



CHEYLIN KINDERGARTNER, Nellie Hesse, looks through one of her books during class time
Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Board discusses state funding cuts



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School budget and state funding cuts were the main topics of the Cheylin Board of Education meeting on Monday evening.

Superintendent Bruce Bolen reported the projected state funding cuts that will be taking place in public schools during the next few years. He said for this quarter, the state funds are \$63,000,000 short statewide.

"It amounts to a \$70 cut in funds for full time equivalency students in November," said Superintendent Bolen. "And it is not getting better anytime soon."

Next year, he said, is looking at \$411,000,000 in cuts state-wide, and then a possible \$70,000,000 cut not long after. He said that it was unnerving to think that could amount to \$700 cut per full-time equivalency student.

Discussion followed about the effect the state funding cuts would have on small rural schools. Many schools may be looking at shutting doors, even the schools that have a reduced school attendance week.

"Closing down the schools will literally shut down businesses and kill a community," said Superintendent Bolen.

The board once again discussed the options of raising local taxes and having a community meeting to let residents know what is going on.

"Even if taxes are raised, how much can the community be expected to pay?" board member, David Frisbie, asked. "And the state puts a cap on just how much can be raised locally."

"The state is really shooting themselves in the foot," said Jan Busse, board member.

Superintendent Bolen presented an opportunity to join with Schools for Fair Funding and other Kansas schools in taking their concerns to the courts and suing the state. The effort needs a pledge of \$2 per full-time equivalency student, and that amounted to \$275 to help pay fees.

After discussion about what can or cannot be accomplished, the board approved to paying into the State for Fair Funding cause and join other schools in trying to get something done.

It was also suggested and agreed to invite state representa-

tives Ralph Ostmeier and John Faber to a board of education meeting to discuss the funding cuts and ask where they stand and what are they doing to help keep Kansas small town schools open.

Audit/budget

Before hearing the audit from Adams, Brown, Beran, and Ball, Superintendent Bolen reported that Cheylin has received a projected \$20,226 state fund for English a Learned Language program. Then he added to plan on paying a 12-percent increase in State Health Insurance next year.

Brian Statts and Angela Kettler, Adams, Brown, Beran, and Ball representatives, presented the annual audit to the members.

Mr. Statts made a short presentation telling the members that the audit went well and no irregularities noted and everything was in compliance with the state budget law. The school had no debt, and the general fund was in good shape.

Recommendations on making a smoother audit was given by Ms. Kettle. Generally speaking, the recommendations are required by state and were mostly about lack of separation of duties.

"We understand with smaller schools, administration does not have the staff to do this," said Mr. Statts.

Another area was having a gate receipt trial for future audits. Ms. Kettle suggested head counts; this would reduce incidents of money not meeting attendance.

Mr. Statts added that he understands that most of the revenue duties are the responsibilities of the clerk, Jane Young. He commended her on doing a fine job.

Superintendent Bolen added his own thanks for Mrs. Young's dedication and he would help with some of the duties in the future. Motion carried to accept the audit with recommendations.

School business

The board approved Stacey Hazuka to the assistant junior high girls' basketball coach position for the 2009-2010 year. Dale Hazuka, board member, excused himself when it came time to vote for Mrs. Hazuka.

The girls' and boys' high school cross country training

rules were approved. Also approved, was the Teacher Evaluation Instrument for the 2009-2010 school year.

Superintendent Bolen presented two policies for the board to review for approval, the long-term substitute policy and the nepotism policy with new wording.

Calendar changes

Superintendent Bolen presented having the first nine weeks end on Friday, Oct. 23, instead of on Tuesday, Oct. 20. The reasons he gave was that it would give the teachers the opportunity to do grading and scheduling changes over the weekend and not have to do it the next day. The board agreed and motion carried to end the first nine weeks on Friday, Oct. 23.

His second request was to have an early noon dismissal on Friday, Oct. 23, because it was Super Friday and many of the students will be gone to participate in out of town games and many students want to attend those games. After a short discussion, motion carried to dismiss classes at noon after lunch has been served.

McDonald gymnasium

George Louderbaugh, vice president, brought several maintenance issues to the attention of the board.

He said that he and his wife, Dixie, had done a walk through looking at some general maintenance that should be done. He suggested replacing the boys' locker room benches because they were falling apart. Members discussed replacing them with extra cafeteria benches.

Mr. Louderbaugh suggested replacing the shower heads in both the boys' and girls' locker rooms as well as adding an extra row of coat hooks.

He added there are several places where there is or has been water leaks, even in the boys' locker room which has serious rusting on the overhead beams.

Members discussed how to use materials already available and Mr. Louderbaugh said that he and Dixie could do most of the maintenance needed.

Superintendent Bolen suggested that he meet with Mr. Louderbaugh to do a walk through to see what needs to be done.

Executive session

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

Next meeting

The next meeting will be Monday, Nov. 9.

Bird City logo gets approval

The Bird City 125-Year Celebration Committee is already gearing up for next June by developing the 125 year logo.

Designed by Lynn Glasco, committee member, the logo tells the story of Bird City and the people who have lived here over the last 125 years.

The "BC" in the middle of the logo was discovered on top of the Bird City Hall in what appears to be the old neon sign and the committee unanimously voted to put it in the middle of the logo.

The two wheat heads on the logo represents how Bird City has been bordered by golden wheat fields every year since its early farming days.

The outside golden border of the logo represents the ever presence of God, who has always been there through the years, for



those who will reach out to Him through His son Jesus Christ.

The 125th Bird City Celebration Belt Buckles and Rifles will carry the same logo and will go

on sale in January.

In addition, the logo will be used to identify events and activities that are planned for the celebration.

County clinic waits for first H1N1 vaccine to arrive

While the state of Kansas has started receiving very limited quantities of the H1N1 vaccine, Cheyenne County, as of Friday, had not received the first allocation.

There are two kinds of H1N1 vaccines being produced; said Mila Bandel, county health nurse.

The first one to arrive in the county will be the nasal spray flu vaccine. It is a vaccine made with live, weakened viruses that do not cause the flu. The indications for who can get the nasal spray vaccine are those healthy people 2 to 49 years of age who are not pregnant and people with no underlying health conditions.

The second kind is the "flu shot" injection, which Mrs. Bandel said, is an inactivated vaccine containing killed virus that is given with a needle, usually in the arm. This injection is approved for use in people 6 months of age and older, including healthy people, people with chronic medical conditions and pregnant women.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment expects larger quantities to be available in the next few weeks, but at this time the amounts received are,

for the most part, Mrs. Bandel said, too small to hold public vaccinations clinics.

The Department of Health and Environment is allocating the nasal spray vaccine first. It is distributing vaccine dosages to each county by the age population. Cheyenne County's average age population is 44.2 years of age; therefore, the state will not allocate large quantities of the vaccine at this time as they are focusing on 2- to 24-years-of-age populations.

The Center for Disease Control's Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices recommends that health departments and private clinics administer the H1N1 vaccine to people in the listed target groups which include:

Nasal spray vaccine

Nasal spray vaccine: This group must be healthy with no underlying health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, chronic heart disease, etc.

- Direct patient care health care workers.
- Emergency medical service personnel.
- Children 2 to 24 years of age.
- People who live with or provide care of infants younger

than 6 months of age (parents, siblings, and day care providers).

- People 25 to 49 years of age.

Injectable vaccine

"Flu shot" injectable vaccine is for the following people:

- Pregnant women.
- People 6 months of age and older that are healthy.
- People with chronic underlying health conditions.

No vaccination advised

People who should not be vaccinated with any flu vaccine include:

- Those with a severe allergy to chicken eggs.
- People who had a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination.
- Those who developed Guillain-Barre syndrome within 6 weeks of getting an influenza vaccine previously.
- Children younger than 6 months of age.
- People who have a moderate-to-severe illness with a fever.

For more information contact the Cheyenne County Health Department at (785) 332-2381 or you can access the Kansas Department of Health and Environment website at www.kdheks.gov/H1N1.

Trunk or treat time again

It's that time of the year when Cheylin invites all the goblins, ghosts, witches, and other spooky kids to the Trunk-or-Treat on Thursday, Oct. 29.

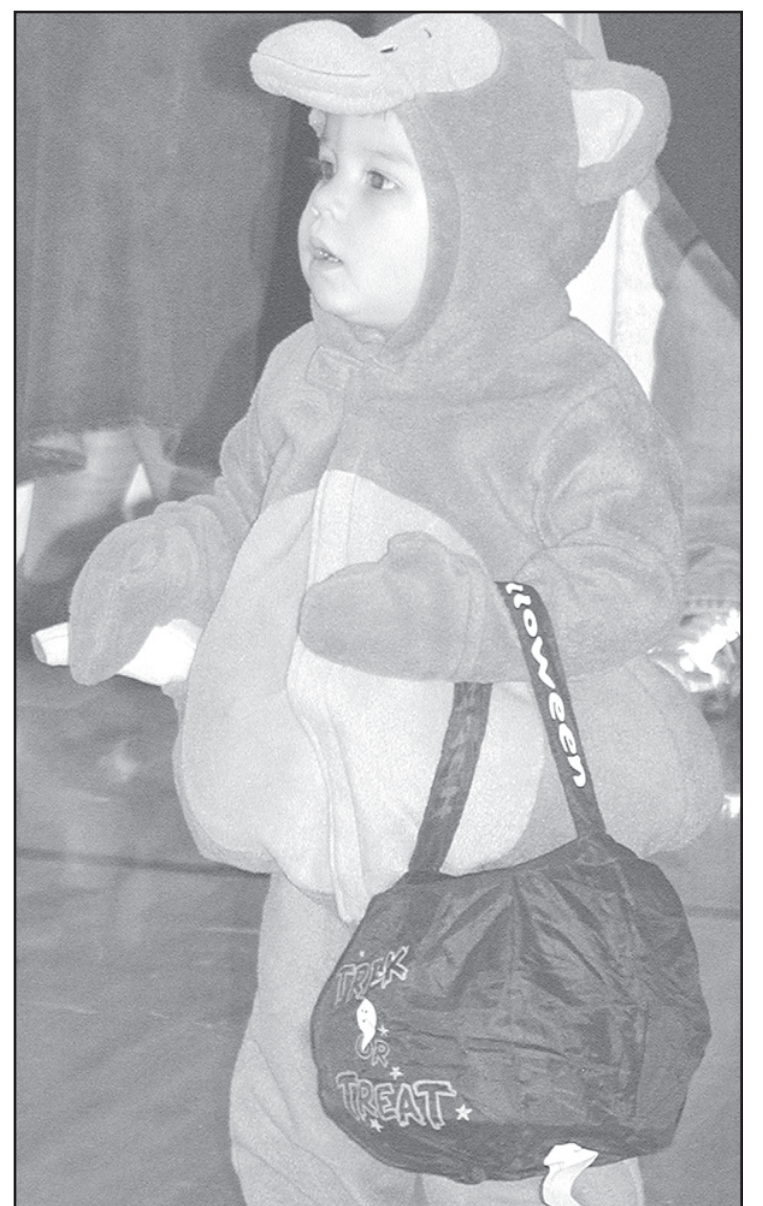
The last couple of years, the Cheylin Elementary School have held this successful event by opening up and decorating car trunks and tailgates.

Businesses, community members and organizations are invited once again to take part in this fun event.

Before the "Spook-tacular" event begins, the Cheylin high school cheerleaders will be hosting a Community Pep Rally in the high school gym starting at 2:30 p.m. on Oct. 29.

The Spook Parade begins at 3 p.m. in front of the elementary gym. In case of inclement weather, the parade will take place in the elementary gym.

Those interested in participating in the Trunk-or-Treat, or have any questions, contact Anita Burton at 785-734-2351 ext. 201, or Tammi Carmichael at 785-734-2351 ext. 212. Come and enjoy the ghoulish fun.



IT'S NOT JUST ghosts and witches that have fun at the Spook Parade, monkeys show up too!