



IT'S RECESS AT CHEYLIN and with the warm, sunny weather, students of all ages are outside soaking up the rays. Last week, Bird City was under a blanket of icy fog and below freezing temperatures.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Bus transportation problems discussed

By Linda Schneider
dublinlms@gmail.com

Problems with school transportation was heard when the Cheylin Board of Education met Monday.

Randy Miller, staff, told about a recent transportation breakdown with the large Cougar bus. It was in -11 degrees when the bus loaded with students had an engine breakdown between there and Oakley.

He continued to explain, at the very least, the motor will have to be pulled and the cost for repairs is going to be somewhere between \$16,000 and \$17,000. Discussion began on what the options were and costs.

Mr. Miller said the motor had been worked on not long ago and the 3-year warranty was no longer in effect; however, he felt with only 81,000 miles on the motor the company (Detroit) that did the work should compensate some.

He said the bus was in Colby, adding that he wanted to know how the board wanted him to proceed. It was suggested to have the motor re-manned and this would take approximately a week to do the work. In addition, at \$112 per hour labor, the board members blew out a loud sigh.

Also Superintendent Bruce Bolen reported that it cost \$450 to haul the broken down bus to Colby.

The bottom line for the decision concerning the repair on the bus was agreed that it needed to be fixed, the board instructed Mr. Miller to get back to them on costs.

Senior class trip

Senior students, Vance Churchwell, Max Hengen, Naomi Reeh, Ana Ponce, Hudson Louderbaugh and Lance Leonard, presented the proposed 2010 senior trip. Not attending was Eliana Chavez.

The group chose Corpus Christi, Texas, as the trip destination and presented the itinerary.

Leaving out of Denver on April 16, reported all costs and activities they would do. They would be returning to Bird City on April 19.

"We selected this location to have fun with our classmates and sponsors, and to get out of the

cold," said Vance.

Members questioned the students to make sure everything is paid for and was transportation in order once in Corpus Christi. Anita Pochop, member, suggested investigating vehicle insurance to make sure not to over pay.

The sponsors who will be going are Barbara Antholz and Max Keltz. The students are also inviting Denise Keltz, all expenses paid.

The students added that they would reimburse gas expense to the school for the transportation provided by the school.

The only concern was the length of days the students were asking for. After some discussion, the board agreed to allow Monday, April 19, as part of the trip.

The members ended the discussion by reminding the students their behavior would play an important part on future senior trips.

Hal Antholz, president, told the students to return to the next meeting for approval with all addresses to include itineraries, phone numbers and times so in case of an emergency they could be easily located.

Resignation

"It is with much regret that the board accepts Sharon Hendricks resignation as kindergarten teacher for the 2010-2011 school year," said Mr. Antholz. No reason was given for the resignation. Advertising for her replacement was approved.

Sports costs

Jan Busse brought up the issue of paying game referees. Discussion followed with athletic costs.

Superintendent Bolen said the referees receive about \$400 per game and that includes junior high games which do not charge admissions. Mrs. Busse continued by saying that's why no one wants to host a junior high game.

Superintendent Bolen explained that there has been talk within the junior high league to begin charging to help with the costs; however, then ticket takers would have to be added and other

workers.

"We have three varsity officials working at \$85 a night," said Superintendent Bolen.

Mrs. Busse said that the referees are given complimentary meals when they are refereeing Cheylin.

Members discussed who should be paying for the meals, possibly the classes; however, Mrs. Pochop said that she felt the classes should not be paying.

Superintendent Bolen added that he thought giving the meals to the game officials was a "thank you" from Cheylin, adding that when travel time and expenses are taken into consideration, \$85 is not a lot of money. When all was said, Mrs. Busse said the cost of a meal was about \$7.

"We need those folks and some schools just give them a bottle of pop and a candy bar," said Superintendent Bolen. "Plus, they will share with other schools what we do for them."

Miscellaneous items

The board accepted a gift of \$100 from Clayton and Lori Janicke to use toward school field trips.

Motion carried to approve the state reimbursement rate for mileage of 50 cent per mile.

The board approved a 2-year contract with Superintendent Bolen. In discussion, Superintendent Bolen added that he would take a pay cut, if cutting staff salaries became a necessity.

Appointed to the Negotiations Team were David Frisbie, George Louderbaugh and Jan Busse.

In keeping with finding financial cuts in school programs, Mr. Miller suggested combining school bus routes. It was decided that if combining would occur, it would happen in the 2010-2011 school year. The present contracts would continue to be honored.

Executive session

Executive session was called. Upon reconvening, no motion was made.

Next meeting

Next meeting scheduled for Feb. 8.

Finding study area focus of workshop

The Cheylin School district is hosting "The Home Environment," the second workshop of the PASSport to Success series on Monday in the high school library.

The focus of the workshop is finding a special study area for kids in their own home. Parents will learn what works and what

doesn't work. In addition, parents will have time to share thoughts before, during and after the workshop.

The staff welcomes parents to join with them on the road to learn how any home can become an "educational castle...if parents make an effort." The workshop begins at 7 p.m.

Students learn how to make choices

A program geared to helping students make better choices is coming to the St. Francis high school on Wednesday. There are two programs, one at 1 p.m. held in the high school gym which is basically for ninth through 12th grade students. The second will be held at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium which will have a more religious tone to it. The public is urged to attend one or both programs.

Todd Becker was an 18-year-old high school student who was killed in a car crash in which alcohol was a factor. Now Todd's brother, Keith Becker, is working to help other young people make better choices. Mr. Becker and other members of the Todd Becker Foundation will be giving the presentations.

The program is about the "road of life" and has gotten rave reviews from students who have seen the presentation.

The afternoon program is expected to be very high energy

and will include performances of contemporary music which should appeal to the students.

The evening program is more faith-based because there is more to the story than just drinking. Some of the material covered through the program could be somewhat distressing for younger students and they should be accompanied by a parent.

We are excited to have Keith with his foundation present the program to our students and community, said Scott Carmichael, principal. He has made the presentation in both the Rawlins County and Decatur Community high schools and his message has been well received.

A full-capacity crowd is expected for the evening presentation as Mr. Becker is very highly recommended, Mr. Carmichael said.

The program is sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance and the St. Francis schools. There is no admission charge.



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS look on as Cristi Antholz's (seated at computer) fifth grade students team up and answer questions. Above standing, Kevin Estrada thinks carefully before answering the question correctly. His teammates looking on are (seated right to left) Haleigh Rucker, Jacqueline Chacon, and C.J. Antholz. Standing in the back are Jane Young (l), district clerk, Anita Pochop, Lori Janicke, and David Frisbie.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Students interact with computer during 'Academic Focus' visit

During the January Board of Education meeting, the members visited with Cristi Antholz and her fifth grade class called an "Academic Focus."

Members watched as Ms. Antholz and her class interacted with a computer program that challenged the student's knowledge with questions.

The students were rewarded with words of encouragement from the program such as "That was beautiful" or "Is anyone there?" It was evident the students were enjoying

the interaction.

Ms. Antholz told the board of several studies the classroom was focused on such as vocabulary and reading strategies.

She also mentioned that she had learned a lot from the Reading Academy Cheylin she attended sponsored by Cheylin School.

"One of the things I learned was that if I was bored with the reading, the students are also bored," said Ms. Antholz.

Superintendent Bruce Bolen pointed out that the "Wall of Words" was something he had

seen before, but not with the pictures that were included in Ms. Antholz's classroom.

Superintendent Bolen told the board that Cheylin had just purchased two more mimio learning devices for Ms. Antholz's class, Kale Schields sixth grade class and Tammi Carmichael's fourth grade class to use between them.

Ms. Antholz said the class had received two new laptops last year, along with new software.

"Long gone are the days of flash cards!" said Jan Busse, board member.