



WINTER 2010



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**USD 342**

**Mission Statement**

**Together, we learn in a community that promotes academic excellence, respect, lifelong learning, and responsible citizenship**

McLouth Elementary Family Movie Night was held Friday, December 18th. The movie was enjoyed by all!

# SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

## Happy New Year!

In school, it is one of the few places where we can have a "new year" twice within twelve months. We start in August with a "new year" and there is a "new year" in January. This is a chance for a fresh start for students and staff.

We have a new calendar year and a new semester. What a great opportunity and I want to encourage parents to work with us and their children to use this time to start anew.

## School Board Recognition Month

January is designated for School Board recognition by KASB. As citizen leaders, individual school board members face complex and demanding challenges. Yet, few people fully understand the scope and far-reaching implications of board members' responsibilities. Although they serve many roles in the

**District Office Info.**  
**Jean Rush, Superintendent**  
**217 Summit, 913/796-2201**

work day world, school board members put on a collective hat when they get down to the business of leading their school districts. Board members must pull together as a team toward a common goal - helping students achieve. Join with us in thanking our local members who provide governance of our public schools.

**\*Special Note:** We are trying a 3-month district newsletter issue to help conserve spending for this school year.

# DECEMBER BOE UNOFFICIAL HIGHLIGHTS

December 14, 2009 BOE Unofficial Minutes

The board recognized the custodial and maintenance department for their hard work. After accepting the donation under V.A. Donation - The board recognized the Knights of Columbus for their \$169.27 donation to the special education department.

**Communications** - Mr. Evans reported that the JCN board president was arranging a meeting with Representative Tafanelli and the area board presidents and vice presidents. Mr. Courtney explained a handout from Keystone about services provided to McLouth. Mr. Pierce reported on the DVL high school basketball tournament and handed out information on an activity director's summit. Mrs. Rush shared a Lawrence Journal World article about schools in financial trouble; reported on the meeting with the city council; requested to try a quarterly newsletter to save money; informed the board about an application for the technology rich grant in the amount of \$125,000 with a district match of \$50,000 for third and fifth grades; informed the board about the RUS grant; commended the food service staff on their state visit; informed the board about her meeting with Representative Tafanelli regarding the impact of budget cuts; and handed out a copy of the legal max letter from the state.

The board approved the newsletter from monthly to quarterly on a trial basis.

**Consent Agenda** - The board approved the minutes and the treasurer's report; authorized payment of bills; and approval of termination of employment.

**Student Learning and Support Services - Action Items** - The donation from the Knights of Columbus for \$169.27 to be receipted for special education was accepted by the board. The 2008-2009 audit was approved by the board as presented. The Memorandum of Understanding for the KSDE Race to the Top (RTTT) Grant was approved by the board. City of McLouth Request was discussed. The board approved to reduce the mile-

age reimbursement rate to 50 cents per mile. The highest bid on each disposal item as submitted was accepted by the board. An ad in the Oskaloosa Independent will be submitted for the bus.

**Student Learning and Support Services - Discussion** - Ms. Rowland answered questions from the board about the Transportation-Radio System. The budget report was discussed.

Review of Board Policy was tabled to January. Facilities Use Form was discussed by the board. They requested three options for revision of the form to be voted on in January. Achievement Report information was presented by Mrs. Rush. Evaluation form was discussed.

**Personnel** - The board approved to hire Mr. Shawn Miller as the assistant middle school boys' basketball coach. Resignation of Ms. Kristin

Messer was approved and liquidated damages were waived by the board. The board approved to hire Ms. Angela McConkey as a fourth grade teacher.

December 21, 2009 Unofficial Minutes

The board adopted the resolution, WHEREAS, Jean J. Rush is employed as Superintendent of Schools for Unified School District No. 342, Jefferson County, Kansas; and Whereas, Board Policy and the employment agreement of the Superintendent are silent as to the settlement of unused vacation time; and Whereas, in prior years, the Board has compensated the Superintendent for unused vacation time; and Whereas, as authorized by this Board, Jean J. Rush has already been compensated through payroll for unused vacation time for school years 1999-2000 through 2008-2009; Therefore, let it be resolved, authorized and confirmed by the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 342, that Jean J. Rush be compensated for the unused vacation time for school years 1999-2000 through 2008-2009, pursuant to the practice that the Board has previously followed.

The board accepted Mr. Tom Pierce's retirement resignation as presented at the last board meeting.

**Complete official board minutes are posted on the district website [www.mclouth.org](http://www.mclouth.org)**

**2009-2010**  
**USD 342 BOE Members**

Dan Evans - President  
 Mike Tullis - Vice President  
 Mitchel Campbell, Member  
 Kristi Carlton - Member  
 Ed Courtney - Member  
 Jessica Folsom - Member  
 Andy Sullivan - Member

# BOE AGENDA

USD 342 Board of Education will hold the regular monthly meeting on the second Monday. This is an open meeting and the public is invited to attend. It will be held in the school district library and begins at 7:00 pm.

If you would like to address the board, please contact the district office to com-

plete the request form. The January agenda will include, but not be limited to the following items:  
 January

- Transportation—radio system
- Nex-Tech contract (Internet Filtering)
- Budget Update
- Policy Review (Art. IX & X)

February

- 2010-2011 Budget Discussion
- Washburn Tech Agreement
- Policy Review (Art. VI)

March

- 2010-2011 School Calendar
- Policy Review (TBD)

**FROM MR. BOGARD  
PRINCIPAL, MMS/MHS**

Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and successful new year. McLouth Middle and High Schools had a successful first semester and we are looking forward to the second half of the school year. During the spring semester our students will be administered the Kansas State Assessments. Last year we showed continued gains with both schools receiving a Standard of Excellence designation from the State Department of Education for the second year in a row. We hope to continue this trend.

The winter months are full of student activities and as always I encourage you to attend. Parents can continue to access PowerSchool to stay abreast of school schedules and announcements. Please access the district's website at [www.mclouth.org](http://www.mclouth.org) as well. Parents of seniors, please note the counselor's corner tab as well as the daily announcements, posted on the site, for information concerning the final months of your students' public school experience. Please feel free to contact the school at 913-796-6122 with any questions or concerns. Have a great year.

**FROM MR. BATMAN  
PRINCIPAL, MES**

The snow days in December threw our testing schedule into a bind as we had hoped to have our MAP Testing and DIBELS done before the break. Most of the MAP testing will be done and we will finish up the other testing at the beginning of the 2010 school year. Boy does that seem weird to write.

We take the data from the testing and try to see where we are doing the correct things to improve student learning. Things that do not appear to be working as well as we would like what we can do to improve them. It also measures each students progress so we can determine who might need additional help in an area and who may have improved enough that they are no longer in need of additional help.

State testing for the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades will begin in February with some done in March and we will finish up in April. All of our state testing will be done on the computer. We have

been doing that for the past few years and now it is required by the state.

We will be honoring the classes that achieve Standard of Excellence at a high school basketball game on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The students who received Exemplary on their test will honored on January 12th at the high school basketball game. They will receive a Bulldog Medal for their efforts. We would like to thank the McLouth Booster Club and the McLouth Educational Association for donating money to purchase the medals. The students will be receiving t-shirts this year, hopefully they will be in by January 15 for the recognition at the basketball game.

We have had a teacher resign to pursue other interests and we have hired Ms. Angela McConkey to replace her. Ms. McConkey had taught here the past five years in the elementary school.

I hope you had a Very Merry Christmas and here is hoping for a wonderful New Year.

**FROM MR. PIERCE, A.D.**

Where has the first semester gone? It seems like only yesterday that the football coaches were discussing 2-a-day practices. I guess it proves that the busier you are, the faster time goes.

The middle school boys' basketball team has been practicing hard and will begin play on Monday, January 4 at Effingham beginning at 4:30 p.m. with the B team. The high school will resume their schedule on Tuesday, January 5 with home games against Maranatha starting at 5:00 p.m. McLouth HS will be hosting its' annual high school boys' varsity basketball tournament January 19, 22 and 23.

Sometimes, the basketball teams play shortened quarters and some of you are probably wondering why. A player shall not participate in more than 6 game quarters a day. Overtime periods are considered a part of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. At times, a team might be short on the number of players available to participate. Illness, eligibility and the number of players that came out are the most common reasons. Should a non-varsity game be played in quarters that are half the time length of a varsity game, participation in 2 of the quarters would be

considered identical to that of one quarter as it relates to the 6 quarter rule or a player could participate in all 4 quarters and it would only count as 2 quarters as it relates to the 6 quarter rule. Hopefully this will help in understanding that situation when it occurs.

The HS Scholars' Bowl team has started their season and McLouth will be hosting the league meet on Saturday, January 9 starting at 9:00 a.m. (Come out and support the team)

The HS Forensic team will be starting their season in January.

The music programs will be preparing for league festivals, KSHSAA competitions, while also providing warm-up music for the varsity basketball teams.

As you can tell, our students have many activities in which to participate. Most of our students do a great job of managing their time to keep their grades up and still participate in the activities of their choice. Students that participate will have memories to last a life time. Come and support the students whenever you have the opportunity. They really appreciate your support.

**ATTENTION  
HIGH SCHOOL  
JUNIORS**

Leavenworth Jefferson County Electric Cooperative (LJEC) is sponsoring two expense paid trips for high school juniors whose parents or guardians are LJEC members. "Government In Action" Youth Tour Washington, D.C., June 10-17 2010 and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, Steamboat, CO July 10-16, 2010. Applicants must complete an application, upon receipt of the application a contest packet will be mailed to them. Applicants will complete a quiz and a person interview at the LJEC offices on Sunday, March 21, 2010.

For an application and more information go to [www.ljec.coop](http://www.ljec.coop). Application must be completed and returned to LJEC by Friday, March 12, 2010

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

**[WWW.MCLOUTH.ORG](http://WWW.MCLOUTH.ORG)**

# JANUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> NO SCHOOL New Year's Day	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4 G</b> CLASSES RESUME MSBBB @ ACCMS - 4:30pm	<b>5 P</b> HSBB (H) (JVG/B, VG/B) vs. Maranatha - 5pm	<b>6 G</b> MSBBB Pictures @ 3:30pm	<b>7 P</b> Elem Spelling Bee - 9 am MS Spelling Bee - 10:30am MSBBB (H) vs. Pleasant Ridge - 5pm Financial Aid Night - 7pm	<b>8 G</b> HSBB (JVG/B, VG/B) @ JCN - 5pm	<b>9</b> HSBB FRB Tourn. @ Horton - 9:30am DVL HS Scholars' Bowl @ McLouth - 9am
<b>10</b>	<b>11 P</b> HS JV Scholars' Bowl @ Tonganoxie - 4 pm MSBBB (H) vs. JCN - 5pm BOE Meeting - 7 pm	<b>12 G</b> HSBB (H) (JVG/B, VG/B) - Wathena - 5pm	<b>13 P</b> HS Scholars' Bowl (V) @ Perry-Leocompton - 4pm	<b>14 G</b> HS Scholars' Bowl (V) @ Pleasant Ridge - 4pm MSBBB @ Troy 5:30pm PTO Meeting - 7pm	<b>15 P</b> HSBB (H) (JVG/B, VG/B) - Immaculata - 5pm	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> NO SCHOOL Teacher Prof. Dev. MSBBB (H) vs. Wathena - 5 pm Martin Luther King Jr. Day	<b>19 G</b> HSBB (VB) - MIT Qtr-Finals - 6pm	<b>20 P</b>	<b>21 G</b> MSBBB @ Everest - 5pm HS Scholars' (JV) @ Oskaloosa - 4pm	<b>22 P</b> HSBB (VB) - MIT Semi-Finals - 6pm HSBB (JVG, VG) @ KC East Christian - 6pm	<b>23</b> HSBB (VB) - MIT Finals - 6pm
<b>24</b>	<b>25 G</b> MSBBB (H) vs. Bishop Seabury - 5pm	<b>26 P</b> HSBB (VG) JCN Tourn - TBA	<b>27 G</b>	<b>28 P</b> MSBBB (H) vs. Doniphan West - 5pm College Success Seminar- 7pm	<b>29 G</b> HSBB (VG) JCN Tourn - TBA HSBB (H) (FRB, JVB, VB) vs. KC East Christian - 5pm	<b>30</b> HSBB (VG) JCN Tourn - TBA
<b>31</b>						

# FEBRUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1 P</b> MSBBB (H) vs. Oskaloosa - 5pm	<b>2 G</b> HSBB (H) (JVG/B, VG/B) vs. Pleasant Ridge - 5 pm	<b>3 P</b> MSDVL Choir @ Xavier	<b>4 G</b> MSBBB @ Jackson Hts. - 4:30pm Regional Scholars' Bowl	<b>5 P</b> HSBB (H) (JVG/B, VG/B) vs. Valley Falls - 5pm Cheer Clinic	<b>6</b> ACT Test HSBB (JVG/B) Tourn. @ Pleasant Ridge - 9am Regional Piano
7	<b>8 G</b> MSBBB (H) vs. Xavier - 5pm (Parents' Night) BOE Meeting -7pm	<b>9 P</b> HSBB (JVG/B, VG/B) vs. Troy - 4:30 pm	<b>10 G</b>	<b>11 P</b> MSBBB @ ACES 4:30pm PTO Meeting - 7pm	<b>12 G</b> HSBB (H) (JVG/B, VG/B) vs. KCC - 5 pm King & Queen of Courts	<b>13</b> State Scholars' Bowl
14	<b>15</b> NO SCHOOL Teacher Prof. Dev. MSBBB @ Valley Falls— 5:30pm President's Day	<b>16 P</b> HSBB (JVG/B, VG/B) @ Holton - 5 pm	<b>17 G</b>	<b>18 P</b> MSBBB DVL Pigtail (if needed) TBA	<b>19 G</b> HSBB (JVG/B, VG/B) @ Oskaloosa - 5 pm	<b>20</b> State Piano
21	<b>22 P</b> MSBBB DVL Qtr Finals - TBA	<b>23 G</b> HSBB (JVG/B, VG/B) @ Jackson Hts. - 5 pm	<b>24 P</b>	<b>25 G</b> MSBBB DVL Tourn. @ ACES - TBA	<b>26 P</b> HSBB (H) (JVG/B, VG/B) vs. Doniphan West - 5 pm Senior Night	<b>27</b> MSBBB DVL Tourn. @ ACES - TBA
28						

# MARCH 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1 G</b> HSBB (VG/B) Sub-State Tourn - TBA MS Knowledge Bowl @ Xavier	<b>2 P</b> HSBB (VG/B) Sub-State Tourn - TBA	<b>3 G</b> HSBB (VG/B) Sub-State Tourn - TBA HSDVL Music - Solos & Small Ensembles	<b>4 P</b> HSBB (VG/B) Sub-State Tourn - TBA MS Knowledge Bowl @ McLouth  End of 3rd Quarter	<b>5</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Teacher Workday/Prof. Dev. HSBB (VG/B) Sub-State Tourn - TBA	<b>6</b> HSBB (VG/B) Sub-State Tourn - TBA
<b>7</b>	<b>8 G</b> <b>BOE Meeting -7pm</b>	<b>9 P</b> 9-12 Music Concert - 7pm	<b>10 G</b> HSBB (VG/B) State Tourn - TBA MS/HS Cheer Tryout - TBA	<b>11</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> P/T Conferences HSBB (VG/B) State Tourn - TBA <b>PTO Meeting - 7pm</b>	<b>12</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> HSBB (VG/B) State Tourn - TBA	<b>13</b> HSBB (VG/B) State Tourn - TBA
<b>14</b> Daylight Savings Begins	<b>15</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Spring Break	<b>16</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Spring Break	<b>17</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Spring Break	<b>18</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Spring Break	<b>19</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> Spring Break	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22 P</b> MS Knowledge Bowl @ Atchinson	<b>23 G</b> HS Athletic Banquet	<b>24 P</b>	<b>25 G</b> MS Knowledge Bowl @ JCN	<b>26 P</b>	<b>27</b> Regional Music Solos & Small Ensemble
<b>28</b>	<b>29 G</b> <b>BsB (H) vs. ACCHS - 4:30pm</b> MSDVL Knowledge Bowl @ Doniphan West	<b>30 P</b>	<b>31 G</b>			

# THANK YOU!

## MOVIE NIGHT

Thank you to everyone that attended movie night. We had a total of 115 people that came to watch the movie. We heard a lot of positive comments from both parents and children. We hope everyone enjoyed it!

Thank you to the following businesses for the donations that helped make our movie night a success.

Dollar General, Oskaloosa                      Thriftway Grocery Store, Oskaloosa  
Home Town Foods, McLouth

The following people helped make movie night a success. Thanks for all your time and hard work.

Mrs. Holwick      Mrs. Thomas      Mrs. Martin      Mrs. McLaughlin  
Mrs. Warden      Miss Noll      Mrs. Rainey      Mr. Thomas      Mr. Pierce

and of course **Santa Claus** for taking time out of his busy schedule to deliver milk and cookies!!!

Thank You to the Elementary Student Council for helping sponsor the event.

## CHRISTMAS BULLDOG READING STORE

The Christmas Bulldog Reading Store was a huge success!! The students were able to purchase gifts for family members. Many students left the store with wide smiles and heavy bags.

The Christmas Store is made possible due to the generous patrons, parents, businesses, and organizations. A BIG THANK YOU goes to the following for donations:

Robin Courtney	Bogard Family	Delores Hubach
Calvin Haverkamp	Josey Mestagh	Ben & Anne Posch
Caryn Vaught	Linda Dame	Cindy Jones
Carl Chalfant	Catherine Jones	Valerie Stubbs
Mr. & Mrs. Pierce	Micky McKillip	Laura Beach
Penny Woodring	Karen Bailey	Linda Martin
Antes Family	Kuglin Family	Funk Family
Terry Snyder	Blicht Family	Shawnda Campbell
Bailey Scott	Paula Masopust	Shelbie Smith
Murrfield Farms	Amanda Warden	Coit Family
Secrest Family	Williams Family	PTO
Booster Club	BOE/Mr. Batman	Master Farm Diner

7th Grade Young Living Class

A **HUGE THANK YOU** goes to Anne Ping. Once again she decorated bags for us. They are absolutely beautiful!!!! Thank You!!!!

It would not be possible to run the store without the help of volunteers. These volunteers help the students shop for their family members as well as wrap the many gifts that the students purchase. A **BIG THANK YOU** goes to the following people:

Wendi Johnston	Marsha McLaughlin	Melissa Jolley	Jan Shirey
Denise Mestagh	AnnaMaria Rainey	Dawn Willard	Kim Arnett
Jeanie Thompson	Corene Williams	Nicole Pierson	Amanda Cain

I apologize if there is anyone I need to thank and accidentally missed.

I hope you had Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in 2010!!!

## Community News

USD 342 BOE approved a community section for the newsletter. Information about local events can be submitted to the district office on the 15th of each month. Information printed as "community news" does not necessarily reflect the view of the McLouth BOE and/or USD 342. The district reserves the right to edit, select, and/or reject submitted items.

## HELP WANTED

### For Elementary/MS Yearbook

PTO needs a few people to be in charge of the Elementary School Portion of the 2009-2010 yearbook. We have someone lined up for the Middle School portion. If we do not get some help we will not be able to provide a yearbook for this year.

Please call Denise Mestagh at 785-331-8991 if you are interested in helping.

## Information @ McLouth.Org

You can find information about our students' achievements, activity schedules, various forms, and general information on our website @ [www.mclouth.org](http://www.mclouth.org). Please check this site out for up-to-date calendar changes, honor roll announcements, band/concert performances and for information about other extracurricular activities our students are involved in.

In addition, please feel free to post comments you would like to make or to ask questions you might have.

**MCLOUTH USD 342  
DISTRICT NEWSLETTER**

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Email: [browns@mclouth.org](mailto:browns@mclouth.org)  
Submission deadline is the 15th of  
each month.

Check us out on  
the web @  
[www.mclouth.org](http://www.mclouth.org)



**Please Note:**

- 01/01 - No School
- 01/18 - No School, Teacher Professional Development
- 02/15 - No School, Teacher Professional Development
- 03/05 - No School, Teacher Work day/Prof. Development
- 03/11 - No School, Parent Teacher Conference
- 03/12 - No School
- 03/15-03/19 - Spring Break



**Inclement  
Weather**

School closings will be announced on the following Media.

Kansas City Television Stations 4, 5, and 9

Topeka Television Stations 13, 27, 49

Radio Stations: 95FM, 710AM, 94.5FM, 580AM, 93.7FM, 1470AM, 105.9FM, 1320AM.

*A color copy of this newsletter  
is posted at [www.mclouth.org](http://www.mclouth.org)*

## NHS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



McLouth High School National Honor' Society members held their annual Christmas luncheon on December 17, 2009. Special guests were twenty members from the community. Mr. Weeks shared a copy of the 1970 MHS yearbook and many of the guests reminisced about former school employees and old classmates. The festivities concluded with drawings for the door prizes of beautiful poinsettia plants from the Flower Loft.

### CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE @ [WWW.MCLOUTH.ORG](http://WWW.MCLOUTH.ORG)

This issue of the Bulldog Bulletin is for the months of January, February and March. Please check our website [www.mclouth.org](http://www.mclouth.org) for up-to-date calendar changes, honor roll announcements, band/concert performances and for information about other extra curricular activities our students are involved in.

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