



IT WAS A COLD AND WINDY MORNING, but that did not stop anyone from venturing out to the Van Doren Park in Bird City. It was a large crowd, mostly made up of kids bundled in warm jackets and hats looking for eggs and of course, the Easter Bunny. Before the egg hunt began, kids were invited to play games, win prizes and have some refreshments.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Board clarifies pay concerns, votes on issues

By Linda Schneider
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It was not an evening for much discussion as members of the Cheylin Board of Education met on Monday. However, many items were approved for the upcoming school year, clarification for long-term substitute pay, and the board accepted the resignations of Superintendent Bill Porter (see related story) and Jim Poore as the girls' high school assistant basketball coach.

The high school diplomas will be given out by David Frisbie, president, and Jan Busse, board member. Junior high diplomas will be given out by Don Orten and Mrs. Busse.

2009-2010 school items

The board members approved a contract with the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center to employ Elaine Marcuson as a full-time at-risk teacher. She already works at Cheylin three days a week; it will increase to four days a week with pay to be determined later.

Motion carried for the membership dues of \$2,919 paid to the Kansas Association of School Boards for 2009-2010.

Also approved was the payment of \$1,100 to the Kansas Association of School Boards Legal Assistance Fund.

Anita Burton's contract as school counselor was approved, salary will be set at a later date.

Approval of the supplemental duty assignments for next year was tabled.

Substitute teacher pay

Dan Carson asked for clarification in the board policy for long-term substitute teacher pay. He has been substituting for Amy Hendricks during her pregnancy leave.

"I had talked to several different people and got different answers," said Mr. Carson.

He continued by saying his concern was with the term "eight consecutive days." Did he have to start his eight consecutive days over after taking a day off and was pay retroactive? He had worked 11 days before the day off.

The board members asked Jim Milliken, school attorney, about the wording. Mr. Milliken said in his opinion, Mr. Carson has met the criteria for receiving long-term substitute teacher pay.

Jane Young, district clerk, added that she had researched three schools in the area and

found that there was no penalty for missing one day. In addition, she contacted Kansas Association for School Boards and was told that when looking at policy such as this one, it should be addressed in the July meeting every year.

Executive Session was called for non-elective personnel. No action was taken.

Job descriptions

Superintendent Porter presented job descriptions for certified staff for approval. He added the Kansas School Board suggested that Cheylin have one and non-certified staff has job descriptions in effect already. Discussion followed concerning the wording on some of the descriptions.

"This has been on the agenda for approval for several months, it just helps clarify things," said Lori Janicke, board member.

Superintendent Porter added that the job description will aid in staff evaluation. Motion carried to approve the job description with minor corrections.

McDonald cafeteria

It looks like some improvements are to begin on the McDonald concession stand/cafeteria. The members approved a bid from Dustin Deidrick, High Plains Electric in Atwood, for \$7,025 to install electrical wiring and lights.

Superintendent Porter said that he was also looking into getting some stimulus money for kitchen and technology equipment.

Other items

The board finished the evening by discussing or taking action on the following:

- The approval of a donation to the Bird City Golf Course for \$160.

- Rejected all bids concerning the purchase of a 2009 vehicle for school use. Bidding is reopened for a 2008-2009 school vehicle.

- Heard the end of the school final budget, \$1,639,440.

- Will republish the present at-risk budget of \$88,000 to a new amount.

- One application for summer school teacher, need at least three teachers total.

Executive session

Executive session was called. No action was taken.

Next meeting

The next board of education will be held on Monday, May 11.



THERE WERE JUST A FEW GOLDEN EGGS to be found and Briana Vandike is one of the lucky girls.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Many show up to gather Easter eggs

It was a cold and blistery morning for the Bird City Easter Egg Hunt last Saturday, but that did not stop the many egg and Easter Bunny hunters from showing up at Van Doren Park.

Sponsored by the Bird City Community Club and volunteers from Cheylin School, even the youngest of them all had a good time with games and prizes.

With the volunteers, Jacob Brubaker, Craig Busse, Stephanie Busse, Sydney Busse, Jaime Davison, Connor Hazuka, Cheyenne Hewitt, Caleb Keltz, Colleen Montevilla, Chris Walden

and Amanda Walden, eggs full of candy and prizes were scattered throughout the park.

After the eggs were all found, the best was yet to come! The Easter Bunny showed up riding in a bright yellow fire truck courtesy of the Bird City Fire Department and Rescue crew.

As the kids lined up to meet with the Easter Bunny, some were eager and some kids not so eager to sit on the giant bunny's lap. With the games, prizes and eggs, there was something for every child who came.

Board accepts resignation

By Linda Schneider
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During the April Cheylin Board of Education meeting, members accepted superintendent, Bill Porter's, resignation. No reason was given as to why he resigned.

The board members went on to approve the contract with Marvin Selby, former Goodland superintendent of schools, as interim superintendent, effective immediately. He will receive \$375 per day for a maximum of two days per month or as needed.

The search for a new super-

intendent will be conducted by consultants, McPherson and Jacobson of Omaha, Neb. Dr. Mike Lucas, lead consultant, will be heading up the search. The deadline for applications is April 21.

On April 30, he will be in the Cheylin High School library, meeting first with school staff members and then with both McDonald and Bird City community members to discuss the superintendent search selection criteria.

That evening, Dr. Lucas will meet with the board of education to review the candidates and assist as the board selects final candidates for interviews.

Interviews are tentatively scheduled for the first week in May, with the new superintendent/principal beginning his/her duties on or about July 1.



Porter

Crash takes life of Bird City man

By Karen Krien
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A head-on crash involving a Geo and semi truck pulling a trailer filled with cattle took the life of a Bird City man Tuesday afternoon.

Alan J. Chumley, 47, of Bird City, was headed west on U.S. 36 when he crossed the center line and hit a semi truck head on. The truck was driven by Paul L. Payton Jr., 54, of Big Springs, Neb., and he was not injured.

The accident occurred near milepost 23 which is about 4.5 miles east of Wheeler. Both officers from the Cheyenne County Sheriff's office and Josh McQuitty, Kansas State Highway Patrol,

were on the scene as were emergency medical technicians and firemen.

Traffic was routed around the accident for almost 6 hours while the accident was being worked and the 45 to 50 head of cattle were being loaded into another trailer. Sheriff Craig Van Allen said none of the cattle were injured in the accident.

Both the truck, a 2000 Peterbilt, and car, a 1993 Geo, were taken to Alex's Radiator in Goodland.

A memorial service was held Thursday evening at the United Methodist Church in Bird City with a private gathering of the family following.

Subscription costs to increase May 1

With the rising costs of everything, *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* will also be costing a little more.

As of May 1, the subscription price for *The Herald* will be \$38 a year within a 50-mile radius of St. Francis; \$42 in Kansas; and \$48 out of state. The *Times* will go from \$30 to \$33 a year within a 50-mile radius; \$36 in Kansas; and \$40 out of state.

The price of single papers will also increase. *The Herald* will go from \$.75 to \$1; the *Times*

will go from \$.65 to \$.75.

"The price of paper has continued to increase as has the postage to mail the papers," said Karen Krien, publisher.

The last time there was an increase for a single *Herald* and *Times*, she said, was in 1995 when the price went from \$.50 to \$.75; and \$.40 to \$.65, respectively.

The last time subscription rates increased was in August 2006.