



CHEYLIN FOURTH GRADERS, (L) Bergan Bock, Jacqueline Chacon, Tom Frisbie, Haleigh Rucker, C.J. Antholz and Kevin Estrada practicing for their first concert. The students will be playing 'Go Tell Aunt Rhodie' and 'Hot Cross Buns' during the student

Christmas party to be held at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19. The community is invited to attend at the high school gymnasium.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Board discusses health plan and website



By Linda Schneider
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Health plans for employees was on the agenda for Wednesday evenings Cheylin Board of Education meeting. After considerable discussion, the board agreed to hold the contract until later.

Dale Hazuka, board member, made a motion to approve the contract, but David Frisbie, board president challenged the motion.

Mr. Frisbie was concerned that the insurance policy renewal was for three years. He felt that premium increases in that time could strain the school's budget causing the increase to pass to the policyholders.

Another concern was the school would be penalized if the contract was cancelled early, not only would there be a financial penalty, but the board would not be able to buy insurance for up to 5 years through the Kansas Health Policy Authority.

"The school pays \$412.97 for single policy coverage and

\$725.27 for the family policy," said Mrs. Young. "The employee rates are going to be changing soon, and employer rates are increasing soon after."

"Once the contract is locked in, the insurance company can basically make any changes," said Mr. Hazuka. At this point, he withdrew his motion to accept the policy.

Jane Young said the contract was not due until Jan. 1, and the members had a little time to research area schools and other insurance companies before signing. She added that some school like the Kansas State insurance and it is good for the employees.

"The contract is too rigid," said Mr. Frisbie.

The members agreed the insurance is very important for the employees. The matter was tabled until more research by Superintendent Bill Porter and Mrs. Young could be done.

Superintendent's report on Technology Committee

Superintendent Porter reported on his recent meeting with the Technology Committee. Their present goal is to get the school website up and running within the next few weeks with all programs in place and staff trained on how to use them. In addition, they asked for another Board member to join them. George Louderbaugh, board vice president, submitted his name and was voted in.

Five years ago the Technology Committee was formed to implement new learning equipment and teach students and staff how to use them. Committee members are Cheylin student Dan Frisbie, Board member Anita Pochop, staff Tammi Carmichael, Susan Jensen, Amy Hendricks and Cathy Weber, community members Jan Busse and Rod Young, and Kirby Krien, computer technician.

Mrs. Pochop opened discussion by saying she believed there was a problem in downloading the classroom lesson plan program.

"I was able to download Booster Club announcements, now I am under the impression that only Mr. Krien and Mrs. Jensen can update the website," said Mrs. Pochop.

Mrs. Pochop told the members that nowhere in the teacher's negotiated agreement is a need to have a lesson plan, only a hard copy to Superintendent Porter.

Superintendent Porter said it does not need to be in the negotiated agreement, but it does need to be in a job description. Reminding the members that Cheylin does not have job descriptions for staff, he added that he does have job descriptions and can present them to the board at the next meeting. It was mentioned that non-certified staff do have job descriptions.

Mrs. Pochop read an email from Mr. Krien to staff updating everyone on what is going on with the website. He, as well as

his staff, are visiting teachers, uploading necessary programs, and training them as the day draws closer to get the website live. He said on behalf of the school, that he has made a commitment to Century II Development Foundation to make a website the community would be able to view and be proud of.

Superintendent Porter asked the board to start arranging for Mr. Krien and his committee to train Cheylin staff on how to use the website; maybe by using substitute teachers.

Mrs. Pochop talked about how putting the lesson plans on the website may not be as easy, especially for the upper grades. Lessons plans can change for some unforeseen reason, and if the teacher cannot get to the computer to make the change, the student would have the wrong lesson.

To get the website up and running sooner, the members agreed to forego the lesson plan

program, which was slowing down the process, until a later date. Classroom lesson plans will be available by emailing or contacting the teacher and requesting them.

During the Technology Committee meeting, the members suggested to Superintendent Porter a need to budget \$12,000 annually to start replacing outdated computer and equipment.

Later, Mrs. Carmichael said that the website is within just a few weeks of going live, all programs have been downloaded, training is nearly completed and the committee is looking forward to a successful startup.

Other items

- Tia Sager commended to Northwest Kansas All-Star volleyball game in Colby on Sunday, Nov. 9.

- Staff appreciation party is set for Feb. 12.

- McDonald cafeteria construction due to start in February. Next meeting Dec. 8

Festival of Trees begins Nov. 24



By Karen Krien

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Local businesses, clubs and organizations will be decorating and donating an artificial Christmas tree to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cheyenne County's Festival of Trees.

The trees can be of any size and can be decorated in a theme or with the traditional balls and garland. They will be on display from Monday, Nov. 24, to Thursday, Dec. 10. During that time, people may bid on the trees in a silent auction.

Funds received from the auction will be used by the county's Big Brothers Big Sisters organization.

Those wanting to donate a tree should contact Anita Burton at 785-734-2351

What is it?

Big Brothers Big Sisters has historically had a positive reputation as "a nice program to help kids without a mom or a dad."

Statistically, the organization participants have been shown to be a potent weapon in the battle against juvenile crime and related programs. Younger kids who are mentoring with "Bigs" are less likely to be arrested, skip school, be engaged in



WENDY WELLMANN speaking to parents at Cheylin school.

violent confrontations, use drugs or alcohol.

Wendy Wellmann, Big Brother/Big Sister executive director, visited with parents at Cheylin high school.

Mrs. Wellmann said that Cheylin has made nine matchups in the last month alone. She added that Kansas exceeds matches in much larger states.



SCHOLAR BOWL TEAMMATES, (L) Clint Burns, Sydney Busse, Wil Orten and Mitchel Jensen talk over the answer.

Times photo by Jan Busse

Team down to four members at meet

The Cheylin Scholars Bowl high school team was plagued with sickness and first day of basketball practice conflict, therefore only four team members attended the Goodland Cowboy Classic Scholar's Bowl on Monday.

Those attending were Sydney Busse, Mitchel Jensen, Wil Orten and Clint Burns. The team was not as successful in this pool of nine teams, Cheylin finished fifth.

Those scoring for Cheylin were Busse with 380 points,

Orten with 80 points, and Jensen 20 points. The team bettered themselves by 190 points over last weeks meet but placed lower.

"The kids are doing a great job. It's so exciting to see them compete with 1- 4A schools

and beat them. Goodland's meet seemed to have easy questions but our team just kept on thinking themselves," said Coach Jan Busse. "Maybe the next meet on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at Tribune will be our chance for first place."

Thanksgiving Dinner

American Legion
Hall
Saturday 5 p.m.
Bingo to follow
at 7 p.m.

