

Board hears report on center's costs



By Linda Schneider
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The Cheylin Board of Education had guest speaker, Dan Thornton, executive director of the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center in Oakley, give a detailed presentation what it costs to hire staff from the center.

In addition, Superintendent Bruce Bolen reported that there are 135 full-time equivalent students; seven more than expected as of Sept. 14.

Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center

During the last month's board meeting, it was suggested to invite Mr. Thornton to attend a meeting and learn the breakdown of the different programs Cheylin is using and ask questions.

The board listened as Mr. Thornton explained how the schools in a 19 district area share the costs of hiring service from the center. He also told the board about all the reimbursements and grants that assists the schools in paying for some of the programs including Medicaid.

Medicaid reimburses on programs medically necessary to achieve maximum learning capabilities such as hearing aids.

"Not all is reimbursed, but it helps," Mr. Thornton said.

He continued by explaining that there are two types of services offered to schools: based programs and buy-in programs. Based programs are paid for whether they are used or not. An example of a based program would be a hearing program. Buy-in programs give the schools the option to participate or not. An example would be the speech program.

While a complicated presentation and Mr. Thornton gave many examples to help the board understand all the ends and outs of what the center does, he said being invited to a board meeting was a great opportunity for him to answer questions and develop a partnership with Cheylin.

Field trip

Babs Antholz, faculty, asked for the approval of a proposed field trip for her House Design Class in October.

Mrs. Antholz explained in past design classes, the students made a field trip to Denver to tour the Parade of Homes, which included approximately five homes under various construction levels. However, due to economic situations, there would not be a tour this year.

Her proposed alternative field trip would be to Lincoln, Neb., where the students would be able to tour approximately 50 homes in various stages of construction. She said the drive is four and a half hours, which was not the problem. Her main concerns were the hours in which the homes would be toured and the late drive back to Bird City.

She proposed leaving on Sunday, Oct. 4, early in the morning to be able to fully participate in the tour that runs from 1 to 6 p.m. The group of four boys and three girls would stay overnight, missing one day of school. She added, all on parental approval.

Mrs. Antholz wanted approval for transportation, the cost of gas and overnight room stay that would consist of three hotel rooms, and students would pay for their own food. She suggested her class could volunteer to work at the concession stand one game to help with the costs. Discussion on approval was later after Mrs. Antholz left the meeting.

When talks resumed, the board approved the field trip with the discretion of trip destination up to Superintendent Bolen.

Summer school

The summer school report was presented by Tammi Carmichael, faculty.

Mrs. Carmichael told the board, kindergarten through seventh grade students showed up each day during the summer program.

"We had three teachers and one para-professional," said Mrs. Carmichael. "The kids were all a great bunch and had a blast, but it was just overwhelming at times."

She said the older students taught by Janice Churchwell did fairly well; however, the younger students taught by Susan Jensen, herself and Mary Moore, a para, were challenging and stressful.

Mrs. Carmichael added there were many kids that had many needs and they just did not know what to do or who was doing what.

Mrs. Carmichael said that it was only a short time before summer school started that she was notified there was going to be a summer program. She continued by saying she was not even fully aware of who was going to be teaching. In addition, tasks and duties were basically agreed who would do what.

She said getting materials to conduct the classes had to be quickly put together and ordered because of the short notice. This led to discussing funding for staff.

"Mrs. Moore was doing everything we were doing and she should be treated the same," said Mrs. Carmichael. "I may be speaking out of turn on this issue."

Hal Antholz, board president, asked Mrs. Carmichael what could be done to make it easier on everyone next year.

Superintendent Bolen told the board there will be a recommendation and a preliminary list of students presented to the board next April.

Football rules

The board approved the final draft for the junior and high school football training rules for 2009-2010 school year with changes.

The changes will say if there is a grievance between a student and/or parents and coach, the procedure is as follows: the grievance will first be brought to the coach/teacher, if no resolution then to the school superintendent, still no resolution before the school board.

The rules will be reprinted with changes and sent home for signatures from parents.

Faculty contracts

The board approved Sharon Hendricks as pre-kindergarten program certified coordinator at \$250 per semester.

A supplemental contract for Greg Jones as the assistant middle school girl's volleyball coach for school year was approved.

Jolene Reeh was approved as the cross-country coach.

The board approved Blanca Ponce as the migrant/English language learned para-professional for the school year. Her salary will be \$9.25 per hour, the additional \$.75 for bilingual services and she is eligible for benefits.

Anita Burton and Ken Hankins were approved as staff for the After-School Program. Mrs. Burton will be paid \$31.64 per hour and Mr. Hankins \$29.86 per hour.

In addition, the board approved providing free lunches for staff members that are assigned lunch duty each day.

"I feel it is a way of saying 'thank you' to them," said Superintendent Bolen.

Executive session

Executive session was called for non-elective personnel. Upon reconvening, no motion made.

Next meeting

Next board of education meeting will be Monday, Oct. 12.

Treasure Hunt - Friday to Sunday



HOLDING ONE OF GRACIE'S PUPS, Tilar Ambrosier has his pick of the litter. The Highway 36 Treasure Hunt begins and pups like the one he is holding is up for adoption and free to good homes. Contact DeAnza Ambrosier at Bird City City Hall for information. Bird City Diner

on U.S 36 will have vendors setting up in the parking lot and why not take time to order one of their delicious hamburgers on the way into Bird City to browse through one of a kind sale items at the different locations.

Photo courtesy of DeAnza Ambrosier

Large turn out to benefit golf course

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The golf club held a pancake feed on Thursday to benefit the Bird City Golf Course. A large crowd attended and over \$1,800 was raised to help with operating expenses and keep the course open. In addition, Century II Development Foundation will match with a \$1,000 grant.

The Bird City Golf Course is owned by the Hickert family and Dave Hickert submitted the following exert from Bird City Times, Jan. 13, 1927,

Golf! Golf! Golf! Nearly everybody we meet talks golf, and so we're going to also start.

The Bird City Golf Club is now close to 50 strong, and the fever has reached 10 miles northeast of town where the farmers have built a golf course on the Henry Pelstrom and Cecil Sawyer land. Talk about bugs, this neighborhood is infested with golf bugs.

We understand that Clark Sawyer, Weaver Johnson, and Alfred Burck went out to play golf the day after they were elected officers and all had very bad luck.

A swelling of the chest will hinder a feller from playing good golf. Probably it was the responsibility placed upon their manly shoulders which kept them from shooting good golf.

Our postmaster, V.O. Booth is complaining because all golf clubs are made too long for his short stature. Don't worry, Vertie, at the rate you are digging dirt, your clubs will be broken off short enough before long.

Every day Henry Hickert can be seen on the golf course waiting for C.C. McMillen. And Mac never disappoints Henry either. If their wives don't play the game, we would advise them to learn at once, because when warm weather really sets in, there will be one vacant chair in each home.

The rest of you golf bugs beware. Your time is coming. We'll tell our readers all about you.



FIRST GRADERS, Gus Hesse (front), Andrew Shields, and Colton McCarty show visitors during open house how to use the computers.

Bird City has mostly good weather

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Bird City has experienced some bad but mostly good weather for 2009. While many of the surrounding areas have had hail damage, the hail has, for the most part, passed over the town.

For the people who are interested in what the weather has been like, Troy Burr reported the statistics for each month.

In January, the temperature was one degree

for the minimum and 69 degrees maximum, total precipitation was .21 inch with 3 inches of snow depth. Wind gusts were 48 miles per hour maximum and wind chill -11 degrees with heat index 64 maximum, get out the suntan oil.

For February and March, the weather stayed calm with minimum temperatures around five degrees and maximum temperatures reaching 78 degrees in March. Residents were

thinking about getting out the sunglasses and hats.

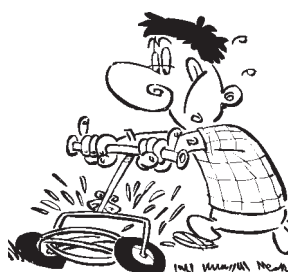
Beginning in April, temperatures started to rise with the minimum at 20 degrees and maximum at 84 degrees; however, the wind chill factor was at 4 degrees. So, it was jackets in the morning and shorts in the afternoon.

By the time Cheylin School was out for the summer, the temperatures were reaching into the 90s and the nights cool for sleeping. The heat index

reached the highest in June and August with 100 degrees.

For August, the minimum temperature was 51 degrees and maximum 98 degrees, with the wind chill at 49 degrees. It was humid at 96 percent at the highest point and the minimum being 15 percent.

September has seen a bit of weather change toward the autumn coolness, but the neighborhood gardens do not see a threat of frost just yet.



But, one never knows when Ole Jack Frost will blow his wintry breath and summer will be gone and with it, no more lawn mowing.