

# Dakota principal sleeps on school roof

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On Sept. 7, Dakota High School Principal Paul Sibley camped out on the Dakota school roof with his son to fulfill a promise he made to students last year during the Dakota Walk-A-Thon.

Photo courtesy of PAUL SIBLEY



Dakota High School will host a Walk-A-Thon as a school fundraiser in October. Dakota Principal Paul Sibley fulfilled last year's Walk-A-Thon fundraising goal promise to students on Sept. 7 by camping on the school's roof.

Dakota High School traditionally hosts a Walk-A-Thon event as a school fundraiser, including games and refreshments. Students can earn incentives through event participation and donations

Photo courtesy of DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL

A promise made and a promise fulfilled.

Dakota High School Principal Paul Sibley camped out on the roof of the Macomb Township high school on Sept. 7 to fulfill a pledge he made to students last year.

Dakota High School has hosted an annual Walk-A-Thon event for the past three years with the fourth annual event set for Oct. 31 at the school. Students are released for about an hour and a half of their school day to participate in the walk, held on the school track outdoors or on the gym track during inclement weather, Sibley said.

Sibley said students can also participate in raffles and games at the event. Student leadership teacher Kyle Young said leadership and marketing students solicit donations from local businesses that are used as event prizes. The event serves as a fundraiser and morale booster for the school.

“All the funds from the Walk-A-Thon go to teachers and students. They can make requests for things to help in their classrooms or help students with initiatives,” Sibley said, adding that sometimes students request money for scholarships or trips while teachers ask for specific classroom supplies to develop creative lesson plans.

Sibley meets each year with student leadership, business and marketing students to discuss goals and marketing of the Walk-A-Thon.

“I talk to the kids about how we use the funds,” Sibley said, adding that a transparent budget process is discussed with the staff as well.

Discussions also center around student leadership ideas for encouraging the student body to reach certain monetary goals, which Sibley said can involve asking him to agree to some outrageous outfits or safe yet wacky stunts. Young said for the 2017 October walk, two goals were set: If \$20,000 was raised, Sibley had to agree to camp on the roof of Dakota High School. At \$50,000, he had to agree to skydive.

“I got out of skydiving,” Sibley said.

Last year’s Dakota Walk-A-Thon raised about \$26,000, Young said, the highest amount ever raised through the event. It resulted in Sibley’s all-night camping trip on Dakota’s roof, which was scheduled to coincide with a home football game this school year.

“So I packed up a tent and sleeping bag and multiple blankets, camping chairs for two people. My eight year old son plans to be up there with me,” Sibley said on Sept. 7. “He is going to be joining me for this exciting time. We are having a home football game tonight and at the end of the game I’ll be on the roof waving goodbye to the patrons.”

The 2018 Dakota Walk-A-Thon offers students a variety of donation choices and incentives.

Participation in the Walk-A-Thon starts at \$5. Incentives increase in increments up to \$100, which can earn students not only the walk participation, but also 10 game or raffle tickets, refreshments, a LED tumbler cup, lunch line fast pass, personalized parking spot for the school year, and half day pass for two including lunch and a movie in the auditorium.

As this year’s Walk-A-Thon coincides with Halloween, students will be permitted to walk in costumes that meet school guidelines, Sibley said. As of Sept.7 the students were starting the planning process on fundraising goals and potential principal involvement.