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### **(Neb)-Community Meeting Sets Fine Arts Priority Upgrades For Chadron Schools**

By: John Axtell Posted at: 07/31/2019 11:33 AM

CHADRON - A strategic planning session last week on improving the fine arts program in the Chadron Public Schools drew better than a dozen district patrons.

A weighted scoring system put as the group's top priorities expanding a current half-time vocal music position to full-time and completing renovation of the high school auditorium focusing on lights, acoustics, and the stage floor.

Most of the participants were part of a larger input meeting in May as part of the district's 5-year strategic planning process. The next fine arts planning session is scheduled for October 10th.

Superintendent Dr Caroline Winchester says she's very pleased with the session.

She feels the turnout was large enough to get a good read on the thoughts of those most interested in the district's fine arts program, but small enough to allow for more in-depth discussion led by facilitator Debbie DeFrain of the Neb Dept of Education.

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Although not named as a long-term priority, strong support was seen for some type of community effort to provide the district with more band instruments, especially for middle school students.

The Chadron district has a few instruments that are loaned to students, but most families must buy or lease instruments - which keeps some students from participating.

The district made a plea a couple years ago to local residents to donate unused band instruments to the schools, but relatively few instruments came in and few donations are received now.

Also receiving a lot discussion was the likely need over the next few years for more coaches for the high school speech team and another band instructor because of a series of large classes coming into the middle school over the next few years.

The speech team falls under the same guidelines as the high school sports teams, which base the number of coaches on the number of participants, while 5th grade band will not be offered in the new school year because of the large number of students.