



Monday, Feb. 20  
is President's Day

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## Board settles calendar debates, ruling out 4 day a week program

The school board of Faulkton met in regular session on Feb. 13. The major topics of discussion were spring fling dance, current state legislation and Pheasant Monday with the adoption of the school calendar.

The board met early because of the girls basketball game taking place that evening. The board first voted to pay their current bills and approve last meetings minutes and finance reports.

Board Chairwoman Heather Bode asked Superintendent Joel Price if he had any special recognition he wanted to make before the board. Price said he wished to acknowledge the wrestling team. All student wrestlers had qualified for regions and Price said he hoped to see many of the schools young athletes qualify for the state contest. Also he told the board that basketball districts would be coming very soon.

The board then recognized Donna Eschenbaum of the Parents Association. Eschenbaum gave the board a summary of the upcoming Spring Fling semi-formal dance sponsored by the Parents Association.

The Spring Fling Semi-Formal will be inclusive to all high school students. Eschenbaum said that a dress shirt and nice pants are the only requirement, but students can dress up as much as they like. There will be four adult chaperones, a professional photographer, and punch and water served. Vernon Terrill will DJ once again and this year's party will have a Mardi Gras theme.

Next the board heard from business manager Cindy Kopecky. She gave the board an update on the school's audit. Their auditor had submitted all the paperwork to the state and it had all been approved with no surprises.

Supt. Price then gave his report to the board.

He began by outlining the current bills in front of the State Legislature in Pierre, noting that the session was more than half over now.

Price spoke mostly about bill 1234 and that it had passed the house and was going onto the Senate. He noted that there were many changes to the bill and likely there would be more after it's time in the senate. Many of its dictums had been modified to be voluntary now, but several measures will remain mandatory. As an example, the salary rewards for the top 20% of teachers of a district will remain the same, though the criteria for that was not yet fully defined. Also the measure to

give new science or math teachers a bonus of \$8,000 per year for five years also stands.

Also he said that the legislators finally defined tenure or rather, the continuing contract debate, since tenure is an academic term used in a university setting. Essentially in the legislature, the measure proposed will allow those who already have continuing contract or would have achieved it by July of this year will be able to keep it, but any other teachers in the future will not and will never get a continuing contract.

Price said that most of our district teachers opposed these measures. Price urged school board members to contact Senator Corey Brown with any concerns they had about these proposed bills, as house Representatives Justin Cronin and Charles Hoffman have already cast their votes in favor of these proposals. Price said that Senator Brown was very good at responding to concerns voiced by constituents.

Price then brought up the issue of the school calendar. The possibility of a 4-day school week has been eliminated at this point in time and he brought to the board the input of the school staff on a draft of a calendar that would incorporate several staff enrichment days as part of their schedule.

The primary concern was that some of the teachers wanted to again have "Pheasant Monday" (the first Monday of the pheasant hunting season) off school.

Chairwoman Bode was disinclined toward Pheasant Monday and said so. She said she'd received numerous communications that the school should rather have Veteran's Day as an excused day. Taking that Monday or Veteran's Day off might have had several consequences,

**School Board Story**  
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### RECORD NOTES

#### Weather

	H	L	P
Tues., Feb. 7	23	0	
Wed., Feb. 8	32	9	
Thurs., Feb. 9	42	-3	
Fri., Feb. 10	8	-9	
Sat., Feb. 11	20	-5	
Sun., Feb. 12	35	6	
Mon., Feb. 13	41	11	

Tom Bartholomew, Observer

The total amount of moisture in 2012 is .43. Total moisture to date in 2011 was 1.58.

For current weather conditions:  
[climate.sdstate.edu/awdn/current/realtime.asp](http://climate.sdstate.edu/awdn/current/realtime.asp)



## "Black Ops" squad had successful mission at FHS

Normally a visit from a Black Ops squad involves a lot more gunfire, but instead of automatic rifles, these U.S. soldiers brought instruments to the FHS gymnasium.

Members of the South Dakota 147th Army National Guard Band's Clarinet ensemble, nicknamed "Black Ops" visited the school Tuesday morning. From the left, Specialist Dan Heier,

Specialist Lee Ann Hansen, Sgt. Lisa Bigge, Specialist Charlolette Mallard, Specialist Carmen Heaphy, Specialist Amy Wictgreffe and Specialist April Magneson.

The group was quite talented, showing off by playing a diverse blend of music, from variations on pop hits from Lady Gaga to country hits of Taylor Swift to classical Mozart and jazz by Glen Miller.

"Our job is to play music in support of our fellow soldiers and their families and in the communities that support them, and it's our privilege to play for you."

Below, specialist Carmen Heaphy does the chicken dance with Faulkton Elementary students.

Also along with the Black Ops came Sgt. Josh Bryant, FHS graduate and now a recruiter for the S.D. Guard.



## Faulk Crop Clinic is planned on Tuesday

The Faulk County Crop Clinic will be held Tuesday, Feb. 21 beginning with registration at 10 a.m. at the Faulkton City Hall meeting room with coffee and cookies provided.

The program will begin with introductions. Ron Gelderman, SDSU Extension Soil Specialist, will speak on "Soil Fertility Issues for 2012" at 10 a.m. followed by Peter Sexton, SDSU Extension Alternative Crop Specialist, speaking on "A Look at Cover Crops After Wheat" at 11 a.m.

A free lunch is provided at 12

noon. During this time Mark Rosenberg, SDSU Agronomy/Weed Specialist, will talk about Extension reorganization issues followed by his presentation at 1 p.m. on "Recommended Varieties and Weed Control Update".

Faulk Co. Crop Improvement Association business meeting will begin at 2 p.m., concluding the program. The public is invited attend. You can come for all or part of the day.

## Easter Cantata practice to begin Sunday, Feb. 26

The Faulk County Ministerial Association will again be sponsoring an Easter Cantata on

Palm Sunday. The cantata, entitled "The Song Everlasting," is the retelling of the life of Christ using American folk songs and hymns. Filled with time-honored tunes and texts, the musical presentation is guaranteed to connect with both singers and assembly.

Rehearsals for the cantata begin Sunday, Feb. 26, at 2 p.m. at the United Church of Faulkton. Jim Wagner will be directing the chorus and all who like to sing are encouraged to participate.

"The Song Everlasting" will be presented Palm Sunday, April 1st, at 4 p.m. at the United Church of Faulkton.