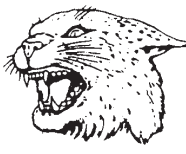


Board discusses many issues facing the new school year



By Linda Schneider
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The Cheylin Board of Education meeting opened with the elections of a new president and vice president to replace the vacancy of Hal Antholz, past president. David Frisbie, vice president, sat in as president until Mr. Frisbie was elected president and George Louderbaugh, vice president.

This meeting was the first for Cheylin's new superintendent/principal William Porter and new board member, Anita Pochop. In addition, Jane Young is now officially the district clerk, having completed all her training.

With the new changes to the board and newly elected officials, the members discussed many issues concerning the upcoming school year and reviewed what had been done in the past year.

Out with the old and in with the new

Motion was carried by the board to accept all preceding actions of the 2007-08 Board of Education effective July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2008.

Motion carried to close business actions of the 2007-08 Board of Education for the 2007-08 school year. This would in effect allow for the 2008-09 Board of Education to move forward with the new school year business.

They agreed to destroy old school records. Jim Milliken, city attorney, told the board that records destroyed are typically 3 to 5 years old, depending on the record.

Committee appointments

As his first order of business, Mr. Frisbie made appointments for the 2008-09 school year committees. Belinda Serrano was appointed to represent Cheylin at the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, and Mr. Louderbaugh will substitute when needed.

Dale Hazuka, Doyle Bock and Mr. Frisbie were appointed to the Building Committee. Policy Committee, Mrs. Serrano, Mr. Louderbaugh and Mr. Hazuka. Arlie Archer will remain Cheylin's representative on Northwest Kansas Technical College Board. Mr. Frisbie replaces Mr. Antholz as Kansas Association of School Board Relations.

Mrs. Serrano for Professional Development Committee. Finance Committee will be Lori Janicke, Mr. Frisbie and Mr. Louderbaugh. Technology Committee, Anita Pochop, Rod Young and Jan Busse. Cheylin Endowment, Mrs. Janicke.

New uniforms

The junior high boys have new uniforms this year — football uni-

forms and basketball jerseys. Also purchased was a weight room mat and various sports equipment for the athletic departments, such as football helmet and shoulder pads, for approximately \$7,000.

Mrs. Pochop brought up the responsibility and care of the school's uniforms. She mentioned that in the past, some of the coaches had kept the uniforms and washed them to prevent loss and damage.

The board discussed adding a clause to the new contract in the hiring of coaches that coaches should be responsible for the care of the uniforms. No action taken.

Book rental and activities fees

Motion carried to keep book rental fees the same, kindergarten through sixth grades will be \$20; seventh through 12th grades will be \$35 with a family limit of \$60.

The board agreed to increase wood shop activity fees to \$15 up from \$10 and driver's education fee \$40 up from \$30. No changes were made for the rest of the activity fees.

There was discussion that the Vo Ag activity fees may need to be raised, but Superintendent Porter asked they be left the same and he would report on how it is working out.

Out-of-district school

With the new "10-mile" law in effect, the board approved the applications for out-of-district school attendance and transportation for the following, Kasey Hoyt to Brewster; Porsha Binning, Kayla, Haley and Shelton McCain, Jason and Jesse Sis, Jaelynn and Juliann Sis, Gabe, Isabella, Sawyer and Cecelia Skolout, Marcus Cahoj, all to Atwood.

"It is with reluctance that we have made these approvals," said Mr. Frisbie.

The 10-mile law states that students living more than 10-miles away from the school district they belong to must be approved by the board to attend a closer school district.

Reports

Jane Young, district clerk, reported an inconsistency in the wording of the hourly employee contract. The revised contract will say raises will be effective and received as of Aug. 1.

Superintendent Porter reported that he has noticed unsupervised kids in the school building throughout the day and evening.

"The kids are blocking the doors so they can get in," said Superintendent Porter.

"It is a school liability issue," said Mr. Milliken.

Superintendent Porter said he



Superintendent William Porter

would send out letters mentioning the Student Handbook and its policy concerning unsupervised kids in the school building.

Mr. Milliken reported that since the last meeting, there have been three cases filed with the U.S. Supreme Court that may be of interest to the board. One concerns the dismissal of a student for retaliation against a coach. The second the subject concern exposing students to same-sex information and giving the student an option to sign out because of religion. The third dealt with giving teachers mailboxes in the school. He went on to say that, it could take up to 3 years to get decisions on these cases.

In other miscellaneous action items:

- Motion carried to approve the Cheylin Student Handbook for 2008-09

- Motion carried to approve the Emergency Transportation Procedure Policy that is in every school bus.

- Motion carried to raise substitute teacher pay from \$75 per day to \$80 per day.

- Motions carried to approve the agreement with the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center for services provided for the 2008-09 year for \$88,742.

- There was only one viable bid from a Natural Gas supplier for the school year, matter was tabled until more bids and information is in.

- Motion carried for approval of the Child Nutrition Services Agreement for School Lunch Program.

- School breakfast and lunch prices will stay the same.

- The Budget Hearing is set for 6:50 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 11.

Next meeting Aug. 11.



IT'S FUN IN THE SUN for both young and the young at heart. Everyone has a good time during a hot afternoon at the Bird City pool.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

More clues about Thresher Queen

The 2008 Tri-State Antique Engine and Threshers Show is right around the corner and the Thresher Queen's identity will be revealed.

For those who still do not know who the 2008 Thresher Queen is, please read on for more clues. But, for those who have guessed who she is, read and enjoy the memories of days gone by.

The Dry Beaver Creek made traveling an experience for the queen. There were no bridges. Was not uncommon as she and her family returned home from town, to cross the bottom of the creek to give their Model-T Ford extra power to climb the steep incline. However, sometimes the car failed and stopped. Slowly, she said, they would coast back down the hill, turn the car around and drive in reverse.

Her father could haul one load of grain (58 bushel) a day with a team and wagon to a Bird City elevator. If the creek bottom was muddy, he would travel 34 miles round trip to a creek that had a cement slab floor.

She said that a Shetland pony transported the three children to a country school. One of their teachers taught them the Lord's Prayer

and Pledge of Allegiance, which they recited in unison to begin each new school day.

"I remember one of the blizzards with the teacher and students spending a night in the school house," she said.

The 1930s were difficult times for her family because of drought and lower grain prices. For many, community picnics in tree claims and fishing in the Wet Beaver were "summer trips."

Seeing Albert Weaver's long piles of wheat north of stand pipe in Bird City, convinced many farmers that his farming practice of summer tilling was better than continuous cropping.

In 1935, community minded people promoted the Bird City Jubilee-Bird City's 50th birthday party.

"It was truly an outstanding event with a parade of covered wagons, horses and floats," she said.

There were also a free barbecue, a rodeo, a group of Indians in the park, contest for youths, ball games and a dance floor built for evening entertainment.



2008 Thresher Queen



AS SOON AS THE WEATHER turns warm, Stan Dorsch is out in his yard tending to the many native grasses and plants he has transplanted over the years.

Time staff photos by Linda Schneider

Life-long hobby keeps resident busy digging for native plants

By Linda Schneider
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It has been nearly a life-long hobby of Stan Dorsch, more like a love affair. He has been looking, digging and transplanting plants into his yard that are native to the state of Kansas. With over 1,600 native plants and grasses, that's a lot of digging!

Mr. Dorsch became interested in plants while still in high school, and he attributes the awakening of this interest to his Bird City High school ag teacher, the late Charles Hund.

Mr. Dorsch went on to the University of Nebraska to get a degree in Horticulture. He never forgot about Mr. Hund and in later years, Stan located him via the internet and wrote a letter to thank him. Mr. Dorsch and his wife, Dee, continued to have

contact with Mr. Hund and invited him to their 50-year class reunion, which he attended.

Mr. Dorsch started his native yard many years ago when he and his family moved from the family farm to town. Dee was a teacher at the Bird City School and was easier for their children, Jeffery, Scott and Jennifer to attend.

As they were building their home, Stan left a "native corner" of the lot facing Sixth Street and Rich Ave. with the native plants and grasses that were already there. However, as time has passed, the pine trees that were planted there have shadowed most of plants. Often his children teased him about the weeds he was planting.

Just north of Bird City, the Dorsch couple have donated 40 acres as part of a Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) that is part of the Kansas Livestock Association Ranchland Trust.

The program has been in a cooperative agreement with the United States Department Con-

servation Service. It meets with over 60 Kansas landowners who owned land enrolled in a Grassland Reserve Program conservation easement or long-term agreement. The Trust monitors over 25,000 grassland acres in 19 Kansas counties

Over the years, Mr. Dorsch has continued to scour the countryside and cow pastures to locate the various native plants to plant in his yard. Now his home is surrounded by a blanket of buffalo grass, which never needs watering and infrequent mowing.

In addition, by a walk through his backyard, he has tagged flowers, bushes and grasses that most people would otherwise pass by, showing off their Kansas native splendor.

With his love for plants, Mr. Dorsch has been an activist for beautifying Bird City for many years. He and Mrs. Dorsch were involved with PRIDE in 1977 and planted 6-inch seedling trees that have grown into the trees that are still there today. Moreover, he waters, by hand,



ALWAYS LOOKING, Stan Dorsch finds a cat-claw mimosa growing in town.

plants the Community Club has planted around Bird City.

"I enjoy watching the plants grow, so does Dee, and our native plants are just as beautiful as any flower you could plant," he said.