with facilitating goal setting within three areas: 1. Student Achievement – growth and teaching, 2. District Culture with mostly implementing strategies with teachers, but also some with students, and 3. Resource Management for financial stability and maintaining facilities.

It was stated Treynor has the highest student achievement ranking in SW Iowa, based on graduation rates, learning culture, ACT scores, achievement in English, Math, Arts. It was stated our weakest area is in post readiness for career and technology which will be focused on as less than 50% of our students are completing college or tech degrees.

We have lots of honor students. Brandon stated we have a lot of high achieving students with high ACT scores and parents who provide guidance. The lowering of the grading scale happened a couple years ago. Some classes are weighted now also.

Anica stated her biggest challenge is understanding her true role and how to remain a supportive community member realizing board members provide governance and are not administrators. Brandon stated his was keeping the focus in the right direction and not getting pulled into details. Right now, filling support staff positions is a challenge, but one janitorial position is filled, bus driver positions are filled. The legislature is also a challenge as its timing doesn't always line up with timelines of school decisions being made.

\$47500 is now the starting base for a new teacher as mandated by the state, which also now puts us on par with Council Bluffs schools. Staff turnover has been very low recently.

The SRO – School Resource Officer program which is shared with other schools is adding an additional officer so we will now have one SRO present four half days a week.

The Dean of Students receives less money than the Principal. This role deals with truancy and discipline issues. The Principal leads both middle and high schools and focuses on education and is able to build relationships.

The new Facilities Director does not replace the janitorial positions that Patty and Robin filled. He is head of maintenance. The HVAC (controllers) in the elementary is an issue he is addressing now. Brandon feels this position will pay for itself rather than hiring out. To date, one of the two janitor positions has been filled.

Other topics discussed were: shop class, FFA, vacations, bullying, school security, capital plan, background checks for volunteers, classroom space and growth, and activity online ticketing.

Next week's Speaker:

Aaron Terry, Football Offensive Coordinator for Iowa Western Community College

FAMOUS QUOTE

"Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears."

John Lennon

Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order. Twenty members were present as well as guests: Brandon Vorthmann, Anica Buckingham Olsen, and Levi Young

The group recited the pledge and Steve Irvin gave the prayer.

Jokes: Dale Willenborg, Steve Chambers, Keith Denton

50/50: Jim Clausen

Attendance: Jim Clausen (double whammy!)

Birthdays/Anniversaries: Gary Guttau's 88th birthday is this Sunday. Free breakfast was provided. Thank you!

Bragging Rights: (Dollars are contributed to benefit local youth programs.)

- Dale Willenborg stated that he has two high school students working for him who are working him hard and he's lost 10 lbs. in the last two weeks. Now he will be on vacation to Cedar Rapids and the Wisconsin Dells.
- Judy Guttau announced the Germans are coming! Their exchange student, Jan-Erik Kuentler and family arrive today for two and a half weeks.
- Keith Denton and Kirk Vorthmann announced their 50th wedding celebration Sun., July 14 for them and their wives, George Denton and Lynell Vorthmann, and three other couples – Roger & Marsha Andersen, Craig & Donna Sudmann, Gene & Jan Young.
- Keith also paid a dollar but said it was worth more: Last night they had just put the dogs in, when it was noticed there were 3-4 skunks by the cistern!

Bill Vorthmann stated that his dad Richard Vorthmann, Gerald Forristall, and John Klein all have something in common. John has just been selected to be lowan of the Day at the Iowa State Fair on August 12. Only ten people across the state are selected. Bill and wife Ann nominated John. The benefits are four entrance tickets, introduction on the Bill Riley stage, four grandstand tickets, use of a golf cart, VIP parking, accommodations at the Marriott Hotel, and \$200 in cash! John is very deserving. Congratulations!

Business:

- Can Kennel sorting will be next Saturday after the meeting at 9:15 to help the Cub Scouts.
- Zion youth had an additional \$206.45 from the Can Kennel come in. The Optimists took in \$499.15 from the Can Kennel.
- Levi Young was present to receive his \$500



Optimist scholarship. He will attend Iowa State University and plans to study ag science and ag business and is interested in the vet program. He plans to pursue some sports clubs while at ISU. Wrestling was his favorite activity in high school.

Community Events this week:

- Mon., July 15: Girls Softball vs. Van Meter – not for certain where it's being played.
- Tues., July 16: Treynor Farmers Market with Pie Night occurring inside the building. Jaunitos Taco Truck will be there. 5-7 PM
- Sun., July 21: Zion Congregational Church Ice Cream Social – 5-7 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

HUMOR



CALENDAR

Events:

Sat. July 20 Can Kennel sort: Cub Scouts 9:15AM
Thu. July 25 Westfair gate duty- Optimists

Birthdays

July 25 Jerry Hempel
July 27 Jim Clausen

Anniversaries

July 15 Jordan & Katie Campbell
July 25 Chuck & Kathy Nielsen

Programs:

July Dale Willenborg (3rd Sat.
Joel Beyenhof (4th Sat)

Aug
Sept

Chad Guttau
Jim Clausen (first two)
Bill Vorthmann (last two)

Speakers

July 20

Aaron Terry, Football Offensive
Coordinator for Iowa Western
Community College

July 27

Jill Kay, Treynor Elementary Principal

Aug 3

TBA

Aug. 10

Cassi Johnson, owner of Lilypops,
Treynor

Aug. 17

TBA

Aug 24

Wendy Andersen, Splash Pad

Aug 31

MaryAnn Hanusa, Candidate for County
Auditor

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