

School board treks through student data

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

Wednesday, 15 December 2010 19:55 - Last Updated Wednesday, 15 December 2010 19:58



Annual patron report presented.

District 20 school board members took a journey through demographics and test data Monday night during the annual patron report.

Junior high principal and curriculum and data coordinator Ryan Groene shared information from the 2009-10 State of the Schools Report.

The report is available on the Nebraska Department of Education website at www.education.ne.gov.

Board members learned the district has an English Language Learner (ELL) student this year compared to none last year and that mobility—or students moving in and out of the district—is low compared to other schools.

Superintendent Mike Teahon asked the board to imagine what it must be like to track students in a district with a large rate of mobility.

The district was also lower than the state in poverty and special education rates but higher in

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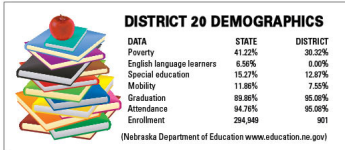
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graduation and attendance rates (see graph).

Groene also shared that all of the grades tested in reading—third through 11th—on the new Nebraska State Accountability Test (NeSA) met or were above state standard.

Students took the NeSA reading test last spring for the first time. The test is administered once as compared to STARS (School-based, Teacher-led Assessment Reporting System) where students are tested more than once until they learn a concept.

In math, science and writing, students in the benchmark grades of fourth, eighth and 11th tested higher than the state average.



DISTRICT 20 DEMOGRAPHICS

DATA	STATE	DISTRICT
Poverty	41.22%	38.52%
English language learners	6.56%	0.00%
Special education	15.27%	12.87%
Mobility	11.88%	7.55%
Graduation	89.86%	95.08%
Attendance	84.76%	95.08%
Enrollment	294,849	901

(Nebraska Department of Education www.education.ne.gov)

Writing was also above average except for eighth graders whose results were a bit below other student scores in the state.

Information about those scores were printed in the Oct. 27 issue of The Times.

Last spring, students took the STARS test but will change to NeSA in math this spring followed by writing and science in 2011 and 2012.

On another matter, the board learned that a route bus and micro bus will arrive in February and that land gifted to the school is about done being graded.

The area, south of the baseball field and across the street from the school campus, will be planted to grass in the spring.

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Board members will also have some decisions about the 100R attendance center where water from leaky pipes has damaged floors and other things.

Teahon said the board will have to decide whether to repair what has been

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