

**Minutes for
Heartland Community Schools
Board of Education American Civics Hearing**

Monday, April 12, 2021 7:30 PM

Conference Room

1501 Front Street

Henderson, NE 68371-8929

Notice of the meeting was posted in the Henderson News on April 8, 2021.

MISSION STATEMENT: Heartland Community Schools - Henderson/Bradshaw is dedicated to educating all students by providing challenging opportunities to learn according to individual needs.

Mr. Kent Allen: Absent
Mr. Gary Braun: Present
Lacey Gloystein: Present
Tyler Newton: Present
Tammy Ott: Absent
Mr. Steve Stebbing: Present
Tammy Ott Excused Kent Allen Excused

1. Preliminary Procedures

1. Call to Order

2. Public Notice of the Meeting

Notice of the hearing was published in the Henderson News on April 8, 2021.

3. Roll Call

2. Public Input on American Civics

3. School Board Review of American Civics Requirements

Citizenship tests are conducted twice a year for both 8th graders and 12th graders.

All students complete an essay on a topic for Veterans Day. This started in 2020-21.

At the 9, 11, and 12th grade levels students study current events and how applicable to American government such as the capitol attacks, BLM, etc.

5th graders attend the state capitol building.

Ben visits with teachers at some point to review where the students are at and gauging needs to what needs to be taught.

4. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Board President

Board Secretary

Committee on American Civics Meeting 2020-2021

April 12, 2021

Heartland Community Schools

Henderson, NE

Individuals present

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Lacey Gloystein
- Tyler Newton
- Steve Stebbing

ADMINISTRATION

- Brad Best
- Tim Carr
- Dana Reinke

STAFF/INSTRUCTORS

- Benjamin Lindsay



Purpose of Meeting

- LB 399: Effective beginning with the 2019-2020 school years every school in Nebraska must adhere to LB 399.
- All social studies teachers follow approved curriculum that adhere to LB 399 as well as Board Policy 604.11.



District Requirements of LB 399.

- LB 399: Effective beginning with the 2019-2020 school years every school in Nebraska must adhere to LB 399.
 - Citizenship test administered to 12th grade and 8th grade students (19-20, 20-21).
 - In years prior to 2019-2020, students completed research projects which included mock-interviews with historical figures.
 - Beginning 2020-2021 school year, all students are required to complete an essay regarding the selected Veterans Day topic.
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Board of Education Policy 604.11

Policy, Grades K-4...

1. The discussion of noteworthy events pertaining to American history or the exceptional acts of individuals and groups of Americans;
2. The historical background, memorization, and singing of patriotic songs such as the Star-Spangled Banner and America the Beautiful;
3. The development of respect for the American flag as a symbol of freedom and the sacrifices of those who secured that freedom; and
4. Instruction as to proper conduct in the presentation of the American flag.

Heartland students in grades K-4...

1. A) In K-2 Social Studies, focus is given to the learning of the importance of American symbols such as George Washington, National Anthem, and the American flag

B) In 3rd-4th grade Social Studies, focus is on learning civic responsibility, American citizenship, and learning of historical figures and events
2. In 4th-6th grade Social Studies, Heartland students participate in the yearly Veterans Day Essay competition



Board of Education Policy 604.11

Policy, Grades 5-8...

1. Become competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil citizens who possess a deep understanding of and respect for both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Nebraska; and
2. Prepare to preserve, protect, and defend freedom and democracy in our nation and our world.

Heartland students in grades 5-8...

1. A) When discussing the writing and ratification process of the U.S. Constitution during 8th grade History all aspects are discussed, and the U.S. Constitution is compared and contrasted to the Nebraska Constitution.
B) During 7th grade geography, students are taught about the U.S. Constitution and how it compares to similar documents worldwide.
1. A) Yearly conversations are had on Veterans Day that focus on the U.S. military and the sacrifices that have been made by those serving.
B) In 8th grade U.S. History Units covering topics such as early wars and battles that were fought against foreign nations to protect our sovereignty. The Civil War is discussed in great detail, focusing on the impact the 14th Amendment had on providing freedoms to newly freed slaves.



Board of Education Policy 604.11

Policy, Grades 9-12...

1. The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Constitution of Nebraska, and the structure and function of local government in this state;
2. The benefits and advantages of representative government, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in our government, and the dangers and fallacies of forms of government that restrict individual freedoms or possess antidemocratic ideals such as, but not limited to, Nazism and communism;
3. The duties of citizenship, which include active participation in the improvement of a citizen's community, state, country, and world, and the value and practice of civil discourse between opposing interests; and
4. The application of knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography to address societal issues.

Heartland students in grades 9-12...

1. These topics are covered during students 12th grade year in U.S. Government. Special attention is given to the U.S. and Nebraska Constitution. While addressed, the U.S. Declaration of Independence is also covered, but is addressed in greater detail in 8th grade.
2. World History, American History II, and U.S. Government cover the advantages and disadvantages of each form of government that have taken place throughout history. Comparisons are made to current political systems and similarities and differences are examined.
3. U.S. Government instructs students on the importance of voting not only at a national level, but also state and local levels. Students are taken to local county government day where they learn about local government. When world events occur they are compared to U.S. Government and what actions would take place.
4. Current events are discussed as they happen. These events are discussed on a historical basis, and attention is paid on putting events into a historical perspective.