Renwick district’s mission statement is more than words on the wall.

Or a phrase on paper.

It’s our goal: Prepare all students to be college and career ready for the 21st century and it drives our staff each and every day.

This challenge we strive to meet year in and year out is not a new concept. However, I wanted to revisit the topic this month because the mantra does not solely serve as a mission—but action.

This fall, our Career and College Readiness programs once again have a number of Renwick high school students placed in college internships and job shadows, bolstering on-the-job training and career mindfulness.

And when those students aren’t getting a first-hand look at a profession, they’re having the opportunity to visit with local professionals and sharpen soft skills through “Conversations Over Coffee.”

We’ll continue to forge even stronger relationships with professionals on November 20 as we host a “Lunch and Learn” to seek additional ways we can “partner” with area businesses to help them train and secure their future workforce with our outstanding Renwick students. Andale High School Career Instructor Kaylie Bergkamp and Garden Plain High School Career Instructor Gina Clark will present the story of how the placement of students in more than 50 internships and 150+ job shadows over the course of the past three years have helped area businesses hone local talent and engage prospective employees. Business owners who are interested can call the district office at 444.2165 to RSVP by Nov. 15. We are thankful to the area businesses and patrons who offer these opportunities and join us in the preparation of students for career success.

While the mission is not new, our dedication and the way we address the challenge continues to grow and adapt to meet the ever changing needs of our students as they seek out future career paths. And that’s much more than just words.

That’s a mission in motion.

— Superintendent Mindy Bruce
BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

- Members approved the consent agenda, which included approval of personnel and supplemental contracts.
- Approved the payment of bond invoices in the amount of $441,123.29.
- Approved the purchase of a 2019 Dodge Mini Van in the amount of $21,908.15; and a 2020 Ford Transit Wagon in the amount of $28,770.00.
- Approved the disposal of Bus #35 and two 1995 Chevrolet Astro Vans.
- Approved the resolution authorizing litigation against manufacturers, distributors and sellers of electronic cigarettes and vaping products. USD 267 is one of several school districts in the state who have joined the litigation, said Superintendent Mindy Bruce. “It’s important to take a stand against the companies who market these products to youth because we care about the health and well being of our students. We are also concerned by the amount of time our administrators are having to spend on disciplinary issues that arise from the use of nicotine products.” There is no cost to the district.
- The next regular Board Meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., Monday, December 9 at Garden Plain High School. Meetings are open to the public.

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Each month during the school year, the Board of Education of Renwick USD 267 recognizes employees who have excelled in various roles. The following honorees for October were honored at the November 11 BOE meeting:

- Elementary Certified Staff: Hailey Hall, Colwich Elementary School
- Secondary Certified Staff: Janelle Geist, Andale High School
- Elementary Classified Staff: Wendy Haynie Cosby, Andale Elementary School
- Secondary/District Office Classified Staff: Gwen Martin, bus driver and paraprofessional

SMES STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE ‘OG’

The special guests of the November BOE meeting put on quite a show.

SMES kindergarten and third grade students showed their “OG” skills.

Orton Gillingham is a multi-sensory approach to phonics, noted SMES Principal Chris White.

“It was originally designed to help students with dyslexia, but we are using with kindergarteners at their level and on through the third grade level as well,” she said. "In order for our teachers to train in OG, they take two weeks out of their summer." White said they have five teachers who took it last year -- and some have taken it before.

Nicole Trujillo, SMES kindergarten teacher, took the students through the alphabet, there they gave responded with letter sounds and action sequences to master the phonics of each letter.

"Your brain is a muscle," Trujillo said. "The more repetition, the stronger it gets. It's important to do it and do it correctly with as many senses as you can.”

Alayna Klausmeyer’s third graders apply OG by coding -- which is taking apart words by letter sound.

“They learn how to break down big words and not only help spell it, write it and read it.”

The students modeled how they work on vowel sounds, blending, and decode in classroom.

"It's neat to watch them take what they learned in kindergarten and apply it now," she said.