

School board studies figures to plan for future

By Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

Faced with a potential \$200,000 cut in a \$6,578,289 published budget from this year to next, the Goodland School Board had a special meeting Monday night to think about the future.

The board talked about how much money it may have to spend and what should be repaired or replaced.

The school district figures it will have around \$200,000 less to run the schools with next year, said Superintendent Shelly Angelos. Part of the loss will be due to an expected drop of 12 students in the full-time equivalency count used to figure the money the district will get from the state. The number used for this year was 944, she said, but based on enrollment last fall, the figure for next year will be 932.

The other challenge, she told the board, is a 7 percent estimated increase for employee health insurance costs and \$85,779 in salary increases. The salary increases were projected if everyone moved up on the salary scale.

At least the district has an idea what they will get from the state before school starts this year, said board member Dick Short, noting that last year, with the Legislature and courts still wrangling with the budget, no one knew.

The district expects continue to lose students in coming years, Angelos said. The estimate from the Kansas Association of School Boards is 22 a year.

The superintendent gave the board an idea of what capital improvements would need to be made in the next five years and an idea what they would cost:

- The Cobblestone building, an old greenhouse across from the high school, needs to be demolished or salvaged at a projected cost of \$30,000 if the work is contracted.

- The high school auditorium needs lighting and sound systems at an estimated cost of \$60,000. The auditorium is used by the community a great deal, Angelos said.

- Windows need to be replaced at Grant Junior High, North Elementary, Goodland High School and Central Elementary. Replacing the windows at West Elementary cost around \$15,000. Before North can be air conditioned, she said, the windows need to be replaced.

- Replace doors at North and West due to the building settling, at an estimated cost of \$17,000.

- Replace a route bus at a cost between \$32,000 and \$60,000. Route buses have to be replaced after 20 years, she said. Five years from now, the district will need a new activity bus, which would cost around \$142,000.

- Air conditioning for North Elementary. It cost \$272,000 to install air conditioning at West.

- New bleachers for Max Jones Fieldhouse, which Angelos said would be a high-dollar item. The bleachers are original, she said, put in when the building was built in the 1960s, and have become increasingly hard for maintenance crews to open. The bleachers would have to be custom-made to fit and would cost at least \$100,000.

- Replace heating boilers at Central and Grant Junior High. The boilers are temperamental, she said, and because of their age, parts are almost impossible to find and there was no estimate of the cost.

- Replace or repair the modular classroom at Goodland High School at no estimated cost.

The capital improvements list is more of a wish list and not all of the items would have to be done, said Superintendent Angelos.

Maybe the board should consider closing some school buildings if the student population keeps declining, said member Marty Melia. It would make no sense to do improvements on buildings that the district would close down.

Grant has 110 students this year, he said, and there is more than enough room for them at the high school. It is something to think about.

County visitors bureau studies worth, numbers of billboards

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

How many billboards does it take to get travelers to stop in town? What are they worth? The Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau board wrestled with both questions at its regular meeting last Tuesday.

The bureau's contract on one billboard is expiring in March and another next year, and Director Donna Price thought it may be best to let them go.

The board disagreed, citing a neighboring town's prolific billboards as a reason to keep them.

One billboard is 10 miles east of Goodland along the westbound lane of I-70, and the other is along the eastbound lane near the weigh station at Kanorado.

They all agreed that it would be good for a Goodland business to have its name on the billboards, but the board has yet to decide whether

to sublease the boards or to have them repainted for the bureau.

"If we let it go, Colby would take it," said Chairman Dale Neill of the west billboard.

Colby has 15 signs out there, said board member Lincoln Wilson; if they take another, people will blow past Goodland.

People blow right by because all they see from Burlington on is Colby, he said; apparently Goodland doesn't have anything to offer — that's what people will think.

One of the billboards up for renewal is \$175 a month, Price said, and the other \$188.

Wilson, owner of the Howard Johnson Hotel, and Ryan Hageman, manager of Wendy's, said they pay about twice as much for their billboards. The prices are good, Price agreed, but they will go up at renewal.

The bureau has 10 billboards, she

said, and gets a better deal for quantity, but not all of them are priced the same. One near Lawrence is \$550 a month, she said, but it is in a great location and is well lighted. The bureau owns some and leases from more than one company, she said.

The board voted to renew the contract in March but hasn't decided yet whether or not to combine the advertising with someone or sublease it. Since all the bureau's billboards need to be repainted, the board formed a committee to work on designs.

The current color scheme is bad, Wilson said, and faded. The signs are pink where they should be red, he said. They need freshening up, Neill agreed.

Price recommended redesigning and painting all the billboards at once, since they all need it. The board formed a committee to handle the project: Price, Neill, Wilson, Scott Angelos and Jeanne Irvin.



Andrew Shores, eighth grade son of Nancy Shores, spelled a word for the district spelling bee Wednesday afternoon at the Goodland High School auditorium. Shores won with the word "beagle."
Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

'Beagle' winning word pick for student at district spelling bee

By Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

Ten students sat in chairs on the stage in the Goodland High School auditorium Wednesday afternoon and tried not to look nervous for the Goodland School District's Spelling Bee.

The last two left in the competition were Andrew Shores, eighth-grade son of Nancy Shores, and Brandon Fulcher, seventh-grade son of Dana and Bill Fulcher. Shores misspelled nebulous and Fulcher spelled it right. Fulcher then had to spell the next word right to be the champion.

The next word was plagiarism, though, and both spelled it incorrectly.

Fulcher also misspelled the next word, raspberry. Shores was able to spell the word. He needed to spell the next word right to win.

Shores' next word was beagle, and he spelled it correctly for the championship. He goes on to compete at the state bee on Saturday, March 24, in Topeka.

The students first had a practice round, with the first word being bacon. Everyone spelled their word correctly.

Ryleigh Paxton, fourth-grade daughter of Cameron and Lisa Paxton, missed her word in the second round.

The words for the third and fourth rounds were harder.

The third round took out Sheldon Lee, eighth-grade son of Darla and Timothy Lee; Berkley White, fifth-grade daughter of Brandon and Denise White; Raquel Tomsic, fourth-grade daughter of Lisa and Rob Tomsic; and Ellie House, fifth-grade daughter of Gennifer and Andrew House.

The fourth round took out Dallas DeLaRosa, seventh-grade son of Harvey and Tammy DeLaRosa; Chantel Coates, sixth-grade daughter of Michelle and Rick Coates; and Fiona Cruz, fifth-grade daughter of Florida and Leandro Cruz.

Each student was given a word to spell until only two were left. Kevin Winston, a lieutenant in the Kansas Highway Patrol, said the words. If the word was a homonym, a word that sounds like another, but has a different meaning, he would give the definition.

The students could ask to have the word repeated if they didn't hear it clearly, get a definition and have the word used in a sentence.

Judges were Karen Gillihan, director of the Goodland Public Library; Jane Philbrick, president of the Goodland School Board; and Faye Paxton, a retired teacher. Steve Raymer, junior high principal, was the coordinator for the school district.

correction

A story on Page 1 of the Tuesday, Feb. 20, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* incorrectly identified Goodland Area Chamber board member Debbie Reed as the office manager for Hayden Inc. She is an insurance and real estate agent with the firm. This was a reporting error.

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