

# BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL 2025-2026



# CCCC President Amber Knoettgen's look into the 2025 fall semester

BY OLIVIA BERGMEIER  
Concordia Blade-Empire

In many college towns, residents will talk about the sometimes quiet atmosphere of June and July with the students away on summer break. But, just last week, student orientation began at Cloud County Community College (CCCC) and welcomed new students onto its campus.

This time of year is often quite anticipated by the college's students, with class schedules, new roommates and extracurriculars filling the average day. Some residents may feel anticipation as well, with an inflow of new faces into the community, alongside a bit of extra traffic.

For CCCC President Amber Knoettgen, this is a time of year she anticipates with excitement.

"The campus truly comes to life — with students moving in, the first day of classes, and a full calendar of events and activities kicking off the school year," Knoettgen said. "It's new beginnings

for our new students, renowned momentum for returning students and connections with not only faculty and staff, but our broader community that creates a noticeable shift in energy."

These events and activities include Thor 44, the ever-popular Halloween Haunted Forest, and a special one set for early in the semester — the college's 60th anniversary.

From 4:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 21, the college will host a 60th Anniversary celebration at the CCCC Technical Education and Innovation Center, 120 East College Drive in Concordia.

This Birthday Bash will include free activities like bounce houses, pony rides, yard games and



face painting, while providing popcorn, cupcakes and fun drinks to attendees. Food trucks will also be available during the event.

As for the more statistically-focused readers,

Knoettgen said that the college experienced a 2% increase in its enrollment for full-time students, which is 0.4% higher than the state's average, in 2024.

"We are optimistic that we will experience another increase this year," Knoettgen said.

Knoettgen works with multiple faculty members alongside the college's board of trustees, which includes chair Dave Garnas, vice-chair Kevin Muff, Jesse Pounds, Amber Hanson, Kevin Pounds and Richard Hubert.

The administrative staff alongside Knoettgen at CCCC includes CCCC Vice President for Academic Affairs Brandon Galm, Vice President for Administrative Services Ceasar Wood, Vice President for Student Services Brandt Hutchinson, Administrative Assistant Samantha Pounds, and Attorney Justin Ferrell.

According to Knoettgen, she works closely with all of these faculty members and elected officials to overcome the challenges they encounter each year, from funding to facilities.

"Every challenge we face is approached as a team," Knoettgen said. "I'm extremely grateful to work alongside a talented group of leaders."

With this group by her side and a full campus, Knoettgen said she's excited about the upcoming school year, stating, "It's going to be Cloud's best year yet!"

To learn more about CCCC and its programs, visit its website at [www.cloud.edu](http://www.cloud.edu).

## Welcome to a new school year!

### Dear Staff, Faculty, and Parents

As we begin this next chapter together, we want to extend a warm welcome to each of you. To our dedicated staff and faculty—both returning and new—thank you for the passion and commitment you bring to our schools. And to our parents and families, thank you for your continued partnership and support. We're excited to have you on this journey with us.

We know that new beginnings are challenging. This year brings many new faces, fresh ideas, and changes across our district. Let's offer one another patience, grace, and understanding as we settle into the rhythm of the year.

We encourage open dialogue and collaboration, and we also ask that communication follows the appropriate chain of command. This helps ensure clarity, consistency, and the respectful resolution of concerns. When we all work within these channels, we can more effectively support one another and our students.

Our shared goal is clear: to give our students—and our district—the best school year possible. When we work together with empathy, trust, and a unified focus, there's nothing we can't accomplish.

Thank you for being an essential part of our school community. Here's to a successful and inspiring year ahead!

Warm regards,  
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# Dreams do come true

## DeBauche, USD 333's new superintendent

BY CYNTHIA WILSON  
Concordia Blade-Empire

This year, a long-time teacher's dream came true—to work as a superintendent for a school district. Could it get any better? What about working that position in the same town he grew up in? This is what happened to Thomas DeBauche.

DeBauche accepted the role of Concordia Unified School District 333's (USD 333) superintendent position for the 2025-2026 school year.

Born and raised in Concordia, DeBauche graduated from Concordia Junior-Senior High School in 2003. He then went on to play football at Kansas Wesleyan University, but finished his undergraduate degree in secondary education from Kansas State University in 2008.

DeBauche went on to Fort Hays State University, where he received his master's in educational leadership and administration in 2015.

Last year, DeBauche finished his training at the district level and earned his license to work as a district superintendent.

For the past 18 years, DeBauche worked for Clay County's Unified School District 379 (USD 379). He started as a teacher, instructing English and social studies at the high school level.

For the majority of DeBauche's career, though, he worked at the middle school in Clay Center. First, as an English teacher, and then eventually assistant principal. He coached football, baseball and basketball and eventually became athletic director.

DeBauche then was appointed principal at Wakefield K-12 School in the USD 379 school district.

Just before accepting the role of superintendent at USD 333, DeBauche was the assistant director of special education in the USD 379 district office in Clay

County.

DeBauche started as superintendent of USD 333 on July 1, and he's ready for the new school year to begin.

When asked what strengths he can bring to Concordia, DeBauche said, "My ability to build relationships and to treat people the right way. But, with my background, seeing education through multiple lenses—whether it was my time as principal to my time in special education—the different levels of experience and leading create strengths to be a good leader. It is important to have a view from multiple angles as an educator."

DeBauche mentioned that for his first year as superintendent for Concordia USD 333, he wants to spend time getting to know people again—to re-establish those relationships. He said, "I don't want to come in and change everything we do in the first week that I am here, I want to really see how things are going first; to use my expertise and experience to make effective changes when it's necessary."

Since accepting the superintendent job, DeBauche has been commuting to Concordia for work. He just recently was able to move his wife of 16 years, Nancy, and his two sons, Eli, who is 8 years old, and Tyson, who is 11 years old, to Concordia.

DeBauche is excited for this new chapter of life. He said, "I am very thankful that [my kids] get to grow up in the same small town I did. I like the small town, but being on the highway, we have a lot of things most towns our size don't have. [My family] is excited for even just a Walmart - there isn't one in Clay Center."

DeBauche said that and all the other teachers and administration are working hard to make this a great school year at USD 333.



# Welcome Back, Clifton-Clyde Eagles!

## Get Ready for an Exciting New Year!

Art Baker, the superintendent and high school principal for Clifton-Clyde USD 224, is excited for the new school year. "We've got 20 freshmen coming in - that's about one-quarter of our whole school," he said. "But we have returned all of our certified staff; our core group of teachers is back again. That kind of consistency with our staff and administration is very good for the kids and the school as a whole."

Baker is entering his 10th year at the helm of USD 224, and he said he wouldn't want to be anywhere else. "We have good kids here, good families, and good community relations. We have a great relationship with the board and the teachers' association. I think we're really fortunate here, so we're really excited for the new school year."

Baker said that one key aspect of the school's performance comes from the students themselves. "We have a lot of student leadership here. A good example is the 20 freshmen coming in. They've never gone through a lunch period here; they'll be going into these classrooms for the first time. Our student leaders will step up and help those freshmen."

On the sports side of things, Baker is also pleased that almost all the coaches from last year will be returning. "We have all of our fall sports head coaches

back this year. We have a new basketball coach and some assistant coaches, but here again, we have that consistency, not just with the coaches but with their systems. That'll be very good for the students. We lost some great athletes to graduation, but we should be very competitive again this year."

Baker is heavily invested in the community. He's not just a school administrator - he's also an enthusiastic dad for his children in all their endeavors. His oldest daughter, Calyn, will be a senior this year. Last year she made the 2024-25 TVL All-Academic team, finished second at state in the discus, and took fourth in the shot put. "I go to everything anyway, but getting to watch my own kids compete is great, too. I've got another daughter who will be an eighth grader this year, and my little guy is starting fifth grade."

Baker is eager for the new school year, but he also looks beyond the next few years. "I really want to work on our longevity here. We have a lot of alumni who work for the school system in some capacity, and I want to keep that going. So I always ask myself: How do we remain viable so our grandchildren can go to school here? This is a great place to live and work, and I will do everything I can to keep it that way for future generations."



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# USD 333 welcomes new teachers and administration

Concordia Sschool District 333 will have 21 new staff members for the upcoming 2025-26 school year.

New staff members are:



**Jeff Benyshek**

My name is Jeff Benyshek and I am excited to start my first year as a 5th Grade teacher at Concordia Middle School. I previously taught math in grades 7-12 for 3 years. During that time, I enjoyed coaching Volleyball, Basketball & Football.

I was born and raised in Belleville, KS and graduated proudly as a BHS Buffalo. After high school, I graduated with my Associate's Degree from Cloud County Community College, then transferred to Kansas State, earning my Bachelor's Degree in Social Science. A few years ago, I decided to go back to school and enrolled at Fort Hays State University. I did some substitute teaching while coaching football & basketball at Clifton-Clyde Middle School.

My wife Kristi and I have been married for over 20 years and have 3 children. Our oldest daughter Allissa teaches first grade, our son Bricen attends Kansas State University, and our youngest daughter Catelin is a senior at Concordia Jr./Sr. High School. We also have 2 grandchildren. I enjoy seeing children get excited about learning. In my spare time, you can find me at one of my kid's events or watching sports.



**Mackenzie Bowers**

My name is Mackenzie Bowers and I am the 6-12 Vocal teacher at USD 333.

Many members of the community may recognize me as I was a student teacher under the previous choir director, Kelly Knedler. I subbed for the district in the spring, and was approached by Chad Eshbaugh when the position became open at the end of the 2025 school year.

I graduated from Rock Creek Jr/Sr High School in 2018 and from Fort Hays State University in December of 2024.

I can't wait to work with the amazingly talented kids here in USD 333 and continue to bring music to the community.

I have an identical twin sister who also went to Fort Hays, got her degree in music, and is now teaching band in Hoisington, KS!



**Liam Cunningham**

My name is Liam Cunningham, and I will be teaching 11th grade English/Language Arts.

I completed my first year of teaching 8th grade English in Winfield, Kansas after graduating. I moved to the area to marry my soon-to-be wife!

I graduated from Medicine Lodge High School in 2020 and Southwestern College in 2024.

I'm looking forward to teaching high school for the first time!

Something fun to know about me is that my middle name (Hendrix) comes from the famous guitar player.



**Amber Farha**

My name is Amber Farha and I am teaching 2nd grade this year!

I worked at CES last year as a LCNCK Paraprofessional in preschool. Even though I absolutely loved my time as a paraprofessional, I felt called to take the next step and lead my own classroom. Moving to 2nd grade gives me the opportunity to grow as an educator while continuing to make a difference in students' lives in new and exciting ways.

I am looking forward to being a part of a supportive school community, building strong relationships with students and families, and growing professionally. I am excited to contribute to a team that's so passionate about helping kids learn and thrive!

Something interesting about me is that I ran a home daycare for 13 years while raising 5 boys. It gave me a deep understanding of child development and a heart for helping kids feel safe, seen, and supported.

My family includes my husband, Spencer and our five energetic, fun-loving boys: Macon, Jaden, Carson, Brevin, and Banks. They keep life busy and full of love. They are my biggest cheerleaders and the heart of everything I do!



**Thomas (Tom) Flax**

I will be a 7-12 PE Teacher.

I spent the last 6 years teaching at Minneapolis JH/HS. I have also taught in the Herington, Solomon and Southern Cloud School districts.

I graduated from TMP-Marian HS in 1999, undergrad degree was from Kansas Wesleyan University in 2005, I also have my masters degree in Building Leadership from FHSU.

I have had the opportunity to work with several coaches this summer on the basketball court or in the weight room. Seeing how the athletes put in work has me excited for the school year. The passion and the energy the coaches have shown in helping the student athletes get better has me looking forward to the opportunity to work with them as well.

I come from a large family. I have nine siblings and my wife and I also have a large family with five children of our own.

My family consists of my wife Annetta, five children-Ryan, Freshman at FHSU, Jett, 10th grade, Ty, 8th grade, Teagan, 7th grade, and Amree, 4th grade and we have a dog named Cody.



**Mirra Flesher**

Mirra Flesher, and I am a 2nd grade teacher.

I just graduated from Fort Hays State University in December of 2024, this will be my first year teaching.

I went to Salina South High school and graduated in 2019, and I went to Fort Hays and graduated from there in December of 2024.

I am excited to work with my awesome grade level team and getting to build connections with the students.

I am a very family oriented person, I love to hang out with my family. I also am a huge animal lover with 2 dogs of my own. Sampson, a golden-doodle, and Boots, who is a Boxer.



**Chrissy Henderson**

My name is Chrissy Henderson and I am teaching English 9, Graphic Design 1, and Digital Media Applications. Prior to this position, I served as the Concordia High School JAG instructor for three years. I am looking forward to creative new ways to engage with students. My husband, Scot, owns an accounting firm with several locations. We have three children: Andrew, Eli, and Isley.



**Allan Jackson**

I graduated from Concordia high school in 2002 and attended North Central Kansas Technical college and graduated in 2004.

I entered the Automotive field immediately and repaired vehicles new and old throughout the years. My wife is Anna Jackson. We have 4 kids who attend both the elementary school and junior/senior high school. We recently started a business called Warehouse 315 venue and events.

I love to work on classic vehicles and keep them on the road for everyone to enjoy.

I will be teaching auto mechanics and welding at the Jr. Sr. High school with Dan Hyman. I am looking forward to help kids learn about vehicles and maintenance, and skills they can carry with them through life.



**Mistie Knox**

Mistie Knox, Assistant Principal at Concordia Elementary School.

I worked in higher education for six years before spending the next ten years in K-12 education as a school counselor. During my master's program, I also completed a fourth-grade classroom practicum to fulfill teaching experience requirements. Most recently, I served at the Kansas Board of Regents in Topeka, leading statewide initiatives between K-12 and higher education.

I graduated from Beloit Jr/Sr High School before attending Fort Hays State University, where I earned a bachelor's degree and a Master of Science in Counseling Services. I also completed Building Leadership coursework to obtain my administrative endorsement. I am currently a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership at Kansas State University.

I'm looking forward to building meaningful relationships with students, staff, and families, and supporting a safe, inclusive learning environment where everyone can grow and thrive.

I attended elementary school in Concordia, so returning in a leadership role truly feels like coming full circle. During the final year of my master's degree program, I completed my K12 practicum and internship in Concordia, substitute taught, and also served as one of the high school cheerleading coaches.

My husband and I have four children, two in grade school and two older children. We live on a farm where we raise horses, cattle, chickens, and dogs, along with various 4-H animals during the summer.



**Jayln Mettlen**

My name is Jayln Mettlen and my position is Concordia Elementary School Title Teacher

I completed my social work internship at Liberal Public Schools at Meadowlark Elementary before working as a permanency specialist St. Francis Ministries in Hays Kansas and then moved to Hutchinson Kansas and worked in the agriculture industry at Agtrax as a customer support representative. I moved to Concordia in March 2025.

I graduated from Colby High school in 2019. I graduated from Fort Hays State University with a bachelors in Social Work in 2022.

I am looking forward to working with young people and being a positive person in their lives. I'm also excited to meet new people and work with a great group of educators.

I am a twin, my sister and I were born nine minutes apart and she is one of my best friends.

I have a cat named Marjorie who is three years old. She is a feisty calico who loves attention and lots of treats.



**Brian Myers**

Executive Director of Curriculum.

I have spent the past 20 years in Dodge City Public Schools as a mathematics instructor, Department Chair and Assistant Principal. During that time I have lead curriculum alignment and adoption for mathematics.

I graduated from Minneapolis High School in 1998 so this is sort of a home coming for me and I am excited to be back in the area. I then attended Kansas State where I received my bachelors of science in education with an emphasis in mathematics. I received my Masters in Education from Emporia State in 2010.

I am impressed with the reception I have received, it is great to have that small town greeting!

I love to cook, and am constantly trying new recipes.

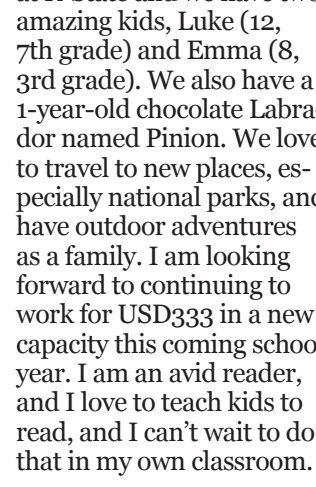


**Angie Petersen**

Hi, my name is Angie Peterson, and I am a sixth-grade teacher, including English, language arts and Social Studies teacher for the 2025-2026 school year.

I have spent the last 3 school years at Concordia Elementary School as a Title Reading Paraeducator. Before that, I was a stay-at-home mother and before that, I did a LOT of other things! I grew up in Udall, Kansas, which is a tiny place southeast of Wichita. I graduated from Udall High School in 1999 and went on to earn a dual bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Kansas State University in 2004. I am currently working toward my master's degree in Elementary Education through Fort Hays State University.

My husband, Michael Peterson, and I met while at K-State and we have two amazing kids, Luke (12, 7th grade) and Emma (8, 3rd grade). We also have a 1-year-old chocolate Labrador named Pinion. We love to travel to new places, especially national parks, and have outdoor adventures as a family. I am looking forward to continuing to work for USD333 in a new capacity this coming school year. I am an avid reader, and I love to teach kids to read, and I can't wait to do that in my own classroom.



**Karalee Pounds**

My name is Karalee Pounds. I will be teaching 5th grade English, Language Arts and Science. I have been teaching for 12 years. I spent my first 3

years teaching Preschool/Pre-K at Cradle to Crayons in Moundridge and my last 9 years at Southern Cloud-Miltonvale Elementary in various grade level settings.

I graduated from Linn High School in 2007. I began my collegiate journey at Cloud County Community College, where I graduated in 2009 and then transferred to K-State, graduating with an Elementary Education degree in 2011.

I am looking forward to meeting lots of new people (staff, students, and families), as well as, being able to instill my love for learning to a whole new group of students.

In my free time, I love to create things, especially home décor signs and door hangers.

I have been married almost 13 years to my husband, Jesse, and we have a cat named Mittens.



**Andrea Rairden**

Andrea Rairden, Assistant Principal at Concordia Jr/Sr High School.

This is the beginning of my 22nd year in education; 13 years as an English teacher in three different 1A/2A schools, 8 years as a high school counselor at Salina Central High School, and now assistant principal at Concordia Jr/Sr High School.

I graduated from Wilson High School in 1998, Wilson, KS. After that I attended Colby Community College then transferred to Kansas State University and earned my BS in 2003. In 2018 I completed a master's degree for School Counseling from Fort Hays State University. In August of 2024 I earned a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Kansas State University.

I came from a small school setting and then experienced what it was like in a large school. While I learned a lot in Salina, I am excited to be able to get to know everyone in this building and help make our staff and students feel like they belong in a place that really makes a difference in people's lives.

I love traveling and new experiences. I've been skydiving and am Advanced Water Certified for SCUBA diving. (We took a 2-tank dive on our wedding day!)

I was recently married in Key West to Ryan in June 2025. Together we have Barley, an English Mastiff, and Jimmy Buffett, a very mixed-breed mini-Aussie. I have three adult children and one step-daughter who is a junior at Ell-Saline High School.



**Kora Rundus**

My name is Kora Rundus and I will be teaching 1st grade.

Before moving home, I worked as a 2nd grade teacher at Meadowlark Elementary School in Andover, KS.

Continued NEW USD 333 on

# New USD 333

Continued from page 4B

I graduated from Concordia Junior/Senior High School in 2017. After high school, I attended Cloud County Community College where I graduated with my associates degree in 2019. I earned my Bachelor's of Science in Elementary Education in 2021 from Kansas State University.

I am looking forward to returning home and teaching in the school system that helped to shape me.



**Sarah Santos**

Sarah Santos: Middle School Counselor.

I have been a social worker for over 20 years primarily working in child welfare and the last 5 years I have been in the mental health field.

Concordia High School 2001, Fort Hays State University 2005 and my masters from Washburn in 2009.

I am so excited to get to work with kids in an educational setting, but still getting to focus on social and emotional learning!

My husband and I own a Filipino Food Truck called The Kawali. My husband, Chris, my son Sylar (who will be in the 2nd grade) and our two dogs, Lolly and Eevee



**Cassidy Sicard**

Cassidy Sicard. I am the middle school special education teacher. I graduated from Pike Valley High School in 2014. I graduated from Fort Hays State University in May of 2025. I have been a para for LCNCK for the past 7 years. I am looking forward to teaching the young minds in the community. Something interesting about me is that I grew up near a small town 6 miles from Lovewell Lake. I am married to Nathan Sicard. We have a dog, Luna and a cat, Patches.



**Leah Stahlman**

Leah Stahlman 7th grade math teacher at CJSHS.

I graduated from Sabetha High School in 2021. I graduated from Kansas State University in December of 2024 with a Bachelor's in Secondary Education with a minor in Math.

I am looking forward to getting to know my students and pushing them to be the best they can be. I am also excited to be a part of USD 333 and get to know more people in the community!

I like to collect snow globes when I travel. I was selected as a Kansas Teacher of Promise by the Kansas State University College of Education.

I recently got married in July to Cole Stahlman. We have a Corgi dog named Maverick.



**Samantha Viereck**

My name is Samantha Viereck, and I'm excited to be stepping into the role of 3rd/4th Grade Interrelated SPED Teacher.

For the past two years, I've had the privilege of serving USD 333 as a Paraeducator, and I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to now grow within this district and contribute even more to our amazing students.

I'm a proud graduate of Sanger High School in Sanger, Texas (Class of 2001), and I'm currently continuing my education through Wichita State University.

Education may not have always been the first chapter in my career journey—I've worn many hats over the years, including that of a professional chef—but my passion for helping others has always been at the heart of everything I do.

I live here in Concordia with my two wonderful children: Clayton, who is a senior this year, and Addison, who will be starting 6th grade. We truly love this community, and I feel so blessed to be a small part of shaping the future through the work we do in our schools.

I often joke with my kids that I was the student who could never quite decide what I wanted to be when I grew up—but deep down, I think I always knew it would be something that allowed me to lift others up.

I'm honored to begin this next chapter at USD 333 and am truly looking forward to the journey ahead.



**Rebecca Willoughby**

I worked for 1 year as an ITV Aide (interactive television) for USD 271 (Stockton), then taught Spanish for 6 years (2 yrs Jr/Sr high, 6 yrs Sr high). I got married and sought

the Spanish teacher position for this coming school year.

I graduated from Stockton High School in 1997; Bachelor's in Spanish Interpretation from Fort Hays State University in 2007; Master's in secondary education from Grand Canyon University in 2020.

I am looking forward to working with the youth and helping them to become the best they can be.

I'm good at making candy posters and, in fact, was once hired to make one for a wedding.

Husband - Troy Willoughby, son - Pierce Gray, daughter - Sienna Gray, Step-daughter - Elizabeth Willoughby, Cats - Shadow & Pablo.



**Tessa Yungeberg**

My name is Tessa Yungeberg, and I'm so excited to be joining the Concordia community! I recently moved here from Salina, where I taught third grade for five wonderful years. This year, I'm thrilled to be stepping into a new adventure as a sixth grade teacher at Concordia Middle School!

I earned both my Bachelor's in Elementary Education and my Master's as an Instructional Specialist from Emporia State University (Go Hornets!). Teaching is truly my passion, and I can't wait to meet my new students and start an amazing year together.

Outside the classroom, I stay busy with my energetic two-year-old son, we love being outside, going on little adventures, and spending time with our favorite people.

Thank you so much for the warm welcome! I'm really looking forward to a fantastic school year ahead!

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# A few historic highlights of USD 333 Board of Education meetings

BY OLIVIA BERGMEIER  
Concordia Blade-Empire

As much as modern communities may think they're quite separated from the past, and in many ways, communities have grown and changed, but there seems to be one ubiquitous human experience — parking.

"Actually, the first entry in 1872 was about where and how to 'park' horses that the students rode to school," said Lora Watson, a Cloud County community member and Frank Carlson Library board member. "And later, they had to hire a man to deal with the manure."

This first entry references the Unified School District 333 (USD 333) Board of Education meeting minutes from the late 1800s, which Watson compiled into a historical encyclopedia of these meetings, and chose a few of her favorite excerpts to share.

One of the observations she had of all of this information was the never ending challenge of updating technology. From typewriters to bell and clock systems, the school had to adapt to the changing times.

"They had to replace Victrolas with

phonographs in the music department," Watson said. "(The board) had lively debates about allowing radios in the buildings... and they dealt with film projectors and later VCRs."

That rings true into modern times, with USD 333 recently updating its sound and board system in its gymnasium this summer.

Outside the discussions that directly impacted students, tough decisions around staffing and building use regularly appeared in the school district's meeting records.

According to Watson, World War I and World War II impacted the local school system's access to staff members. Various military branches pined for any able-bodied man they could get, drawing many away from education systems.

"It was fascinating to realize how history affects even little local school board meetings," Watson said. "During times of war they had to release teachers who enlisted or were drafted, then they had to find teachers to fill the positions, sometimes in the middle of the year. During World War II, they had to overlook the policy that said married

women could not teach in order to have enough teachers."

Concordia Junior/Senior High School's (CJSHS's) building today was completed in 1929, but its construction faced a few challenges before completion.

Watson said that according to her records of the board meetings, contractors had quite the mishap with the school's foundation and basement.

"When they started building the 'new' high school in 1929, they dug the basement and started building the frames for the cement footings. However, an engineer inspected and said that there wasn't enough bedrock where they were building," Watson said. "So they had to fill it all in and move everything 20 to 25 feet east where there was bedrock."

According to Watson, residents and visitors can still see the outcome of that filled in space, which is located on the west side of the historic building that includes a grassy slope. For another moment of school facility development, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Work Progress Administration (WPA) project built the stone retaining wall that lies on the

south side of the high school football field, which still stands today.

Watson had a favorite entry beyond all of these historic beats, which included a misplaced joke between students.

"My very favorite board item was about a disciplinary action when three sophomore cheerleaders drank a bit out of a spiked cola drink at an away football game," Watson said. "They admitted that they knowingly drank from the cup, but they 'didn't know' that it was against the rules. The board didn't waiver, and they were going to be removed from the squad. But just then, a high school senior boy named Ike spoke up and admitted that he was the one who spiked the drink and offered it to them... Therefore, the board allowed the girls to stay on the squad."

She continued, "But it gets better! A year and a half later, one of the cheerleaders applied for early graduation. Her reason? She was going to marry Ike!"

It seems even as the world changes with technology, discoveries and other human advancements, humans can sometimes, be quite the creatures of habit.

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