

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 112
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016
9:00 A.M.

Advance public notice of the Board of Commissioners meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska, web site and emailed to the media on February 5, 2016.

Commissioners present: Roma Amundson, Chair; Todd Wiltgen, Vice-Chair; Bill Avery, Larry Hudkins and Deb Schorr

Others present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; David Derbin, Deputy County Attorney; Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk; and Kelly Lundgren, County Clerk's Office

NOTE: The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2016 was cancelled due to inclement weather. Agenda items were carried forward to the February 9th meeting with the exception of the public hearing on the request to vacate a portion of (old) South 54th Street between Hickman Road and the relocated South 54th Street. This public hearing was rescheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2016.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., the pledge of allegiance was recited and the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was announced.

1) MINUTES:

A. Approval of the minutes of the Board of Commissioners meeting held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Wiltgen seconded approval of the minutes. Avery, Hudkins, Wiltgen and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Approval of the minutes of the Board of Commissioners tour of Community Corrections, the Public Defender's Office and the Benesch Building (Crisis Center) held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016.

MOTION: Wiltgen moved and Avery seconded approval of the minutes. Hudkins, Wiltgen, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

2) CLAIMS: Approval of all claims process through February 9, 2016.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Avery seconded approval of the claims. Wiltgen, Avery, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Schorr was absent. Motion carried 4-0.

3) SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

A. 4-H Achievement Day – Tuesday, February 9, 2016 – Karen Wobig, Extension Educator, Unit Leader, Lancaster County Extension Office.

Karen Wobig, Extension Educator, Unit Leader, Lancaster County Extension Office, thanked the Board for their support and asked that they proclaim February 9, 2016 as 4-H Achievement Day. She noted there will be a banquet for all 4-H families to acknowledge and celebrate their achievements of the past year. Copies of the 2015 Lancaster County Impact Report were also distributed (Exhibit A).

Hudkins thanked Wobig for her continued dedication in promoting 4-H in Lancaster County.

Schorr arrived at 9:06 a.m.

The Deputy Clerk read the proclamation for the record.

B. Second Annual City-County Wellness Fair – Sue Eckley, Lancaster County Risk Manager; and Keerun Kamble, City Wellness Coordinator, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

Sue Eckley, Lancaster County Risk Manager introduced Keerun Kamble, City Wellness Coordinator, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. Kamble said the second annual City-County Wellness Fair will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. She said there will be approximately sixty displays and businesses covering a wide variety of topics. Kamble distributed a promotional flyer highlighting the event (Exhibit B).

4) NEW BUSINESS:

A. Resolution authorizing the installation of the following signs in Lancaster County: Install two "School Bus Stop Ahead" signs (S3-1) on North 148th Street; one 500 feet north of 601 North 148th Street for southbound traffic and one 500 feet south for northbound traffic; and install a "School Bus Stop Ahead" sign (S3-1) on Holdrege Street 500 feet east of 11400 Holdrege Street for westbound traffic. (R-16-0008)

Pam Dingman, County Engineer, said the signs are being installed per the request of the Waverly School District due to the high traffic volume.

MOTION: Wiltgen moved and Schorr seconded approval of the resolution. Wiltgen, Avery, Hudkins, Schorr and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Setting the salary of James Sieben, Deputy Public Defender, at \$60,305.44 effective February 8, 2016.

Paul Cooney, Deputy Public Defender, said James Sieben started with the Public Defender's Office on February 8, 2016 and is a graduate of the University of Nebraska, College of Law.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

MOTION: Schorr moved and Avery seconded approval of the salary. Wiltgen, Schorr, Hudkins, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Recommendation from the Purchasing Department and the County Sheriff to award a contract to Jones Automotive, Inc. for the supply and installation of emergency equipment for law enforcement vehicles. The estimated cost of the contract is \$80,000. (B-16-0003)

Jeff Bliemeister, Chief Deputy Sheriff, said the contract was an open bid process. He stated the Sheriff's Office continues to evaluate what is the most efficient and cost effective solution and will continue to have discussions with the County Engineer on an annual basis to determine if there is a more economical or resourceful process.

In response to Hudkins' inquiry, Bliemeister said the County Engineer did not submit a bid.

Avery asked if this was an extension of the previous contract with Jones Automotive. Bliemeister said last year's contract was "piggybacked" off the Omaha Police Department contract and it only included labor. He added through competitive pricing, Jones Automotive is able to buy equipment at a lower price so both labor and parts are included in the current bid.

In response to Avery's question regarding the contract term, Bob Walla, Interim Purchasing Agent, stated the previous contract expired last November. He said it is a multi-year contract and the cost of materials can vary based on vendor price increases but the contract would have to be amended and approved in order to be completed.

Bliemeister explained that current equipment is evaluated and reused when possible. Walla noted the new cruisers are different models, thus, the conversion of equipment is not always possible.

Hudkins asked how many bids were received. Walla said Jones Automotive was the only responsive bid. Bliemeister added that other bids were actively sought.

Schorr questioned the difference in the total contract amount (\$80,000) versus the amount reflected to supply and install equipment in eight vehicles (\$58,704.24). Bliemeister said six cruisers were included in the budget and one additional cruiser was purchased with forfeited assets. Walla added the contract amount was based on eight vehicles to allow for additional work that may be needed throughout the year, i.e., a cruiser being damaged.

Dingman verified that the County Engineer's Office did not submit a bid due to the fact that these vehicles are needed quickly. She felt this contract was the most efficient solution this year and the two departments will continue to explore what is the best for the Lancaster County in the future.

Wiltgen noted that the County Engineer's Office is responsible for the maintenance of vehicles.

MOTION: Wiltgen moved and Schorr seconded approval of the recommendation. Schorr, Hudkins, Avery, Wiltgen and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- D. Recommendation from the Purchasing Department and the County Sheriff to award a bid to GovWare for seven (7) Panasonic Toughbooks. The cost of the purchase is \$23,975. (B-16-0004)**

Bliemeister stated the contract is for the annual purchase of mobile data terminals for cruisers.

MOTION: Wiltgen moved and Schorr seconded approval of the recommendation. Hudkins, Avery, Wiltgen, Schorr and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- E. Recommendation from the Purchasing Department and the County Engineer to award a contract to Christensen Bros, Inc. for replacement of County Bridge X-205 per specification 16-004. The response total is \$1,186,311.40. (B-16-0005)**

Dingman said the replacement of the bridge was included in last year's bridge and special road fund budget.

Schorr asked how traffic will be impacted during the construction process. Dingman said the bridge is located on Firth Road. A detour route will be posted on the County-City webpage as soon as it is determined.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Schorr seconded approval of the recommendation. Avery, Wiltgen, Schorr, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- F. Contract between Lancaster County and Enforcement Video, LLC d/b/a WatchGuard Video for law enforcement speed detection and video equipment for the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office. Term of the contract is from execution through March 31, 2017. Cost to the County is not to exceed \$55,000. (C-16-0064)**

Bliemeister said seven new cameras are being ordered for cruisers. Six will be paid for through the general expense budget and one with forfeited assets. The Sheriff's Office continues to work with the County Attorney's Office on additional funding options such as the STOP program.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Avery seconded approval of the contract. Wiltgen, Hudkins, Avery, Schorr and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- G. Agreement between Lancaster County and JEO Consulting Group, Inc. for a hydraulics and hydrology study of County Bridge N-114. The study is expected to run from February 3, 2016 through March 11, 2016. Cost of the study is \$8,500. (C-16-0065)**

Dingman said the study is being done in conjunction with the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department. She hoped the study would deem a box culvert as an appropriate solution for repair.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the agreement. Avery, Schorr, Wiltgen, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- H. Contract between the Board of Regents on behalf of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Lancaster County for evaluation of the gang intervention and intervention program "Operating Tipping Point". A final report will be completed by July 31, 2016. Funding is from the Office of Violence Prevention State Grant (#14-VP-5003) for a total of \$5,000.**

Sara Hoyle, Human Services Administrator, noted that there are 31 known gangs in Lincoln with 965 documented members – a significant increase in recent years. Hoyle said this evaluation is to ensure that the funds are being used wisely and the program is effective.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Schorr seconded approval of the contract. Hudkins, Wiltgen, Schorr, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- I. Contract between Matheson-Trigas, the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Building Commission for the annual service for rental and service of industrial gases. Term of the contract is one year from the date of execution. Cost to the County is not to exceed \$4,000.**

MOTION: Avery moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the contract. Schorr, Avery, Wiltgen, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- J. Grant contract between Lancaster County and Lincoln Public Schools in the amount of \$213,337 to provide funding for a Truancy Diversion Program and Restorative Justice Coordination at Park, Northeast and Lincoln High Schools and Goodrich and Culler Middle Schools. Term of the contract is July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.**

Hoyle introduced Judge Reggie Ryder who gave an overview of the Truancy Diversion Program (Exhibit C).

Schorr suggested Judge Ryder present this information at a future joint meeting with Lancaster County, the City of Lincoln and Lincoln Public School Board as well as at a Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) convention.

Avery inquired if this contract is the sole source of funding. Hoyle said funding is split 60/40 between Lincoln Public Schools and the County.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Wiltgen seconded approval of the grant contract. Avery, Hudkins, Schorr, Wiltgen and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- K. Amendment to County Contract C-14-0107 with Mid-Continent Safety LLC for the annual supply of personal protective equipment and first aid supplies. The amendment renews the agreement for an additional one-year term from February 29, 2016 to February 28, 2017. (C-16-0066)**

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Wiltgen seconded approval of the amendment. Hudkins, Schorr, Wiltgen, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- L. Amendment to County Contract C-15-0200 between Haworth, Inc., the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Building Commission for the annual requirements of office furniture and related services. Cost to the County is not to exceed \$20,000. Term of the contract is from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. (C-16-0067)**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the amendment. Schorr, Wiltgen, Avery, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- M. Amendment to County Contract C-15-0199 between Midwest Floor Covering, Inc., the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Building Commission, using cooperative purchasing with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, for floor covering materials on an as-needed basis. The amendment extends the agreement from March 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017. Cost to the County is not to exceed \$5,000. (C-16-0071)**

MOTION: Wiltgen moved and Avery seconded approval of the amendment. Wiltgen, Avery, Hudkins, Schorr and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- N. Amendment to County Contract C-15-0062 with Catering by Marlin's, Inc., d/b/a CBM Managed Services, to provide food service for various Lancaster County departments. The amendment reflects a 2.5% price increase according to the Midwest Region Consumer Price Index for Food Away From Home. (C-16-0072)**

Mike Thurber, Corrections Administrator, introduced Shane Sajnoha, Vice President of CBM Managed Services. Sajnoha gave an overview of CBM, a family owned business that provides food service to corrections departments throughout the country.

Schorr thanked CBM for its partnership with Lancaster County on various community fundraisers and inmate training programs.

MOTION: Wiltgen moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the amendment. Avery, Hudkins, Schorr, Wiltgen and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- O. Amendment to County Contract C-15-0051 between A Street Auto Parts, the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Building Commission for vehicle/equipment maintenance parts. The amendment extends the agreement from February 10, 2016 through February 9, 2017. Cost to the County for all vendors is not to exceed \$35,000. (C-16-0073)**

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Schorr seconded approval of the amendment. Hudkins, Schorr, Wiltgen, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- P. Amendment to County Contract C-15-0052 between Carquest Auto Parts, the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Building Commission for vehicle/equipment maintenance parts. The amendment extends the agreement from February 10, 2016 through February 9, 2017. Cost to the County for all vendors is not to exceed \$35,000. (C-16-0074)**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the amendment. Schorr, Wiltgen, Avery, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- Q. Amendment to County Contract C-15-0053 between Factory Motor Parts, the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Building Commission for vehicle/equipment maintenance parts. The amendment extends the agreement from February 10, 2016 through February 9, 2017. Cost to the County for all vendors is not to exceed \$35,000. (C-16-0075)**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Avery seconded approval of the amendment. Wiltgen, Avery, Hudkins, Schorr and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- R. Amendment to County Contract C-15-0054 between Utility Parts Service d/b/a NAPA Nebraska, the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Building Commission for vehicle/equipment maintenance parts. The amendment extends the agreement from February 10, 2016 through February 9, 2017. Cost to the County for all vendors is not to exceed \$35,000. (C-16-0076)**

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the amendment. Wiltgen, Schorr, Hudkins, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- S. Settlement agreement and release of claims with Jeffrey L. Fry. (C-16-0077)**

Dingman said the claim was a result of an incident where a County mower threw gravel and shattered a window of a residence.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Schorr seconded approval of the settlement agreement. Schorr, Hudkins, Avery, Wiltgen and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

- T. Request from James Stuart for refund of real property tax.**

Norm Agena, County Assessor, informed the Board that Mr. Stuart owns ten acres of land whereby six acres would qualify for agricultural use. Mr. Stuart applied for the greenbelt provision in 2008 and was denied based on the definition of the primary use of the parcel. Agena said state statutes were then changed in 2009. Mr. Stuart reapplied in 2014 and was granted greenbelt status for 2014 and 2015. Agena said Mr. Stuart is requesting reimbursement for the years 2009 to 2013 but there is no statutory provision that allows for such reimbursement, thus, he recommended denial of the request.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

James Stuart appeared and commented that he has contacted many elected officials for clarification of this matter. He added that he did not receive sufficient notice of the 2009 change in statute.

Hudkins said the County Board discussed with the Assessor's Office the interpretation of the law at that time. The Board reviewed many cases and tried to be diligent in determining what was considered a farm and what was primary use. He requested advice from the Lancaster County Attorney's Office as to what the correct procedure would be in this situation.

Ryan Swaroff, Deputy County Attorney, said there is no statutory provision to allow for Mr. Stuart's request. She clarified that the Nebraska Supreme Court affirmed the interpretation of the County Assessor's Office at the time the original greenbelt application was denied. The Legislature then implemented changes to the law the following year. Swaroff emphasized that the Assessor's Office has a duty to follow state statutes.

In response to Schorr's question regarding the procedure for applying for the greenbelt provision, Agena stated the information is included on the Lancaster County Assessor's website along with the necessary forms. He added the public can also request forms by calling the Assessor's Office.

Avery inquired if statutes are retroactive. Swaroff said they can be retroactive but are not in this particular instance.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded to deny the request based on the information provided by the County Attorney. Hudkins, Avery, Wiltgen, Schorr and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

5) **CONSENT ITEMS:** These are routine business items that are expected to be adopted without dissent. Any individual item may be removed for special discussion and consideration by a Commissioner or by any member of the public without prior notice. Unless there is an exception, these items will be approved as one with a single vote of the Board of Commissioners. These items are approval of:

A. Receive and place on file the following reports:

1. **County Engineer's quarterly report for October - December, 2015.**
2. **Assessor/Register of Deeds – January, 2016**
3. **Clerk of the District Court – January, 2016**
4. **County Clerk – January, 2016**

B. Setting of a public hearing on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 112 of the County-City Building (555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln) regarding automatic renewal of retail liquor licenses issued in Lancaster County and outside the corporate limits of any city, for which the County Clerk has received no protests.

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the consent items. Avery, Wiltgen, Schorr, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

6) **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Those wishing to speak on items relating to County business not on the agenda may do so at this time.

Gary Aldridge, 7112 S. 45th Street, Lincoln, NE 68516 provided an envelope of photos of Congressman Fortenberry to Commissioner Wiltgen (Exhibit D).

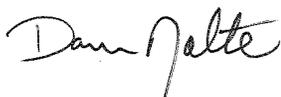
Aldridge commented on Legislative Bill (LB) 742 (Change county population thresholds) noting that Lancaster County is the only county to which the bill applies. He stated he is against the bill.

7) **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold a staff meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 8:30 a.m., in the Bill Luxford Studio (Room 113) of the County-City Building (555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln).
- B. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold their next regular meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 9:00 a.m., in Room 112 of the County-City Building (555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln) with the Board of Equalization immediately following.
- C. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 9:00 a.m., in Room 112 of the County-City Building (555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln) regarding a request to vacate a portion of (old) South 54th Street between Hickman Road and relocated South 54th Street.
- D. The County Commissioners can be reached at 402-441-7447 or commish@lancaster.ne.gov.
- E. The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners meeting is broadcast live. It is rebroadcast on Tuesdays (1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.), Wednesdays (12:00 a.m.-midnight) and Saturdays (3:30 p.m.) on 5 City-TV, Cable Channel 5. In addition, the meeting may be viewed on the internet at lancaster.ne.gov under 5 City-TV, Video on Demand or 5 City-TV on YouTube.

8) **ADJOURNMENT**

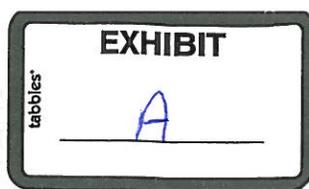
MOTION: Schorr moved and Wiltgen seconded to adjourn the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners meeting at 10:35 a.m. Wiltgen, Hudkins, Avery, Schorr and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte, County Clerk



2015 IMPACT REPORT **N** EXTENSION



2015 Lancaster County Impact Report

24,000 Youth Reached

Nebraska Extension's 4-H youth development program emphasizes science, agricultural literacy, healthy living and career development. In the past year, Lancaster County 4-H involved nearly:



- **1,017 club members,**
- **248 independent members,**
- **2,205 youth in after-school/summer programs which incorporated 4-H activities, and**
- **20,582 youth in 4-H school enrichment programs.**

Lancaster County Commissioner Larry Hudkins says, "It costs over \$300 a day to house a youth at the Youth Services Center and about \$30 per year per youth in 4-H. It's an easy choice for me as a county commissioner — pay now or pay later."



4-H Clover College

Up to \$5 Saved for Every \$1 Spent

The Nutrition Education Program (NEP) helps limited-resource families learn to prepare nutritious and safe foods while stretching their food dollars. Last year, NEP staff completed lessons with 426 enrolled adults and 7,692 youth. **Research has shown for every dollar of NEP funding, there is a projected health care cost savings of \$2.07–\$5.29.**



Nutrition Kits in Lincoln Public Schools

Ag Grants Totaling Nearly \$258,000

Extension Educator Tyler Williams's focus is on enhancing cropping system resiliency to climate variability. He is the only extension educator in Nebraska with a focus in climate. Tyler helped organize UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources' exhibit at Husker Harvest Days which focused on "Successfully Weathering Extremes." This year, he was the principal investigator or collaborator for four accepted **agriculture-related grants totaling nearly \$258,000.** Two of the grant projects will focus on climate education and communication efforts for agriculture over the next year.



Husker Harvest Days

Volunteers Worth Nearly \$500,000

In 2015, Extension benefited from an estimated 1,428 volunteers who helped extend the reach of Extension's programs, such as 4-H and Master Gardeners. The volunteers' estimated 24,126 total hours of service are **worth \$497,478 to our community** (based on Independent Sector's estimate of Nebraska's value of a volunteer hour in 2014 as \$20.62).



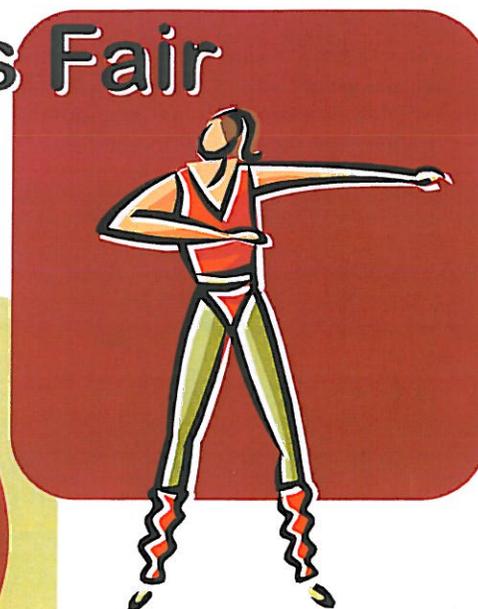
4-H Superintendents at Super Fair

Visit
lancaster.unl.edu
for more information.



444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A
Lincoln, NE 68528
402-441-7180 | lancaster@unl.edu

City and County Employee Wellness Fair 2016



Wednesday,
February 24th, 2016
10 am - 1:30 pm

City County Building
1st, 2nd, & 3rd
Lobby Floors

City of Lincoln and Lancaster County Departments invite you to attend the Employee Wellness Fair to promote health and wellness to all City and County Employees and their family and friends!

- **Multiple Door Prize Drawings!**
- Over 50 businesses throughout the Lincoln area will be there!
- **Visit with a variety of wellness vendors who will have information on physical activity, nutrition, stress management, plus more!**
- Quick and relaxing massages, healthy food samples and screenings such as heart assessments and hearing screenings will be available too!
- **This is a free event and all are welcome to attend.** (Please check with your supervisor to ensure coverage is maintained within your office/department.)
- Parking is available in the North Public Parking lot at 425 S 10th St.

Lancaster County Truancy Diversion Project



Judge Reggie L. Ryder

The Separate Juvenile Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska

rryder@lancaster.ne.gov

HOT BUTTON TOPICS OF TODAY

- Prison reform?
- Medicaid expansion?
- Taxes?
- Death penalty?

TRUANCY: WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- Truant youth have been found to be involved in criminal acts such as burglary, auto theft and vandalism.
- Communities with high rates of truancy are likely to have correspondingly high rates of daytime criminal activity.
- In the long term, the poorer educational and occupational attainment of formerly truant students is likely to increase for adult criminality and incarceration.

TWO PRIMARY PURPOSES FOR REDUCING TRUANCY:

- 1) Have all youth attend and be engaged in school so they will have successful and productive lives.
- 2) To increase citizen safety, both in the short term, through having students in school rather than out in the community during school hours, and in the long term, through school engagement and achievement leading to later adult responsibility and productivity.

FINANCIAL COST OF TRUANCY

- Approximately 1.3 million students who should have graduated in the U.S. in 2010, but failed to do so, will cost the nation nearly **\$337 billion** in lost income over the course of their lives.

FINANCIAL COST OF TRUANCY

- Each student who graduates from high school will save states an average of **\$13,706** in Medicaid and expenditures for uninsured care over the course of his or her lifetime. States could save more than **\$17 billion** if those young people earned their high school diploma.

FINANCIAL COST OF TRUANCY

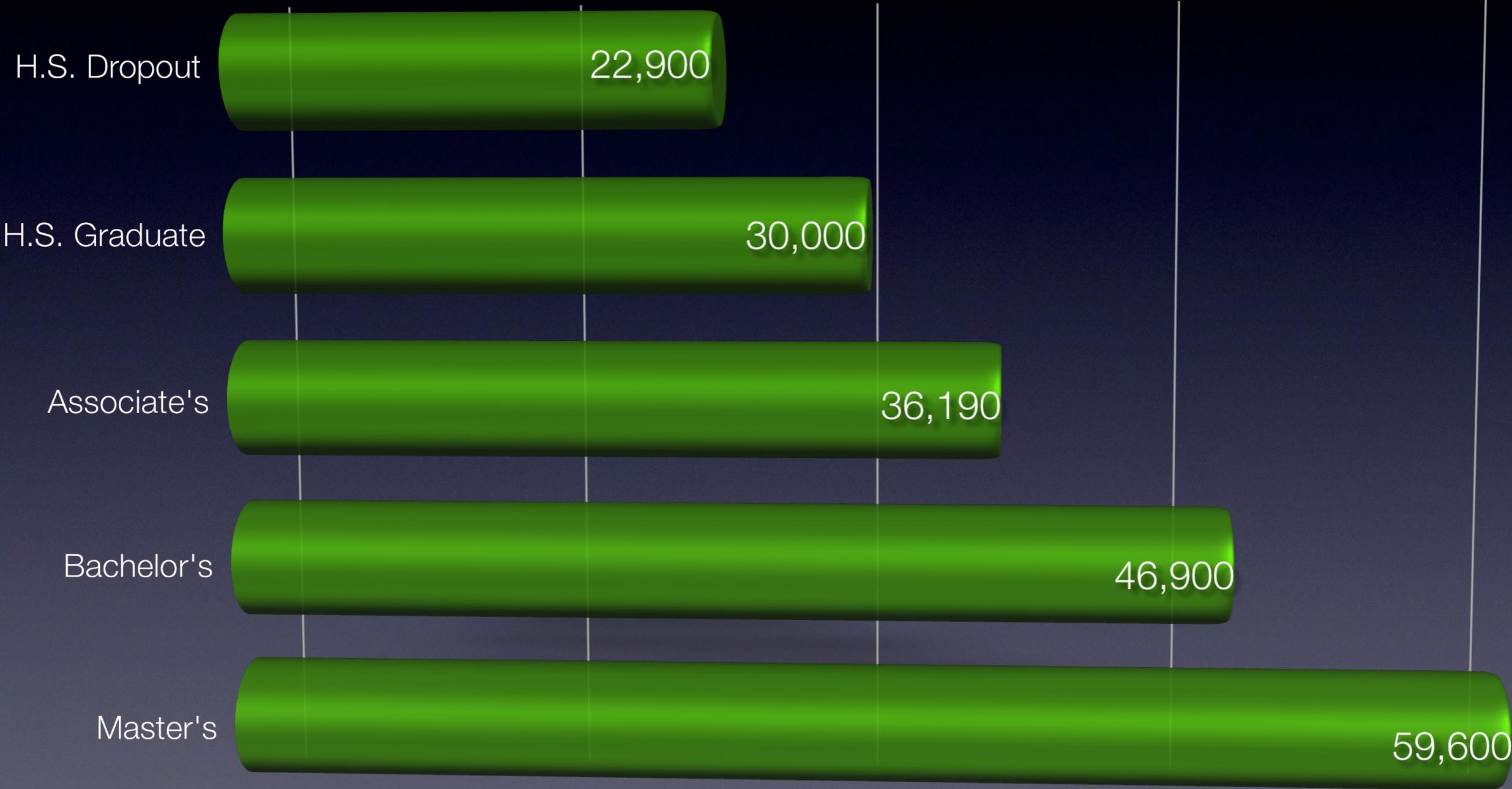
- Over the course of his or her lifetime, a single high school dropout costs the nation approximately **\$260,000** in lost earnings, taxes, and productivity.



FINANCIAL COST OF TRUANCY

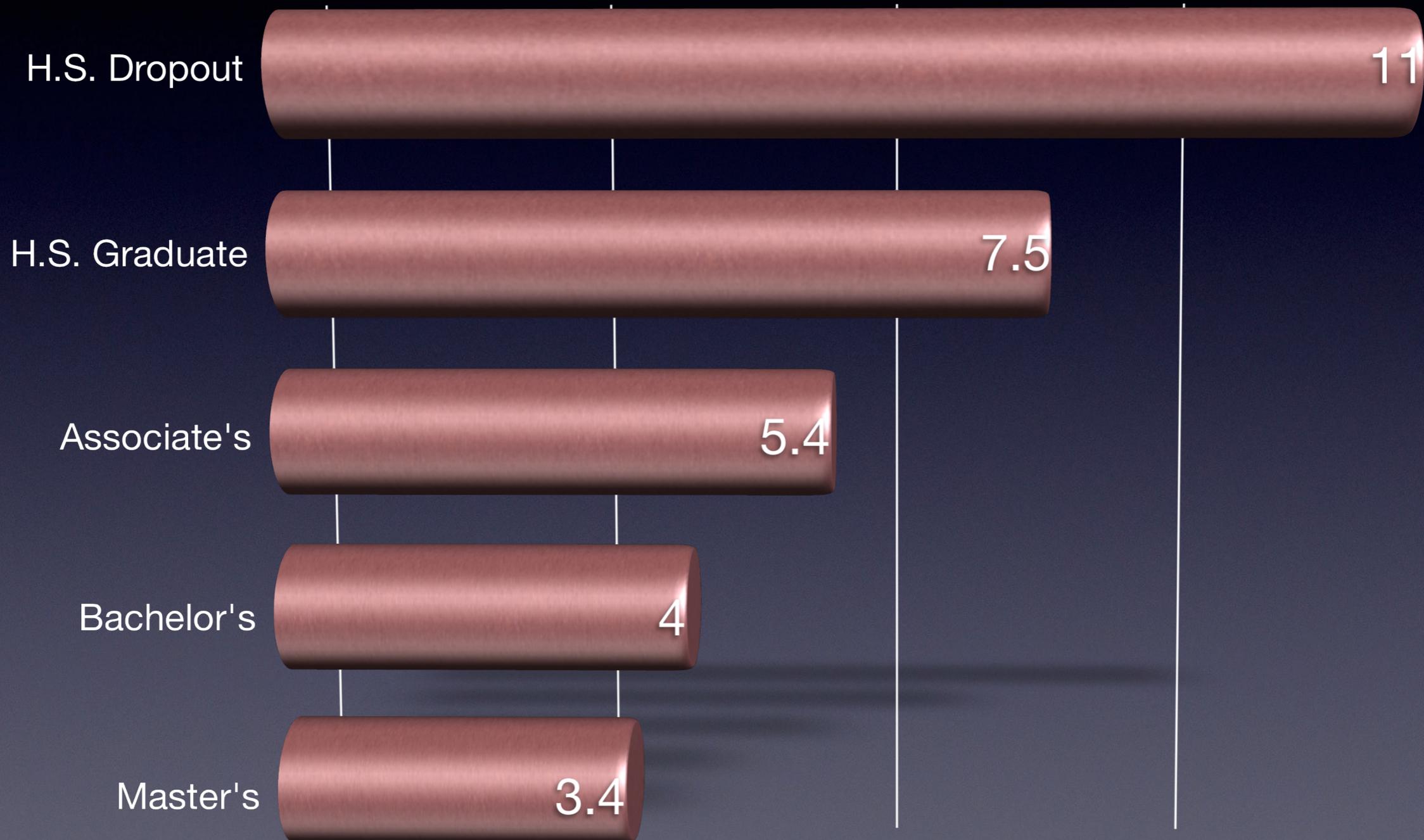
- **Nebraska** could save \$68.6 million in health care costs over the lifetime of *each class* of dropouts had they earned their diplomas.
- **Nebraska's** economy could see a combination of crime-related savings and additional revenue of about \$33 million each year if the *male high school graduation* rate increased by just 5%.

Average Annual Income by Educational Attainment for Young Adults



Source: National Center for Educational Statistics 2012

Unemployment Rate by Educational Attainment

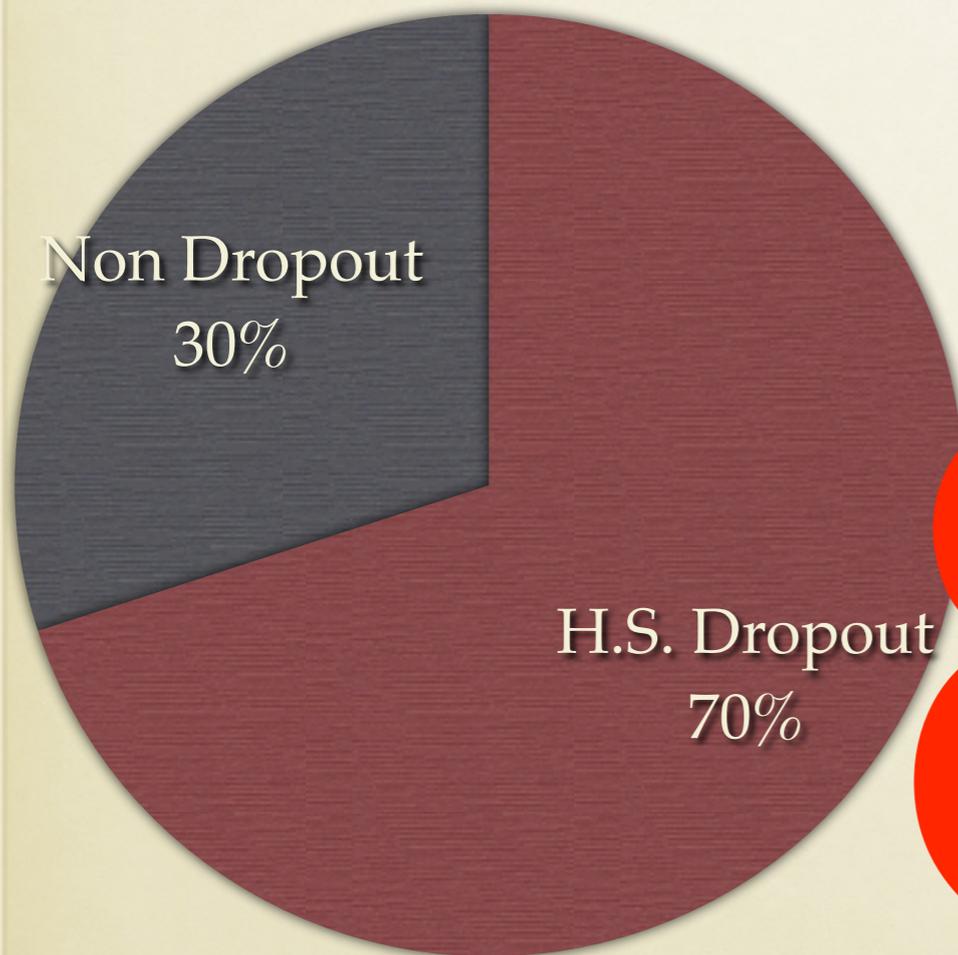


According to the U.S. Department of Labor,
by the year 2020,
nearly 75% of jobs will require education
beyond high school.

FINANCIAL COST OF TRUANCY

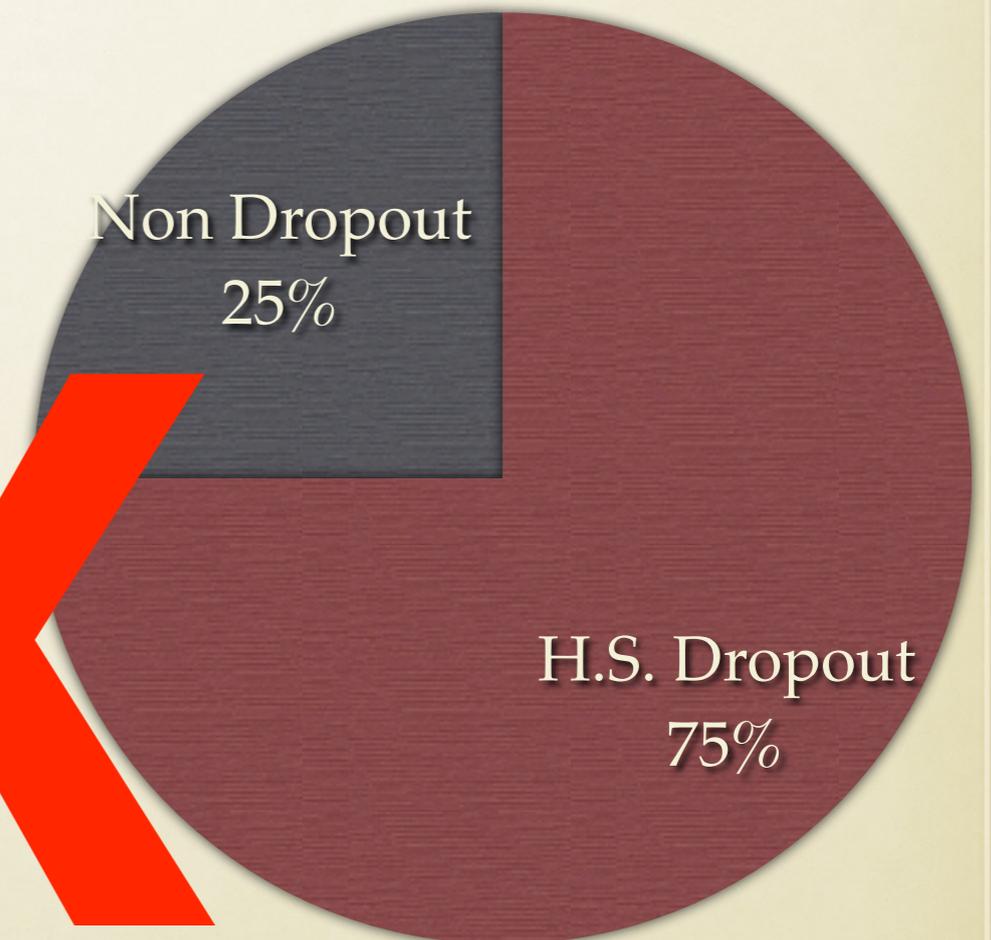
- 70% of America's jail inmates and 75% of prison inmates have not completed high school.

Jail



Prison

8X



FINANCIAL COST OF TRUANCY

Pennsylvania Example

COST SPENT PER YEAR/ PER PRISONER	TOTAL COST OF THE AVERAGE PRISON TERM
\$33,000	\$132,000

FINANCIAL COST OF TRUANCY

Pennsylvania Example

AVERAGE COST OF A PRIVATE
SCHOOL PER YEAR

\$8,300

MONEY LEFT OVER FOR
COLLEGE IF SENT A PRISON
INMATE TO PRIVATE SCHOOL
FROM KINDERGARTEN
THROUGH 12TH GRADE

\$24,000

What Others Have Said:

“The best predictor of whether a student will drop out of school is absenteeism. Those who miss large amounts of school not only fail to learn but also often leave school without a high school diploma.”

-Tom Osborne, *Beyond the Final Score: There's More to Life Than the Game*, Regal Books, 2009

“Although truancy’s financial burdens are considerable, its cost cannot be measured in dollars alone. For a growing number of youth, truancy may be a first step to a lifetime of unemployment, crime, and incarceration.”

-Shay Bilchik, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Administrator.

“Truancy is not the problem--it’s an indicator of other problems. When students aren’t in school, we need to understand why they stay away before we can effect solutions.”

-Safe Schools and Violence Prevention Office, California Department of Education

“Because truancy is a complex problem requiring a compressive response, educators, law enforcement agencies, courts, communities, and families all play a part in truancy prevention.”

The federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

“ . . . education is perhaps the most important function of state and local government. It is required in the performance of our most basic responsibilities. It is the very foundation of good citizenship . . . it is doubtful that any child may succeed in life if he (or she) is denied the opportunity of an education.”

-Brown vs. Board of Education, 347 U.S. 483, 493 (1954)

“Programs that prevent a young person from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system save taxpayers money, prevent more people from becoming victims of crime, and help prevent the development of future criminal offenders. . . . [P]reventing truancy may mean the difference between a lifetime of problems or a lifetime of accomplishments.”

-Eileen M. Garry, Truancy: First Step to a Lifetime of Problems, OJJDP Juvenile Justice Bulletin, October 1996.

ADRIAN GOMES



START

ON YOUR MARK...

DROPPING
OUT OF
HIGH
SCHOOL

What We Do Now

- Truancy Petition filed by County Attorney.
- Summons issued and first hearing held in 2-4 weeks.
- Rights, including the right to contest the allegations, and potential consequences are explained.
- If requests an attorney, continued for 2-4 weeks.
- If waives an attorney, admits or denies the truancy allegations.
- If the allegations are not found to be true, the case ends.
- If the allegations are found to be true, set for disposition in 6 weeks, following probation investigation.

What We Do Now

Court Options

- Place on probation with terms and conditions
- Allow to remain in the home
- Place outside of the home:
 - Foster home
 - Group Home
 - Relative
- Jurisdiction until 19. Practice in Lancaster County is 18.

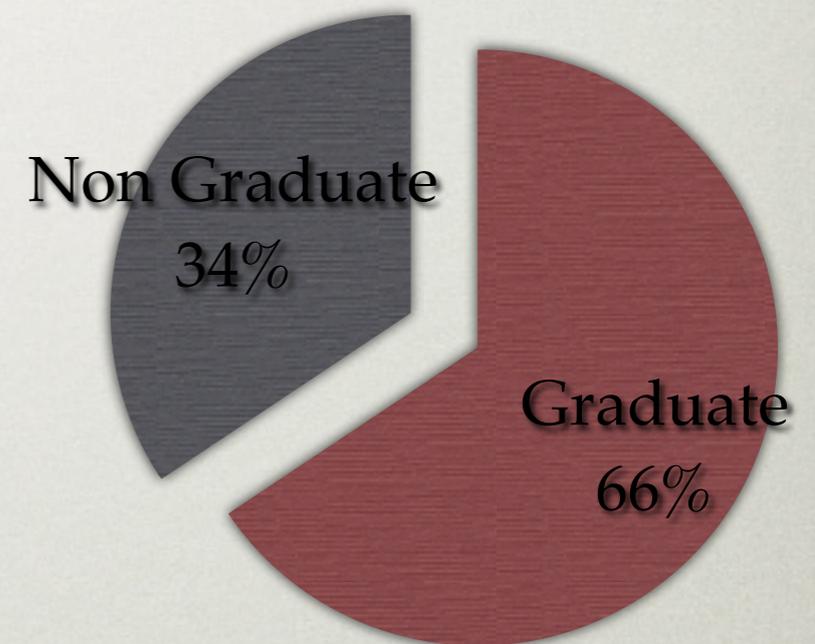
What We Do Now

Typical Conditions Ordered

- Attend school with no truancies or suspensions
- Cooperate with counseling services
- If absence due to illness, medical verification required
- No parental excused absences without probation permission
- Cooperate with tracker services
- Court costs

TRUANCY DIVERSION PROJECT

- Pilot launched January, 2011 Feeder to Lincoln High
Lincoln High 2010
- Park Middle School



Expanded to Lincoln High 2013

TRUANCY DIVERSION PROJECT

- A collaborative effort between the Juvenile Court and Lincoln Public Schools. The program was created for students and their families as a voluntary alternative to traditional court proceedings. The short term goals of the program are to improve school attendance, grades and attitude toward school. The long term goals are for the student to maintain consistent school attendance after completion of the program followed by graduation from high school.

TRUANCY DIVERSION PROJECT



TRUANCY DIVERSION PROJECT

- The Project is modeled after the Jefferson County Truancy Diversion Project in Louisville, Kentucky, which is now a national model. The Project is a judicially-driven school and community initiative created to improve school attendance and enhance family function and behavior.

TRUANCY DIVERSION PROJECT

- Students who choose to participate in this voluntary program will have their truancy petition placed on the back burner, while services to assist the child and the family are placed on the front burner.

TRUANCY DIVERSION PROJECT

- Services to the child and family start within days of entry into the program. All participants receive immediate intervention. The social worker for the family is responsible for the implementation of services.

TRUANCY DIVERSION PROJECT

- While in the program, the child and his or her parent(s) will attend bi-weekly hearings, which are held at the school. During the hearing, the judge or the principal will review the child's progress in the program from the prior hearing, with particular emphasis on the student's attendance and grades.

**WHAT WE EXPECT FROM THE
STUDENT:**

- Significant improvement in attendance.

**WHAT WE EXPECT FROM THE
STUDENT:**

- Passing grades in all classes.

**WHAT WE EXPECT FROM THE
STUDENT:**

- Good behaviors at school and at home.

**WHAT WE EXPECT FROM THE
STUDENT:**

- Participation in individual and/or family counseling as needed.

**WHAT WE EXPECT FROM THE
STUDENT:**

- Attend truancy court every other Thursday at the school at 3:30 p.m.
- Both the student and a parent must attend, unless excused by the team in advance.

WHAT THE STUDENT CAN EXPECT:

- Supportive services to help with attendance and grades.

WHAT THE STUDENT CAN EXPECT:

- Rewards for good attendance and good grades.

WHAT THE STUDENT CAN EXPECT:

- Upon successful completion, dismissal of truancy petition and records sealed immediately.

TRUANCY DIVERSION PROJECT

Removal from program:

- Move to another school
- Failure to comply with services and progress satisfactorily through the program
- Family opts out

TRUANCY DIVERSION PROJECT

Consequences of Removal:

- Adjudication hearing scheduled in Juvenile Court and proceed through the traditional process.

TRUANCY DIVERSION PROJECT

Key Differences from Traditional Court Proceedings

- Starts sooner.
- Not adjudicated as having been habitually truant from school.
- Not placed on probation.
- Rewards for good attendance and grades.
- No out of home option.
- No court costs.
- Ends sooner.
- Records sealed sooner.
- Results: so far so good.

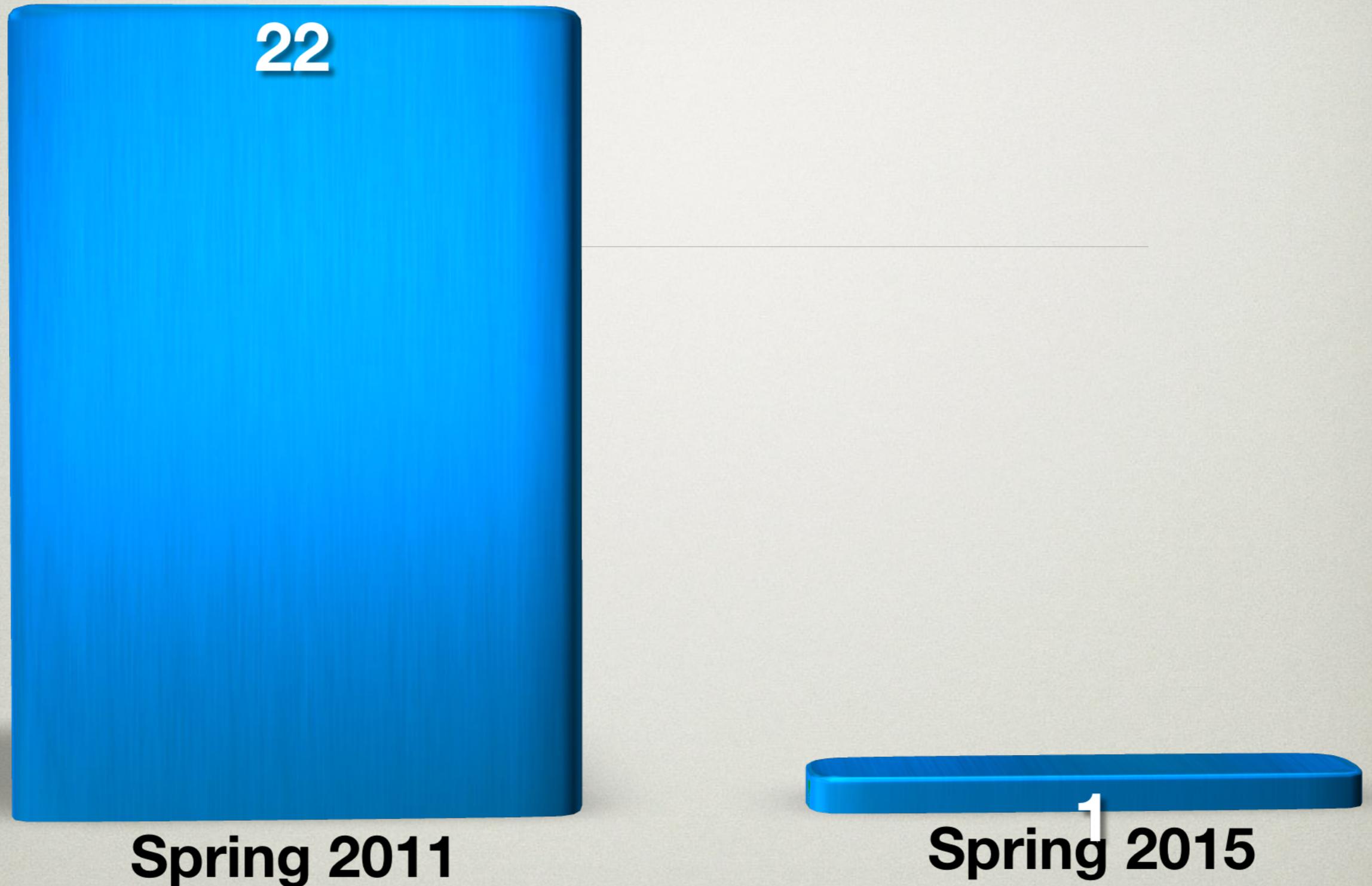
TRUANCY DIVERSION PROJECT



Results from the first class (2011)* — total absences

*Park Middle School

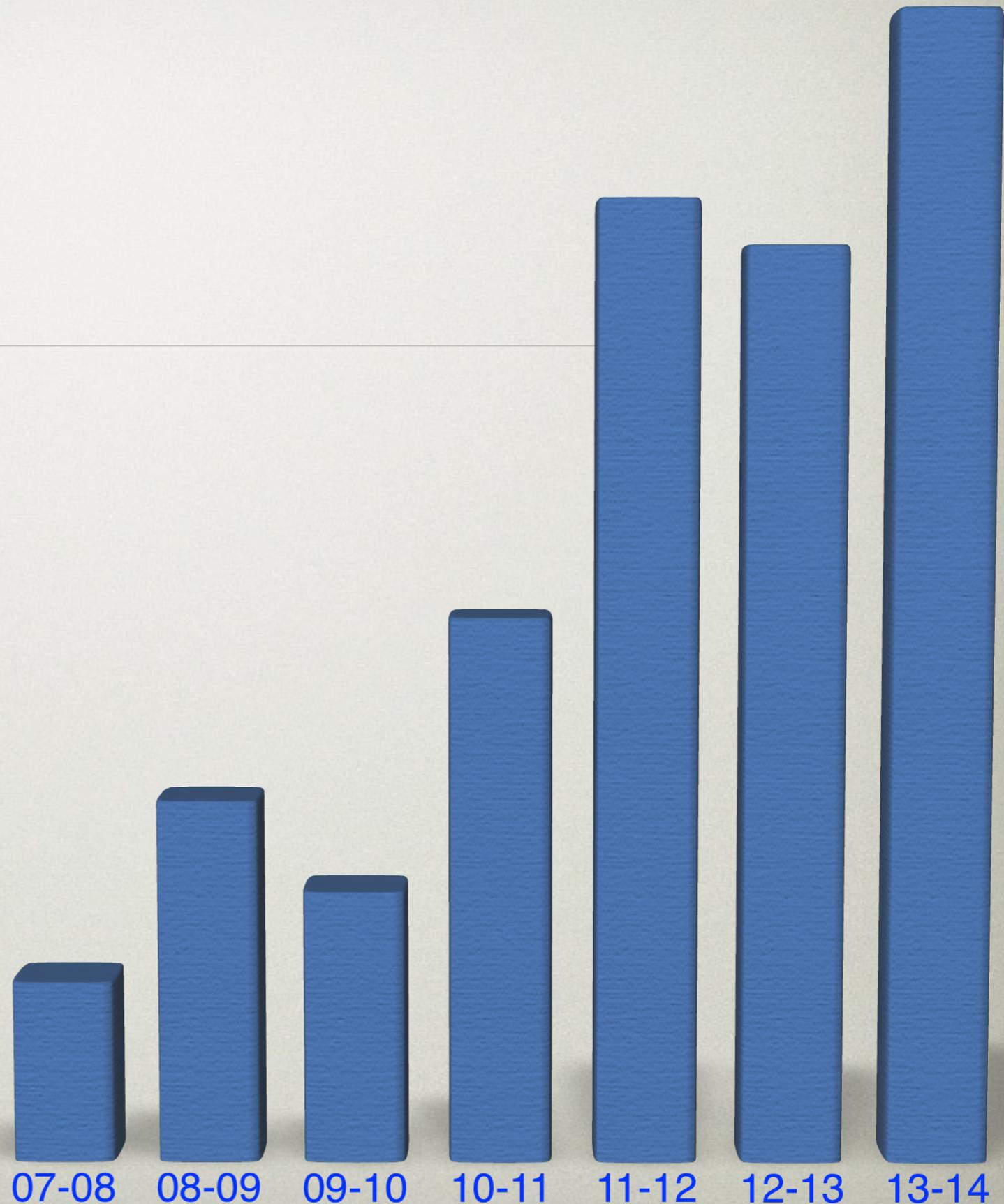
TRUANCY DIVERSION STUDENTS



Number of Students—2011 vs. 2015 (semester)

PARK DAILY ATTENDANCE RATE

Year	%
2013-2014	95.5
2012-2013	95.0
2011-2012	95.1
2010-2011	94.2
2009-2010	93.6
2008-2009	93.8
2007-2008	93.4



TRUANCY DIVERSION PROJECT

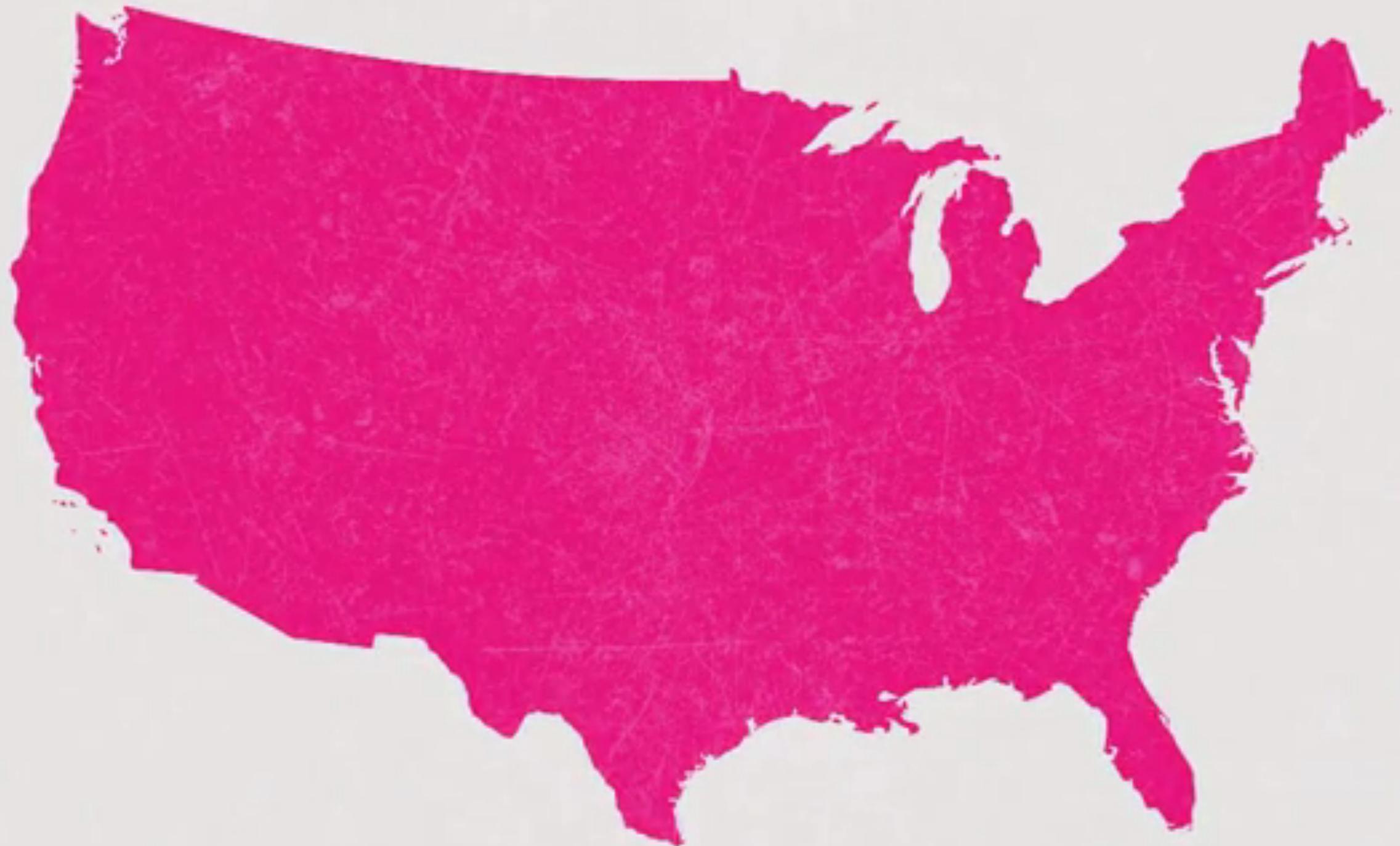
- Expanded to the following Lincoln schools:



North Star H.S. (2013) Goodrich M.S. (2013) Culler M.S. (2013) Northeast H.S. (2014)

Prosecutor led. No judge. No defense attorney. Similar otherwise.

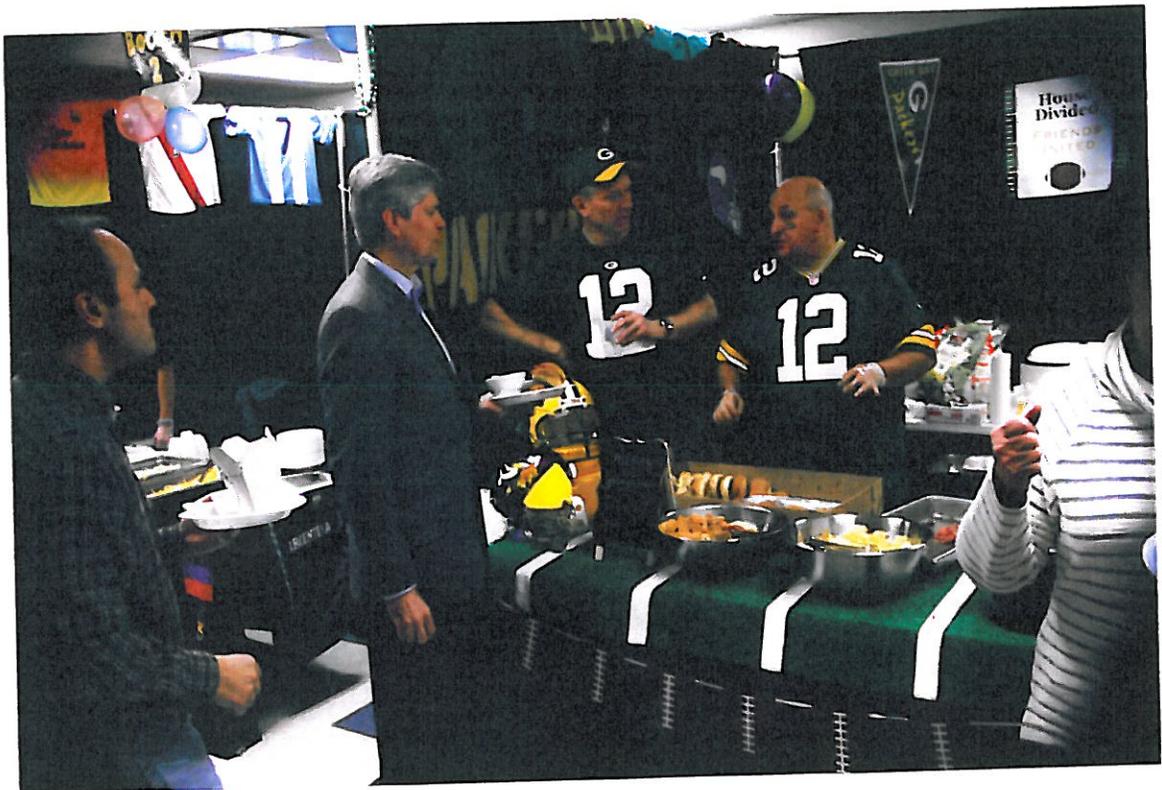
Clip from Waiting for "Superman": How We Can Save America's Failing Schools, 2010.

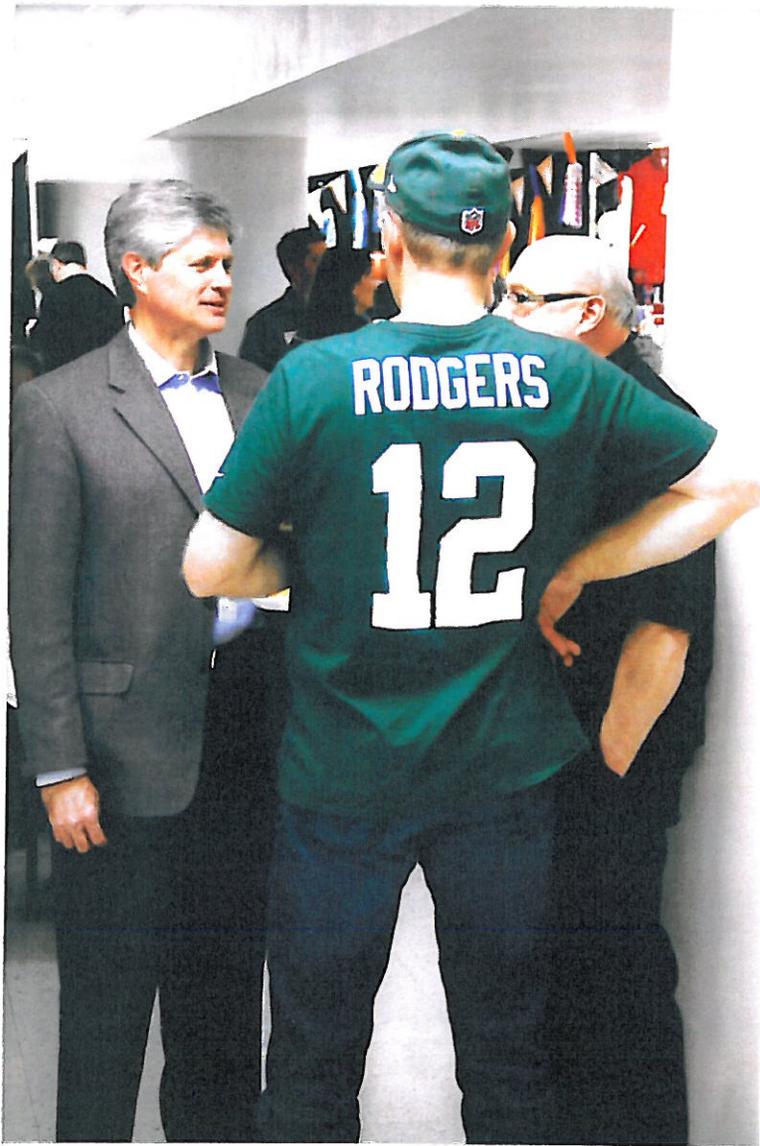


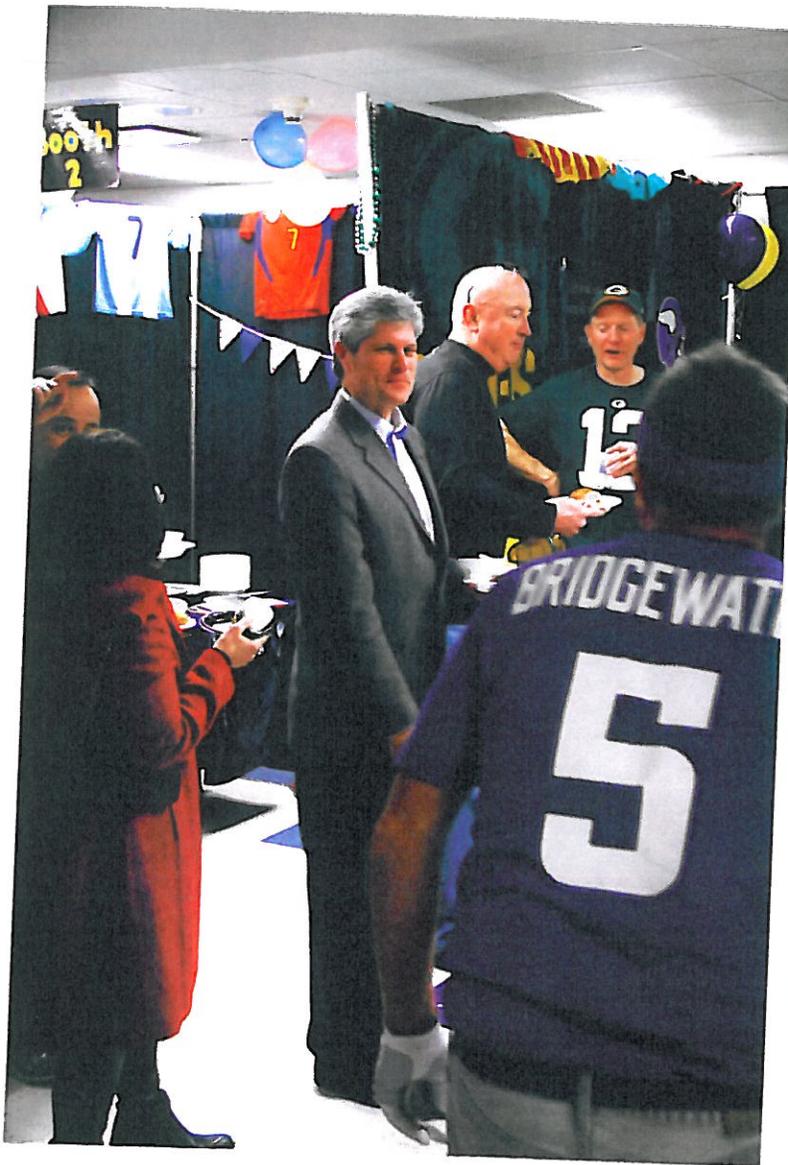
“Education
is the most
powerful
weapon
which you
can use to
change the
world.”

-Nelson Mandela









MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 112
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE LANCASTER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Advance public notice of the Board of Equalization meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and the Lancaster County, Nebraska, web site and emailed to the media on February 5, 2016.

Commissioners present: Roma Amundson, Chair; Todd Wiltgen Vice-Chair; Bill Avery, Larry Hudkins and Deb Schorr

Others present: Scott Gaines, County Assessor/Register of Deeds Office; Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer; David Derbin, Deputy County Attorney; Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk; and Kelly Lundgren, County Clerk's Office

NOTE: The Lancaster County Board of Equalization meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2016 was cancelled due to inclement weather. Agenda items were carried forward to the February 9th meeting.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m., and the location of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was announced.

1) MINUTES: Approval of the minutes of the Board of Equalization meeting held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016.

MOTION: Avery moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the minutes. Hudkins, Wiltgen, Schorr, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

2) NOTICE OF ASSESSED VALUATION CHANGE FOR PROPERTY TAXATION PURPOSES:

- A. Phyllis Acklie**
- B. City of Lincoln d/b/a Lincoln Electric System**

Scott Gaines, Chief Administrative Deputy Assessor/Register of Deeds, recommended approving the notices to correct the location of a building that was inadvertently listed on the incorrect parcel.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Schorr seconded approval of the valuation changes. Schorr, Hudkins, Avery, Wiltgen and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

3) ADDITIONS AND DEDUCTIONS TO THE TAX ASSESSMENT ROLLS: (See attached additions and deductions.)

MOTION: Wiltgen moved and Avery seconded approval of the additions and deductions. Hudkins, Schorr, Wiltgen, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

4) PUBLIC HEARING:

A. Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption Applications

**Child Guidance Center
Corp. of Presiding Bishopric of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Homestead Presbytery
Nebraska Conference United Church of Christ
Resources for Human Development
Sisters of Mary, Queen of Mercy**

The Chair opened the public hearing.

No one appeared to testify in support, opposition or in a neutral position.

The Chair closed the public hearing.

MOTION: Wiltgen moved and Schorr seconded approval of the exemptions. Schorr, Wiltgen, Avery, Hudkins and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

5) APPEAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX PENALTY:

**Hyang Kim - Shogun HS, Inc.
Hassan Saleh – Damascus Gateway Mart**

Gaines recommended approving the request of Hyang Kim as the forms were postmarked on May 1st which is the deadline for submission. He recommended denial of Hassan Saleh's request as the Board does not have the authority to waive penalties that have been correctly imposed.

MOTION: Wiltgen moved and Hudkins seconded to approve the appeal of Hyang Kim – Shogun HS, Inc. Wiltgen, Avery, Hudkins, Schorr and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

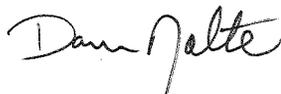
MOTION: Wiltgen moved and Schorr seconded to deny the appeal of Hassan Saleh – Damascus Gateway Mart. Avery, Hudkins, Schorr, Wiltgen and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

6) PUBLIC COMMENT: Those wishing to speak on items relating to County Board of Equalization business not on the agenda may do so at this time.

No one appeared for public comment.

7) ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Wiltgen seconded to adjourn the Lancaster County Board of Equalization meeting at 10:38 a.m. Hudkins, Schorr, Wiltgen, Avery and Amundson voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte, County Clerk

