

**ASBSD Board of Directors Meetings**  
**April 19-20, 2024**  
**Dakota Gold Roundhouse**  
**Lead, SD**

- I. **Call to Order** – President Louann Krogman called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. Present were board members, Louann Krogman, Eric Stroeder, Garret Bischoff, Lisa Snedeker, Shane Roth, Anita Peterson, Amber Vogt, Bishop Troy Carr, Susan Humiston, Marc Murren, Ellie Saxer and Julie Schwader. Absent were board members Tanya Gray, Jamie Lindner, Duane Alm, Steve Kubik and Rob Honomichl. Pam Haukaas joined the meeting via teleconference.
- II. **Welcome and Pledge** – President Krogman welcomed the board members and asked the board to please stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Moved by Anita Peterson, second by Bishop Troy Carr to approve the February 19, 2024 minutes as presented. Motion carried. To accommodate our guest speaker the order of the Agenda was modified.
- IV. **Finance**  
**Financial Report** – Chief Financial Officer, Holly Nagel, reported March 31<sup>st</sup> marks that we are 75% of the way through the year. As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, we have received \$1,988,814.50, or 88.29%, of our revenue budget and expended \$1,650,683.14 or 73.56% of our expenditure budget.

At the same time last year, the Association had total revenue of \$1,835,090.17 or 84.85% of our revenue budget while expenditures were \$1,547,882.58 or 72.19% of our expenditure budget.

The Unassigned Net Position (Fund Balance of the Association at the end of March is \$3,735,227 compared to last year at this time of \$3,128,034.

The difference between revenue and expenditures will not directly tie out to Unassigned Net Position. There are a few Net Position categories that are adjusted at year-end to recognize pre-paid expenses and capital assets.

ASBSD continues to have a strong balance sheet and financial position. The building currently has four tenants, Board of Regents, School Administrators of South Dakota, Tieszen Law Office and Unified Judicial System. The strong financial position allows for adjustments should a revenue source be significantly decreased.

On a motion by Shane Roth, second by Lisa Snedeker to accept the financial report as presented. Motion carried.

- V. **Reflection Question #1/ Good News/SD Public School History**  
**Good News – Shane Roth** – Negotiations went well and the ESL students are thriving in their district.

**Lisa Snedeker** – For the first time in many years Woonsocket is building a new school building.

**Eric Stroeder** – Mobridge-Pollock School was featured on Dakota News highlighting their summer program.

**Garret Bischoff** – Negotiations ended well with the teachers receiving a 4.8% increase in salary.

Dr. Wermedal shared fun stories about past and present country schools.

Dr. Wermedal presented the Reflection Question #1: How do public education leaders respond when State leadership aligns with the hostile agendas promoted by activist organizations? Discussion followed.

- VI. Dakota Gold Insights** – Gerald Aberle, Director and COO of Dakota Gold presented the historic timelines of the Homestake Gold Mine up to its closure in 2001 and the acquisition of Barrick that revitalized the underground construction and minerals exploration for Dakota Gold. Dakota Gold owns all of the land they are mining. The ASBSD Board and staff were very appreciative of Dakota Gold allowing us to use their fine facility for our meeting.
- VII. 2024-2025 Budget Proposal** – Holly Nagel, CFO, presented the proposed 2024-2025 budget. She advised the board a majority of the Association's expenditures are salary and benefits. The recommended budget increase for salary for Association employees is 4% and to cover an estimated 5% increase in insurance. Moved by Ellie Saxer, second by Marc Murren to accept the recommended budget. Motion carried.
- VIII. Protective Trust Update** – Holly Nagel, CFO, presented the Protective Trust Report by welcoming DeSmet to the Health Pool. Workers Comp and Property Liability renewals are going well with Property Liability premiums being finalized within a week.
- IX. Executive Committee, NSBA representative and ASBSD Staff reports from NSBA National Conference** – ASBSD board members Louann Krogman, Lisa Snedeker, Garret Bischoff, Shane Roth, Eric Stroeder, Bishop Troy Carr and ASBSD staff Dr. Douglas Wermedal and Jessica Filler attended the National Conference held in New Orleans. The following comments were made:

Lisa Snedeker – The final speaker, Richard Montanez, was highly motivated, informative and uplifting.

Shane Roth – My first experience at a national conference and I followed the string of events that contained board evaluation/assessment.

Garret Bischoff – I attended school safety, AI and mental health streams and really enjoyed all the sessions I attended.

Louann Krogman – Superintendent. Abi Van Regnmorter, DeSmet, and I presented a workshop on Relationships, Respect and Recognition. I attended sessions relating to the importance of board meetings and how they can be improved.

Dr. Douglas R. Wermedal – Speakers were excellent and he particularly liked the speaker who shared his story of success from custodian to one of the top executives in his company.

Bishop Troy Carr – I really liked the Convention app and I attended the string of relationships between the superintendent and the board and how they can build community confidence in their school.

Jessica Filler – I attended both the Council of School Attorneys and the National School Boards Conventions. Workshops I attended were both informative and well attended.

Eric Stroeder – As a NSBA director he was very pleased with the attendance at the Convention as NSBA has gone through major downsizing of staff (100 to 25). He shared the purpose and success of CUBE.

#### **X. Reflection Question #2 / Good News/ SD Public School History**

**Good News - Amber Vogt** – Negotiations went well with classified staff receiving a \$1.50 salary increase the last 2 years, certified staff received a 6% with additional days added to paternity/maternity leave. The school store which is totally run by the students is very successful and making a nice profit for the students.

**Marc Murren** – Negotiations are complete with a 5.6% increase in salary for teachers.

**Pam Haukaas** – On track to complete the new addition and it will compliment coursework to teach their students life skills. FFA program sent 8 students to state.

Dr. Wermedal shared fun stories about past and present country schools.

#### **XI. Policy Updates**

Dr. Wermedal presented ASBSD Policy G CBD – Employee Holidays and Leaves – Moved by Amber Vogt, second by Susan Humiston to approve the policy change as presented. Motion carried. (Attachment 1)

Dr. Wermedal presented the Reflection Question #2: Beginning with the budget address, misconceptions regarding how school boards were compensating teachers were perpetuated throughout legislative session. What is the best way to counter this inaccurate narrative? Discussion followed.

The meeting recessed until Saturday, April 20, 2024 – 8:00 a.m.

**XII. Board Engagement Webinars Report** – ASBSD hosted webinars on Artificial Intelligence, Recruitment and Retention of Staff and Staff Relations and District Culture Post COVID. Consensus of the hosts included: discussion and feedback was beneficial, meetings were productive, webinars need to be continued. Tyler reported the webinars were recorded and anyone can watch them at their convenience.

**XIII. Strategic Plan Report** – Dr. Wermedal reported during the past five years, from August 2019 to April 2024, the following strategic plan has guided the work for ASBSD in addition to the regularly scheduled activities such as, customized board trainings, joint convention, and advocacy activities. The goals and objectives listed were reviewed and up to date information on activities was provided to the board.

- XIV. Calendar of Activities and Awards** – Dr. Wermedal advised and encouraged board members to promote the ASBSD awards with their school districts. Board members were asked to submit names for the ASBSD School Bell Award.

The meeting calendar and upcoming events are as follows:

- April 29th - Celebration of Academic Excellence 11:30 a.m., Ramkota
- May 15th Deadline for voting for Central District Representative
- July Policy and Resolution Committee (TBD)
- August 8th & 9th Annual Conference in Sioux Falls
- November 21st & 22nd Board Meeting and Delegate Assembly
- February 17th Winter meeting
- March 29th - 31st NSBA National Conference in Atlanta
- April 11th and 12th Spring Meeting

**XV. Reflection Question #3 / Good News / SD Public School History**

**Good News – Julie Schwader** – She is very proud of the FFA team competing at State they have placed in 6 of the 7 events in proficiency and one of their students will become a state officer.

**Louann Krogman** – Spirit of the Su Award was presented to White River student, Nic Marshall.

**Ellie Saxer** – Good things are happening in Brandon Valley, kindergarten numbers are up, superintendent declined salary increase and gave it back to the district and negotiations were completed.

Dr. Wermedal presented the Reflection Question #3: Which of the following teacher shortage strategies seems the most promising to you? International staff / Apprenticeship Pathway / CTE permit. Discussion followed.

Dr. Wermedal shared fun stories about past and present country schools.

- XVI. Legislative Leadership Updates** – Dr. Wermedal thanked his leadership team, Tyler Pickner, Holly Nagel and Jessica Filler, for their hard work in following and helping with the legislative process. He advised the board the teacher compensation package, vouchers and upcoming elections will continue to be on the horizon for boards to deal with.

- XVII. PRC Appointments** – President Krogman appointed the following to the Policy and Resolution Committee: Garret Bischoff, Shane Roth, Lisa Snedeker, Jamie Lindner, Amber Vogt, Tyler Pickner, Holly Nagel, Jessica Filler, Dr. Doug Wermedal and Louann Krogman. Their first meeting will be in late July to prepare the 2025 advocacy agenda.

**XVIII. Reflection Question #4 / Good News / SD Public School History**

**Good News** – Susan Humiston – Edgemont students took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the State One-Act Plays and she was asked to judge the senior projects.

Dr. Wermedal presented the Reflection Question #4 – What are your District's plans to advance/recognize the academic achievement of your students? Has your district been planning to participate in DOE-sponsored programs associated with reading? Discussion followed.

Dr. Wermedal shared fun stories about past and present country schools. (Attachment 2)

- XIX. Director's Report** – Dr. Wermedal briefly reported on his first nine months with the Association and thanked his leadership team. He reminded the board applications for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President will be sent out and carefully consider applying.

Moved by Ellie Saxer, second by Anita Peterson to move into executive session for the purpose of evaluating Dr. Wermedal. Motion carried.

- XX. Director's Evaluation** – The board came out of Executive Session at 1:30 p.m. President Krogman declared the meeting adjourned.

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## EMPLOYEE HOLIDAYS AND LEAVES

The holidays and leaves described in this policy pertains to permanent employees. All leaves for permanent part-time personnel shall be commensurate to their part-time employment schedule.

### Holidays

It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director to determine up to 14 days of paid holiday vacation that may be taken by staff in a given year. ASBSD recognizes all Federal Holidays. However, to accomplish the business of the Association it may occasionally be necessary for segments of staff to work certain holidays to support Association activities and events, (e.g. holidays during legislative session or overlapping traditional meeting times.) On these occasions staff who work these federal holidays can take a comp day approved by their supervisor and within the pay period in which the holiday occurred. Such comp days cannot be banked, or carried over between pay periods.

### Vacation

All employees are encouraged to take annual vacations. Vacations will be scheduled to minimize the interruption of services. Personnel employed on a permanent basis shall earn vacation leave on the following schedule:

1. From one month through five years of employment at the rate of one day for each month employed (12 days per year).
2. From five years through 10 years of employment at the rate of one and one-fourth days for each month employed (15 days per year).
3. From 10 years through 15 years of employment at the rate of one and one-half days for each month of employed (18 days per year), over 15 years shall accrue 20 days per year.

The Executive Director may determine initial placement on new employees within the schedule; any modifications outside the policy must be approved by the Board of Directors.

Employees are encouraged to take vacations during the fiscal year in which they are earned and eligible.

Until July 1, 2011, vacation leave must be used within 12 months of the end of the year in which it was earned. Beginning July 1, 2011 the policy for distribution and carryover of vacation days will be changed as follows. To facilitate the scheduling of vacations for the employees and association, employees may take their entire annual vacation for a fiscal year prior to the time it is earned within the fiscal year. Employee may carry 10 days of their vacation benefit earned in the previous fiscal year provided such carryover vacation is used by January 1<sup>st</sup> of the following fiscal year. Carryover vacation days may be

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used in conjunction with the vacation benefit for the next fiscal year. The executive director may grant exceptions to this policy as needed.

Vacation leave will be granted upon written application of the employee, to be taken at such time or times as approved by the Executive Director prior to the date the leave begins. (See GCBDa)

### **Separation of Employment**

Vacation time or vacation pay will be prorated for separating employees who have not taken the vacation to which they are entitled. When separation occurs, the employee's earned vacation record will be reviewed to determine whether payment may be due the employee for unused vacation or the association for vacation taken in advance of being earned. Any amounts due the association will be deducted from the employee's paycheck. Any vacation pay due the employee or reimbursement due to the association, at separation will be computed on the employee's current annual salary and the provisions of this policy.

If separation occurs during the first six months of employment, the employee is not eligible for any paid vacation. If an individual's employment is terminated by the association, the employee loses all accrued vacation time.

### **New Employees**

Employees hired during a fiscal year shall receive prorated vacation benefits based on the length of their employment during the fiscal year in which they are employed. No vacation days will be granted until the employee has completed six months of employment unless approved by the Executive Director. New hires cannot use these prorated vacation benefits in conjunction with vacation earned during the following fiscal year. The prorated days earned during the year in which the individual was employed must be used before the 12 days eligible on July 1.

### **Sick Leave**

All full time and part-time employees hired on a 12 month basis shall be eligible for sick leave. In cases of personal or immediate family illness, immediate family is defined as the employee's spouse; children; mother; father; mother-in-law; father-in-law; daughter-in-law; son-in-law; brother; brother-in-law; sister; sister-in-law; grandparents; grandchildren; step-children and step-parents. One day per month shall be granted for sick leave. Sick leave may be accumulated up to 60 days.

A medical certificate may be requested by the Executive Director for all absences due to illness or injury.

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### **Medical Leave Bank Program**

The purpose of the medical leave bank program is to provide financial stability and security should an individual, following the exhaustion of association-provided leave benefits, require additional time to recover from serious medical condition.

Participation in the medical leave bank program is voluntary. To participate in the program, an employee must enroll at the beginning of the association's fiscal year. New employees will have the option to enroll following the effective date of employment. Once enrolled, an employee will continue to participate in the medical leave bank program.

The program shall be administered by the executive director or his or her designee. The medical leave bank may carry a maximum balance of 90 days. The maximum balance may exceed 90 days to allow participation by new enrollees. New enrollees shall contribute to the bank two of the individual's sick leave benefit days. If the balance of the medical leave bank at any point falls below 60 days, the program administrator shall assess each participating member two of the individual's sick leave benefit days, up to a maximum of 4 days per year.

Any participating member of the medical leave bank program may request to access up to 60 days of leave per fiscal year. To access the medical leave bank, a participating member must submit a request in writing to the executive director. A request by the executive director will be submitted in writing to his or her designee. All requests are subject to the following eligibility criteria.

1. Prior to requesting access to the medical leave bank, an employee must have exhausted all association-provided annual and sick leave.
2. A request may only be made after the employee has missed 10 consecutive work days as a direct result of the medical condition that caused the employee to make the request.
3. All requests must be accompanied by a letter from a qualified medical professional that certifies the employee, as result of an injury, illness or medically necessary surgical procedure, is physically incapable of performing a substantial portion of his or her essential job functions as outlined in the employee's job description.
4. All requests must be approved for a specified period of time enumerated by the qualified medical professional that certifies the employee's eligibility to access the medical leave bank.
5. The employee making the request is responsible for obtaining the services of a qualified medical professional to assess the employee's eligibility to access the medical leave bank.

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6. Additional information may be required from the employee to determine whether the request meets the criteria established in this policy.
7. Requests shall not be approved if the injury or illness is intentionally self-inflicted, the result of committing or attempting to commit an unlawful act, or for any event for which the employee is entitled to any other association-provided or legally required benefit. The bank has the right of subrogation.

### **Bereavement Leave**

Bereavement Leave may be granted by the Executive Director upon request and with proper justification. In the event of death in the immediate family, a full-time employee may be granted up to 5 days leave. Bereavement leave days will be deducted from accrued sick leave.

### **Jury Leave**

Any ASBSD employee called for jury duty during business hours, or who is subpoenaed to testify in a hearing during business hours on a matter in which he/she is not a named party, will be granted leave with pay for the days or parts of days such absence is required. Any per diem received for jury duty or the designated subpoena absence will be remitted to the association or deducted from the employee's regular salary. The employee will notify the executive director or immediate supervisor as soon as practical following the service of notice or subpoena.

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### **Pennington County - Fairview School**

- Beverly Letellier - Page 242 – I remember learning to read with the “Dick and Jane” reading books. People snicker at them today, but I don’t, because I remember how excited I was to read what they were doing and could hardly wait to learn a few more words and go on with the story of them and their dog “Spot”.
- Page 243 – When you were in the lower grades, you heard the older ones reciting their lessons. When you were in the upper grades, you helped the little ones with their flash cards. I believe this type of reinforcement strengthened learning for both the upper and lower classes.
- Page 243 – I really believe country schools gave the best education. Students learned to be independent and creative thinkers. They were able to do projects on their own. When I went to high schools, the students seemed unable to do lessons alone. They seemed to need to work in groups. It was the same in college. People seemed unable to grasp the concept of studying and solving problems on their own.

### **Tripp County -Turtle Butte School Stories**

- Page 343 – Imogene Smith Turnquist – teacher – Her first teaching job was at the Fairview School in KeyaPaha Township east of Wewela in 1937. She taught there for two years at \$50 per month paid in warrants. She sold the warrants in the stores in Colome for her necessities. She did not have a car, so she walked or rode horseback to school and to town to pick up commodities for her and the other families who did not have transportation. She mentioned that, “You never missed a day because we had no phones to cancel school, so I went every day – blizzard or not – because there might be a child who also made it to school in a storm.”
- Page 343 – She continued her teaching career in 1939 at Prairie Hill about five miles west of Wewela. After two years, she started teaching at the Wise School, north of Colome in 1941. They then closed the school and joined with another, forming a pattern of consolidation even in those days.

### **Beadle County – (Connel School) William Manley Davis**

- Page 350 – Another day was often recalled the Big Blizzard of January 12, 1888. “He and brothers and sister, Kate, spent the night at the schoolhouse. They crawled outside to the back of the schoolhouse and brought in coal from the pile. Hanging on the building so as not to get lost. They got in a sufficient supply before night settled in.” As Eva tells it, “William and his brother, Pat, kept a fire going all night to keep their younger brothers and sister as well as themselves comfortable. No food, no water, no lights, but they spent the night. The teacher took two students and tried to find her way home, but they wandered until they were weary, finally covering themselves with her shawl, letting snow pile over them.
- Page 350 – The next A.M. their mother baked doughnuts and sent Tony, the older brother, across the field with a flour sack of doughnuts to the schoolhouse. The teacher’s brother arrived and found out that she and two pupils were out on the prairie some place, so a big

hunt was on. A corner of the teacher's shawl helped searchers find them. The boy, John Newcome, lost his life, the girl and teachers had frozen feet and fingers."

### **Brown County – Houghton School - Karen Herseth Wee**

- Page 369 – Once on the way home my sister's horse ran away with her, across a field, frightened by the passing train. Our route home paralleled the railroad tracks. She did not fall off, though. Just rode until he tired (a big bay gelding named Dangerous Dan McGrew).
- Page 369 – I once got in trouble because boys and girls were together in the barn where my horse was tied, to pet my horse (Gray Lady). Boys and girls together in a barn like that, in those days, a no-no. I was indignant about it, and have since written a poem, which I will include here, at the end.
- Page 369 – School was never called off for bad weather; the teacher lived at the school or nearby with a family.
- Page 369 – There were between twelve to fifteen students, usually. Only three or four students in my grade and in second I was the only student, so they "skipped me" (over third grade), into fourth, with my parents' permission.
- Page 369 – The daily routine was flag-raising and saying Pledge of Allegiance. Our chores were helping to clean coatroom and entrances to school, cleaning erasers and blackboards. There was a hand-held school bell, rung by a student helper (each school). We were read aloud to, after morning recess, books like ones written by Laura Ingalls Wilder.
- Page 370 – One of my favorite stories is a day at the South School when I got the whole group of children to run away. We'd been promised by the county superintendent's office, two field trips a year, which we looked forward to. One year, to punish us for something I no longer recall, the teacher denied us a field trip or nature hike...which I decided we'd take anyway. So we did. Hiked a half day, somewhere. Came home to the presence in the schoolyard of a number of parents (but not mine, even though Mom was on the School Board). The teacher had walked to a nearby home to phone parents. Anyway, a couple of children got spanked by their parent right there in the schoolyard in front of us all. Never knew why I was exempted and mother not even called. Others knew that I (eighth grader and school leader) instigated the Nature Hike, but Mom said later she didn't believe I'd do such a thing. I do recall being prompted to do this by a strong sense of justice and injustice in that we'd been promised a hike or field trip by "higher-ups", and it was taken away.

### **Lake County – Madison**

- Page 487 – Jim Carmody - We always brought lunch from home in an individual lunch pail. During the winter, we often brought hot dogs and cheese or egg sandwiches wrapped in tin foil, tomato soup in pint jars because we heated them on the grate of the floor furnace. By lunchtime, the soup jars started popping and the schoolhouse smelled like a café. We had a fuel oil fired floor furnace.
- Page 487 – We had three recesses, morning, noon, and afternoon, with all students. The teacher rang a hand bell to signal the end of recess. In the fall and spring, we played baseball outside. During the cold winter months, we played soccer in the basement of the schoolhouse. In the schoolyard, garter snakes and gophers provided hunting opportunities with sticks and stones.

- Page 487 – Often the older students helped the younger students with their schoolwork. When I was a second grader, an older student told me to answer all my questions with “yup” and “nope”. I did and the teacher was not amused. I had to stay in at recess to change all the “yups” to “yes” and “nopes” to “no”.

### **Haakon County – Philip**

- **Deep Creek School** – Page 52 – Karen Klostergaard Graber – Since I was the only teacher at the school, I also did recess duty every day. The kids played a variety of games and we had playground equipment. I played with the kids or looked for crickets to feed our pet salamander. Snakes were an issue in that part of the country. Bull snakes are not considered dangerous, but you are still careful not to be bit. If we saw a bull snake, we tried to encourage it to leave the playground. One day we discovered a rattlesnake. With the children near it but at a safe range, I opened the gate and drove my car onto the school grounds. With the children directing me, I drove the tire onto the snake. We then used a shovel to chop off the head. This was the only school that I ever taught at where there were procedures for what would I do if a child was bitten by a rattlesnake...and what would we do if I was bitten.

### **Mellette County – White River**

- **Norris School** – Page 87 – Francis (Frenchy) Taft – Bus driver stopped the bus one day to shoot his deer, a very large Muley buck – I was in third grade. He also stopped the bus and shot fox, coyotes and skunks. All gravel and dirt roads in those days, the bus went in the ditch at least twice a year. When I was in the sixth grade we had one quarter inch of freezing rain one night in March. Extremely slick. Dad said I needed to test the brakes in the Oldsmobile on the way to school with Mom. About a half mile from home I stepped on the brakes. We made two complete circles in the road and stopped facing towards home. I drove toward home to the first approach and got turned around and headed back toward school, wondering if maybe I had tested the brakes too hard.
- Page 88 – The school got massive amounts of macaroni and tons of American Process cheese in five-pound bricks. We got homemade macaroni and cheese twice a week. For years. When lunch was over, you were supposed to take your plate, silverware, and empty milk carton to the row of three or four garbage cans, dump your milk carton and napkin in the garbage can, and put your plate and silverware in the tubs to be washed. The two cooks would stand behind the row of garbage cans (arms folded) and see what kids were not finishing their meal. The cooks would tell you when the garbage can was full and to start filling the next one. After a number of years of mac and cheese, I had had a lifetime supply of mac and cheese and got to the point where I didn't even like the smell of it. When I was in the seventh grade, I had hit upon drinking my milk and then stuffing all the mac and cheese in the empty milk carton (if no one else wanted my mac and cheese). One day when I was done and got to the row of garbage cans, the cooks put the lid on the full garbage can and directed me to use the next one. The milk carton made a big noisy THUD when it hit the bottom of the can, the cooks gasped, and retrieved the milk carton to see what was in it. They told me they would be calling my parents and letting them know what

I had done. With tears in my eyes, I told them they could go ahead and call cuz I just couldn't eat any more mac and cheese!!

- Page 89 – Mrs. Roberts was my first and second grade teacher. She was plump and about sixty-five with snow white hair. She wore a dress EVERY day. She was frugal and believed that she could use a tissue multiple times. After she got and used a new tissue, she would reach inside the neckline of her dress and leave it there. When she needed it again, she would retrieve it and use it, and repeat the process. As a first grader, I had never seen anyone ever do that before!! She was very strict and a very good teacher. The pencils we had to use were black and as big around as a dime. Those pencils were damned hard to make alphabet letters with and she was always on our butts about penmanship!!!
- Page 89 – Mrs. Maxine Niehoff was my third and fourth grade teacher. She was about fifty years old and loved to play ragtime piano. She would have an ear-to-ear smile and just bounce on the piano bench while she played. Ben Hur was also a favorite piano song of hers. Her husband worked construction jobs around the country and Maxine would often drive out to our house and visit with my folks. At Christmas time during one of her visits, she gave me a Christmas present: A Paladin cap gun and holster set, black leather gloves and his business cards "Have Gun, Will Travel".
- Page 90 – The school had a piano and teachers played the piano. The piano was used for Christmas programs, they were not "concerts". The school had a lot of state of the art Audio/Visual equipment (Federal money again), but most of it saw very little use. About every six or seven weeks, the school would get films. The basement of the school would hold about half the kids so we were in two groups. There was usually one or two educational films and one or two comedy films. The only one I remember was in the afternoon, we were watching the Abbott and Costello film "Jekyll and Hyde", and they stopped the film and announced that President Kennedy had died. School day was over at that point. It was some years later I got to see the end of that film.

### **Tripp County – Winner**

- Page 151 - Lila Ann Miller, teacher – When the Blizzard of '52 in South Dakota hit, parents of my students began to come for them at about 2:30 in the afternoon. The school had no phone. The Covey children and I began to put our wraps on for the quarter mile walk to their home. It was one-quarter mile south of the school. But, as I recall, their brother, Wayne Covey, came to rescue us, for I stayed with their family rather than driving. Now, because of high winds, the roads were closed for some time.
- About a week later my father and mother, Alfred and Lucy Miller, said they were calling a friend, Chalmace Wilson in Winner to fly up for me. Chalmace had a small plane with skis, and he was flying emergency drops of food and medicine to stranded families who couldn't get out on roads not yet opened.
- I forgot how many days that we were snowed in, but it seemed more than a week. My father, Alfred Russell Miller, made a call. If Chalmace Wilson would fly up the next sunny day to get me. "Yes." And then called me to be ready to meet his plane, just north of the Covey farmhouse in a field. As I recall Wayne Covey gave me a ride in his Jeep over a wheat field.
- Was I excited for my first small airplane flight home? Once I got in he said, "You'll be home in just a few minutes". You remember he had no phone. So he said, "I will buzz your house

and you toss out your luggage, okay?" Because the field was too rough to land, "On the second time around you jump out!" What? Might the tail hit me? He said, "I'll lift it up, don't worry". Oh, Lord help me! I did jump, into snow up to my armpits and waved my arms, "I'm okay". And I see my father coming with his tractor to get me. "Whew!"

### **Codington County – Watertown/Waverly**

- Page 215 – A funny memory is this. One day at recess on noon hour we carried water from a nearby slough to drown gophers. Needless to say, we got a lot of them. One of the boys tied the gophers to the fence, which was across the road from the school. The fence was to the south of the school. It was a warm spring day and the next day was even warmer and there was a south wind. Oh dear! The stink of the dead gophers was horrible. Consequently the teacher had to dismiss school for the day. I never did know who had to clean up the mess.

### **Minnehaha County – Sioux Falls**

- Page 344 – Cindy Bahe – My favorite teacher was Margaret Viste from Sioux Falls. Our school was located in the heart of farmland where men mostly wore overalls and seed caps and everyone else in casual clothes. Margaret wore wild leopard and zebra-printed shirts, scarfs skirts and coats and certainly stuck out in the crowd when we had a community event. When I was six or seven, she told all the 15 or so students comprised of K-6 that we were going to enter a Declam contest and compete in Sioux Falls. We hadn't competed in anything, as we didn't have sports or competitive exposure of any kind. She helped us choose a literary piece and coached us for months. My mom sewed a special dress for me weeks earlier but because I already wore it to church a few times, she washed it. Well, it shrunk and it barely covered my little hiney. I had no other dress to wear and the competition was later that day so I had to wear that dress. One by one we recited our pieces, competing with other kids from the Sioux Falls schools and all the surrounding areas.

