SDHSAA Discusses Move Toward Transparency In Closed Meeting

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Nearly all of the Republican leaders in the Legislature want to require the South Dakota High School Activities Association to comply with state laws on open meetings and public records. The association's board of directors responded Tuesday by meeting for 90 minutes behind closed doors to discuss the

The board eventually voted 7-0 in open session to instruct the association's lawyers to confer with sponsors of the legislation and to continue work on a resolution or a policy "to ensure transparency within our organization."

Board chairman Darren Paulson of Rapid City scheduled another special meeting for Tuesday, Feb. 11, at noon to review the resolution. Asked by another director whether the board would take action, Paulson replied, "Possible adoption,

He said the directors didn't take a formal position on the two pieces of legislation sponsored by Sen. Corey Brown, R-Gettysburg, and Rep. Charlie Hoffman, R-Eureka. "I think we need to be pro-active. We need to get something in place," Paulson said.

The motion Tuesday didn't address the contents of what is being developed. 'The resolution would simply state we have every intention to comply with open meeting laws and be as transparent as we can be," said director Mike Miller of Ab-

The association isn't a public entity, according to Lindsey Riter-Rapp, one of the board's lawyers. She said it's a volun"I think we need to be proactive. We need to get something in place."

DARREN PAULSON

tary organization.

State law allows school boards to delegate their authority on interscholastic activities to an association that is voluntary and non-profit.

The law further says any association that complies with that section "may exercise the control, supervision and regulation of interscholastic activities" and "promulgate reasonable uniform rules."

The vote to go into executive session was 5-2. Miller asked whether discussion of legislation met the legal requirements for an executive session. "My argument is we need to act like a public entity, even though we're not," Miller said.

Riter-Rapp said attorney-client communications qualify. Miller replied, "I would respectfully disagree with that opinion.

Her advice to the board that the association isn't a public entity came just hours after a legislative committee endorsed changes in state laws that govern suspensions of high school students from participating in association events.

Brown said he met with Riter-Rapp again recently. He said the executive session was added to the agenda after that discussion.

The start of the board's meeting Tuesday afternoon was delayed several minutes. Four of the directors waited at their seats. Three of the other directors along

with executive director Wayne Carney and Riter-Rapp then came into the room.

Back at the Capitol afterward Hoffman read the board's motion calling work on a resolution or a policy to continue. "It's a resolution. It doesn't mandate anything. It needs to be in law, with teeth in it," he

The board's actions Tuesday puzzled Sen. Al Novstrup, R-Aberdeen, one of the Legislature's leaders on transparency. "A closed session to talk about open government?" he said when he heard about what happened.

At the board's regular meeting last month, audience members weren't allowed to have copies of information that directors were using during their discus-

State open-meeting laws require that board materials — other than executive session information that is confidential must be available to the public no later than 24 hours before the meeting and that a copy of board materials is available at the meeting.

The agenda and copies of the Brown and Hoffman legislation were available for the audience at the meeting Tuesday.

Several of the directors said after the executive session the board is trying to get out in front of the legislative discussion and get in a position to be more transparent.

Dan Whalen of Pierre said there has been "a lot of misinformation" about the association. "I think clarification would be good," Whalen said.

Rick Weber of Flandreau said the board has always tried to be open. "Put it down in writing and try to follow the rules as best we can," he said.

SD House Urges Hearings On Agency

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota House has passed a resolution calling for a legislative committee to conduct hearings into the operations of the state's economic development

Representatives voted 51-18 for the measure, which next goes to the Senate.

The Legislature's Government Operations and Audit Committee will hold hearings after several reviews are completed on the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Gov. Dennis Daugaard ordered the reviews after reports that a former official had double-billed the state for travel and part of a grant had been improperly diverted.

The legislative hearings will include an analysis of state involvement in promoting a failed beef packing plant. The company developing the Aberdeen plant recruited foreign investors using the federal EB-5 program, in which foreign investors can secure permanent residency for investing at least

SD Senate Moves To Discard 'Squaw'

PIERRE (AP) — The South Dakota Senate has unanimously approved a bill banning the word "squaw" and allowing the word "Negro" in the state's place names.

Legislators approved the measure Tuesday.

The Legislature previously ruled that both terms should be removed from all names of South Dakota's creeks, lakes, buttes and other geographic features.

But African American leaders argued that the term "Negro" is not offensive and removing it from names would harm the legacy of African Americans in the state.

All but six features that included "squaw" in their names have been renamed, says the bill's sponsor Chuck Jones, a Flandreau Republican. The remaining six await federal ap-

The bill now heads to the state's House for a vote.

Childhood Education Bills Supported

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — School and teacher associations are supporting a push for early childhood education in Nebraska. The Education Committee heard testimony Tuesday on a

series of bills relating to early childhood education. Sen. Kate Sullivan of Cedar Rapids, chairwoman of the committee, has introduced a bill that would allocate an additional \$4.6 million for early childhood education grants for next year.

Lawmakers included \$3.6 million budget for early childhood education grants in the state's two-year budget last year. Sen. Heath Mello of Omaha has introduced a bill that would

provide \$400,000 for the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska over the next two years.

Keystone XL Waiting List Grows

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — TransCanada Corp. says it has a waiting list of U.S. oil shippers who want to use an onramp to the proposed Keystone XL pipeline from Canada to the Gulf of

The Canadian company announced three years ago that it secured contracts to move crude from the oilfields of North Dakota and Montana. The proposed \$140 million Bakken Marketlink pipeline would meet with the Keystone XL in eastern Montana.

TransCanada says oil producers in North Dakota and Montana have turned to trains while the Keystone XL has been debated. The company says the domestic oil shippers still have contracts and are committed to moving their product by

The proposed Keystone XL cleared a big hurdle last week when the State Department raised no major environmental objections to its construction.

2 Plead Not Guilty In Neb. Slaying

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, Neb. (AP) — A 22-year-old Iowa man has pleaded not guilty in the slaying of a Nebraska woman in

Raymond Gonzalez Jr. on Monday entered the pleas to charges of murder, terroristic threats and disturbing the peace. He's accused of shooting to death 28-year-old Bonnie Baker on Dec. 15. Investigators say Gonzalez had a dispute with Baker's brother and had threatened him.
Twenty-five-year-old David Rodriguez, of Walthill, Neb.,

pleaded not guilty to being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm. Investigators have said Rodriguez and another man picked up Gonzalez shortly after the shooting.

Senator Wants To Reduce SD Future Fund Fee

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — A state senator wants to reduce the amount of money being taken from South Dakota businesses to pay for the governor's Future Fund grants.

Sen. Ryan Maher, R-Isabel, said he is trying to offset increases that happened in recent years.

State records indicate that the amount received annually has increased from \$11.5 million in fiscal 2010 to \$14 million in fiscal 2013.

Maher said the real complaint is that employers and legislators don't have any control over how a governor disperses the grants.

The amounts paid by employers to the Future Fund have risen during recent years in part because the taxable wage base increased by \$1,000 annually under state law.

amount to which the Future Fund fee is applied. The wage base is \$14,000 this year and is scheduled to be \$15,000 in 2015.

Last year, Gov. Dennis Daugaard made nearly \$8.4 million of grants from the Future Fund, according to the annual report posted on a state web site. Another grant of more than \$4 million was also withdrawn

Maher offered his amendment Tuesday morning during a hearing by the Senate Commerce and Energy Committee on another piece of legislation about the state's unemployment tax rates for businesses.

The panel's chairman, Sen. Ried Holien, R-Watertown, deferred the unemployment-tax legislation, HB 1045, and Maher's pending amendment until the committee meets again Thurs-

Nobody at the hearing, including Maner, seemed to know the financial impact his amendment would have on the flow of money into the Future Fund.

Maher said he doesn't have a problem with the concept of the Future Fund. It was created by the Legislature in 1987 at the suggestion of then-Gov. George S. Mickelson.

The Future Fund has always been under each governor's exclusive control since then.

"We don't have a say," Maher said.

Similar comments have been heard from a variety of legislators in recent weeks.

A \$1 million Future Fund grant was made by then-Gov. Mike Rounds to the Northern Beef Packers project at Aberdeen in December 2010 as he was finishing his time in

An investigation by state Attorney General Marty Jackley determined that \$550,000

Runaway slaves followed the North Star to freedom. If the stars

were hidden by clouds, they would feel the trunks of the trees,

looking for moss, which always grows on the north side of a tree.

quently diverted by Northern Beef to the operations of SDRC Inc. of Aberdeen.

SDRC was the company under contract to manage the EB-5 immigrant investor program for the state of South Dakota.

Rich Benda signed the contract for state government in 2009 when he was the secretary of tourism and state development.

He also was secretary when Rounds made the grant. Benda personally delivered the \$1 million check to Northern Beef in January

The \$550,000 that was put in escrow by Northern Beef was used to pay Benda after he went to work for SDRC in 2011.

Northern Beef received two rounds of loans through the EB-5 program run by SDRC Benda worked as SDRC's monitor for the EB-5 $\,$ loans to Northern Beef.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Star Gazing

that is different?

Can you find the star

Potato Pile Puzzler Runaway slaves used musty piles of potatoes as "stations" to hide in. What can you find hidden in this pile of potatoes?

Double Word Search Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop

FREEDOM RAILROAD WHISTLES **SECRET SLAVERY GREEN FACTS** MOSS **STATIONS** TRACK

SWAMPS

TRAIN

LOST

SOLD

FOOD

SBRSWAMPST NLMAHLACRR OKOHISTATA IODSSLCERI TYEMTKRDON ANETLCMOSS TGREENAOAI SHFSSFEFBD YREVALSOLD

stories and activities.

How We Overcome

Find a newspaper story about someone overcoming a great obstacle such as a health challenge, an accident, or an unfair law. Read the article and list the facts: who, what, when, where, why and how. Using the facts, write a one-paragraph summary of the article.

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write summaries using newspaper format.

My Hero

hero (or heroine). Why is this person special to you?

Kid Scoop Together: **Missing Words** Fill in the blanks in the story below by using the word list.

The North Star Frederick Douglass was an

abolitionist and a newspaper publisher. He escaped slavery, traveled north to freedom and then began speaking out against slavery.

Frederick Douglass named his

a symbol of _ to slaves, as well as a physical guide to those slaves escaping the South and traveling north. They were taught to locate this star by using the stars of the

Slaves often passed instructions from plantation to plantation by

"Follow the Drinking Gourd" is a song that provided in code the route for an from Alabama and Mississippi. A portion of the song and its coded message follow:

When the sun comes back And the first quail calls, Follow the drinking gourd. For the old man is waiting To carry you to freedom If you follow the drinking gourd.

"When the sun comes back" means the time in when the altitude of the sun increases each day. Quail are a migratory bird that winter in the South, and the drinking gourd is the Big Dipper. Most freedom seekers had to cross _ and powerful Ohio River, a difficult crossing most of the year. The song urged freedom seekers to begin their journey in winter, which would enable them to reach the Ohio when it was still frozen and easier to cross.

TRAVEL **ESCAPE** FREEDOM SONG **SWIFT** NEWSPAPER **DIPPER** WINTER

Standards Link: History: Understand how the music of people from a variety of regions long ago influenced the nation.

'Conductor' was one of the most

here once was a railroad that had no

It ran through dark woods and swamps thick with snakes. Its "stations" were secret rooms

The Underground Railroad, as it was called,

was a series of secret paths and stations that

helped runaway slaves find their way to

southern United States to Canada.

freedom. The secret railroad ran from the

At one time, in some states, it was legal to

own people. They could be bought and sold

like cows and horses. This was called slavery.

They wanted to help slaves find a way to live free. This is how the Underground Railroad

thousands of strangers kept this freedom train

Harriet Tubman:

Many people thought slavery was wrong.

started. The kindnesses and concerns of

and musty piles of potatoes.

tracks, no trains, no whistles, no schedule.

dangerous jobs on the Underground Railroad. Conductors were runaway slaves who led other slaves to freedom. One of the most famous was Harriet Tubman.

Courageous Conductor

Harriet Tubman led more than 300 slaves to freedom. She once said, "On my Underground Railroad I never ran my train off the track, and I never lost a passenger."

Standards Link: History: Students understand the importance of individual action and character and how heroes from long ago made a difference.

Station Master Arrested

Thomas Garrett's home was a station on the Underground Railroad. He gave food and shelter to more than 2,500 runaway slaves. In 1848, he was arrested for helping runaway slaves. All of his property was taken away from him and sold. He had to pay a huge fine and was left penniless. Yet, he surprised the sheriff with what he said.

Use the code to find out what Thomas said.



B = 5

6 = V | 3 = 2 | 5 = M | 8 = 1 | 4 = 3 | 6 = A

Help Harriet find a path through the forest.

| 4 = T | 7 = 0 | 1 = X | 6 = 7 D = 3 | G = 2 | L = 7 | R = 2 | U = e Standards Link: History: Students know historical accounts through the stories of people and their action

".45 74 MIH DN32

"FRIEND, I HAVEN'T A

377792 IN THE 47273,

BUT IF THEE KNOWS OF

,436916455 A SD33N

A 662848299 A

can be owned? Look through the newspaper

and circle things that can be owned in green. Circle things that cannot be owned in red. Standards Link: Reading

Extra! Extra What

Tell about someone who is your