

## Seniors grab once-a-year opportunity

By Linda Schneider  
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For the October meeting, the Board of Education met with students.

Babs Antholz, senior living class, every year offers the senior class the opportunity to present before the board changes they would like to see in the school policies.

### Lunch bell

Nikki Johnson and Jayden Cahoj came forward first to propose a change in the "three-bell ring" for lunch period.

"Right now when the first bell rings, it is hard for students to concentrate on what the teacher is saying," said Nikki.

She asked that it change to a "two-bell ring" with the seniors leaving for lunch at the first bell and the junior high students at the second bell. In addition, upon asking both senior and junior high teachers neither had a problem with a two-bell lunch ring.

Jayden went on to propose that for the junior high teachers that have lunch duty, would not have to do it while waiting for the second bell; only two teachers are affected.

Nikki said that on the average, 25 junior high and 35 high students eat in the cafeteria daily. The seniors feel that not many students would be adversely affected by the change in the bell system. Nikki added that by letting the seniors go on the first bell would give them the opportunity to have lunch off campus, go home, etc., and return to class on time.

Members discussed the reason for the "three-bell" system. Motion tabled until more research is done.

### Student driving privileges

Sydney Busse and Whitney Haller proposed the board change the policy concerning students driving with other students. As the policy stands, student drivers can only have family members as passengers in their cars during school and lunch time.

Sydney said the policy was fuzzy in its reading and that technically junior high students could drive downtown during lunch if they had a note from their parent or guardian in the office.

"We don't believe it is intended to mean that and should be clarified," said Sydney.

Sydney told the board that by allowing students to share car rides during lunch will cutback on the traffic downtown and gas consumption.

The discussion among board members turned to the handbook policy of allowing students to leave school grounds with a note.

"Anita Burton pointed out to me the student handbook does not designate high school, junior high or elementary as being able to leave during lunch," said Anita Pochop, board member. "And it has always been a closed campus for junior high and elementary for lunchtime."

David Frisbie, president, asked James Milliken, city attorney, what the school's liability would be in the situation of a student leaving the school grounds during lunch break.

"If the student has parental permission, the school is not liable," said Mr. Milliken.

"But, if the student leaves without permission, the school is not liable because the student broke school policy," said Superintendent Bill Porter.

The senior class proposed hav-

ing a written letter from the parents giving permission to have students ride together at lunch. The matter was tabled.

### Employee 403b plan

Jane Young, district clerk, reported that she has been working on the 403b Plan and needs direction on how to proceed with billing a new monthly service fee from a contract company that administers the plan.

Mrs. Young said there are currently 15 participants in the plan and part of the steps is identifying what companies who will be part of the 403b plan.

Mrs. Young has received a letter asking how the school was going to bill the service fee. After a lengthy discussion, the board directed her to bill the companies that have agreed to absorb the cost and to pay the companies who will not absorb the cost out of school general fund.

### Volleyball fund raiser

The volleyball team requested approval from the board to sell 20 posters that Jennifer Kastens gave the team. The posters would be sold to businesses \$25 each and the money used to purchase jackets which the team would keep at the end of the school year.

Superintendent Porter expressed concern over the team using the money to buy personal items. The question was asked if the posters were given to the students or the team and if the posters were actually school property.

The board noted that the posters had Cheylin's name on it and considered school property. There was a suggestion of turning the matter over to the Booster Club to handle. Approval to allow selling of posters by volleyball team died for lack of motion.

Executive session was called by Mr. Frisbie for parental concerns for 25 minutes. Meeting resumed, no action was taken.

### Committee reports

Mr. Milliken reported on a recent judgment on a case where a physical education teacher was in a car accident driving between schools. The man tried and failed to file a claim against the insurance for under insured motorist. Then he tried to sue the school and failed because he was in his own car and not cover by the school.

Belinda Serrano, represents Cheylin at Northwest Kansas Education Service Center meetings, reported nominations for Kansas Teacher of The Year is open.

### Miscellaneous items

The board approved the following:

- Appointment of Stacey Brown as assistant junior high girl's basketball coach.
- Teacher's Evaluation Instrument of rating for the 2008-2009 school year.
- Century II Development Foundation's pre-school grant for \$12,000.
- Training rules for junior high boy's and girl's basketball and high school boy's and girl's basketball to include a clause concerning the responsibility of uniforms.
- Capital Outlay Resolution for 6 mills for three years.
- Anita Burton and Ken Hankins as staff for the After School Program. Pay for Mrs. Burton will be \$31.42 per hour and for Mr. Hankins will be \$29.63 per hour.

### Next meeting

The next meeting will be Nov. 10.



LEFT, CHEYLIN SIXTH GRADERS took third place in the school catagory Scarecrow Contest in McDonald with "The Martians have Landed." Above, the fifth graders took second place with their "That Darn Kansas Wind" scarecrow.  
Times staff photos by Linda Schneider

## Craft show opens its doors Oct. 25

By Linda Schneider  
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It is time for craftiness in Bird City. Be sure to stop by the American Legion Hall on Saturday, Oct. 25, to purchase your holiday gifts and goodies. While there, again plan on enjoying a lunch served by Tina Sager.

Barb Gerdes, coordinator, says some of the consignors will have jewelry, baked goods, knitted and crocheted items. In these economic times, she said,

it is a great show with some embroidery, both hand and machine, along with food items and decorating ideas.

The doors will open at 10 a.m. and the hall will be filled with booths. A kid's craft corner will be available again. This year, Barb's grandchildren will not be able to attend and help at the kids' corner but it will be coordinated by Barb Gerdes with the help of Leah Rambat and Jesse Smith. "Both are great with kids and

they will have a lot of fun," Mrs. Gerdes said.

"The craft fair should have a lot to buy and look at to get ideas for the holidays," she said. "Our turnout last year was tremendous and this year's looks to surpass that."

"We will have a large variety of foods, handiwork and ideas. Please come early, have lunch and shop 'til you drop. We have some very talented people in this area and this is a very good

way to show them off."

Mrs. Gerdes is working on having the Cancer Awareness Booth again this year with all the proceeds going to cancer research.



WORKING AT HIS DESK, Kale Schields, sixth grade teacher, enjoys learning with his students. One thing he hopes to do this semester is set up a mock election with another classroom.  
Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## Teacher enjoys sixth graders

By Linda Schneider  
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When Kale Schields accepted the sixth grade teaching position with Cheylin Elementary School, he did not have far to move. He was born and raised in Goodland, 40 miles away, and graduated from Goodland High School in 1987.

Growing up in Goodland with his parents Dale and Jacque Schields, three brothers Kasey, Cory, and Cody, and one sister, Keely, Mr. Schields spent nearly

four years working on his Uncle Gary Schields farm after earning his master's.

So, he is no stranger to the northwest corner of Kansas weather or hard work. What is new in his life is his decision to teach. This is Mr. Schields first teaching assignment after receiving his degree in elementary education from Ft. Hays State University in 1992.

In addition to the degree in education, Mr. Schields received a master in sports education and

that helps him in his positions as junior high football coach and junior high activities director at Cheylin.

"One of my best experiences at Ft. Hays State University was working in the Intra Mural Department as the graduate assistant helping in the planning of sports events such as football and softball for the students," said Mr. Schields.

After receiving his degree and master's, he returned to Goodland ready to teach only to dis-

cover there were no teaching positions available and took a job for Western Distributors driving truck for five years. It was during this time that he met Darci and her son, Austin, now an eighth grader at Cheylin. They were married in 2002, and have a son, Andrew a kindergartner, with a baby on the way.

"We don't know if the baby is a boy or girl. We are doing it the old-fashion way by waiting," said Mr. Schields.

Mrs. Schields graduated from Cheylin High School in 1992 and her parents, David and Deanna Nelsen, still live in Bird City. In addition, her sister and husband, Denise and Max Keltz, live close by.

Mr. Keltz encouraged Mr. Schields to update his resume because of the prospect of teaching positions becoming available. It was not too long before he would submit his resume, and together he and his wife decided to make the move when Cheylin hired him.

Mr. Schields teaches nine sixth grade students. He says that he did not come from a teaching family, but he has coached little league during the summers in Goodland and enjoys being around kids and sports. Moreover, it was his father who suggested to him to pursue a career working with kids.

Sometime while teaching his class, a student will catch him off guard by answering a serious question with something so funny he cannot keep a straight face. One such incident was during a social study lesson on Egypt, the question asked, "Describe a mummy," and Jacob Brubaker answered, "Someone who takes care of me!"

In talking about his goals as a teacher, Mr. Schields expresses that he wants to be a good role model and someone his students can talk with.

"For me it has been a great opportunity to teach in Bird City; for Darci it has been a homecoming," said Mr. Schields.

# VOTE