

# Task force gets ideas on future building

By Tom Betz  
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A task force looking at the future of the Goodland School District got a few new thoughts from the audience that gathered at the high school cafeteria Thursday evening.

About 50 people attended the meeting, including members of the 12-person task force and the school board, along with parents and school staff, including some of the building principals and teachers.

Among the ideas thrown out were to have just two buildings, rather than the current five. People suggested closing West and Central Elementary and have kindergarten through sixth grade at North Elementary. The plan would move junior high students to the high school to create a seventh- through 12th-grade building.

An idea from Central Principal Harvey Swager was to sell West to the county to create a new nursing home in the face of expanding need as baby boomers retire.

Others in the audience said they worried about moving the junior high students to the high school, but seemed to agree it would be better if there is a way to keep the two groups separated.

A couple of those in the audience said they had been in junior high and high school years ago, when the junior high was part of the Goodland High School. They said having older role models around might be good for kids in junior high grades.

Linda Quint, the warehouse director for the district, said she felt North needs quite a bit of upgrading to doors, and asked about selling the district administration office on Main, across from Central Elementary, and moving the administration over to it. Quint said she has to store supplies in the basement of the administration building and in the district's round-top, and there would be plenty of room a Central.



Superintendent Shelly Angelos (standing) talked to Drew Wilkens (left), a former Goodland High School student, and his father, Chuck Wilkens (right), a school board member, during a break at a public meeting on school facilities at the high school cafeteria Thursday evening.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

One parent asked if with changes in technology, the district would need the larger buildings as more students were able to do some of their classes online and from home.

Superintendent Shelly Angelos said the online programs are a trend that could become a "school without walls."

"It may look different in 10 years," she said, "but personal contact and relationships cannot be learned online."

Donald Raymer, a Goodland High graduate and new math teacher at the high school, said he is worried about the problem of replacing aging teachers. Raymer people his age are suggesting he move to a

larger school in the eastern part of the state where he can work with more up-to-date equipment and for more money.

Asked what the top thing that could bring young teachers in might be, Raymer said facilities were important to him, especially because he likes to coach. He said he has been to many schools in the state, and the Max Jones Fieldhouse is the best he has seen. He did suggest the school district consider going to an artificial turf for the football field that could be used for more programs, and would not cost as much to water when school is not in session.

Adam Duell, a Goodland High School student, suggested not put-

ting air conditioning in North or Central, but building a new building.

Dean Graber, who works for Bankwest, said he was not a graduate of Goodland schools and has no sentimentality about the buildings. He said one idea would be to build a new high school connected to Max Jones and build a football field somewhere else.

Lorie Graybill who operates the Goodland Community Learning Center on Main, said she has a lot of people using the center and the computers. She said she thinks online training does not work for many young people because they are not dedicated enough to make it work.

# Superintendent gives cost figures for schools

By Tom Betz  
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Superintendent Shelly Angelos opened a public session on school facilities Thursday with some background information on the operational costs of each building and projected enrollment for the 10 years from 2002 to 2012.

She said the public meeting was a step in trying to look at the school district's options and to give the public a chance to ask questions and provide idea to a task force studying the facilities issue.

Full-time-equivalent enrollment figures for the district show a high of 1,011 students in 2002, a drop to 981 in 2003, 950 in 2004, 944 in 2005, 932 in 2006 and 939 this year.

Enrollment estimates for the next four years done by J. Hays of the Kansas Association of School Boards show an estimated drop each year, with a projection of 886 for next year, 864 for 2009, 843 for 2010 and 822 by 2011.

Angelos said the figures for this year show a slight increase, but that is not a true count of students. She said the district has lost about 11 students this year, but with the special education and student lunch funding and the state formula, the district received more money than last year.

She said state economic research for population mobility in rural counties indicates two key elements to bring people to a county are access to quality education and health care, two things she said Goodland has.

Anthony Cebula, a task force member, noted that the results of the declining enrollment would be a loss of \$500,000 in the district budget.

Turning to the buildings Angelos presented a chart showing when each was built and a comparison of strengths and improvements needed.

The high school was built in 1916, with an addition in 1937. The strengths are the neighborhood location, tradition, expansion space and proximity to Max Jones Fieldhouse, the football stadium, practice fields and the technical college. Angelos said the building needs updating and renovating, air conditioning, windows, and improvement to the auditorium lighting and sound system.

She mentioned that the bleachers at Max Jones need to be replaced

some time.

Grant Junior High was built in 1927, and its strengths are the neighborhood location, tradition and expansion space. She said the building needs updating and renovating, air conditioning, windows and replacement of the modular unit.

Central Elementary was built in 1950, and its strengths are its Main Street location, tradition and expansion space. She said Central is one of the district's strongest buildings, but it needs updating and renovation, plus air conditioning, windows and possibly more playground equipment.

Both North and West Elementary were built in 1969, and are the district's newest facilities, although they are nearly 40 years old. North does not have air conditioning and needs windows and doors. West has air conditioning and windows, but needs new doors. Both schools need updating and renovating she said.

Operating and personnel costs for each building were presented to give the audience a sense of what the bills are. The costs do not include the teacher salaries, but do include utilities and maintenance.

- The high school costs \$138,700 to open the doors and has personnel costs of \$309,800 for a total of \$448,500.

- Grant costs \$59,500 to open the doors and has personnel costs of \$202,500 for a total of \$262,000.

- Central Elementary costs \$44,700 to open the doors and \$177,000 for personnel for a total of \$221,700.

- North costs \$63,800 to open the doors and \$188,400 in personnel costs for a total of \$252,200.

- West costs \$53,000 to open the doors and \$188,300 in personnel costs for a total of \$241,300.

Angelos said while the buildings at West and North are the same design, the costs at North are higher because of the large area of grass around the building.

Looking at the teaching staff, Angelos showed a graph that showed 51 of the teachers are age 51-65, with three over 66. Of the rest, 17 are age 20-35 and 19 are 36-50.

She said recruiting teachers is going to get more difficult as the older teachers retire, because the number of graduating teachers is not keeping up with the needs.

Angelos said the cost figures were taken from last year's bills.

# Home and Garden Show features health conference

Goodland's Max Jones Fieldhouse will be packed with booths Saturday and Sunday aimed at helping homeowners with their home improvement and gardening needs, and on Saturday the hospital will host a women's health conference.

The free event will feature booths of more than 20 businesses. Marty Melia, manager of KLOE/KKCI/KWGB Radio, which organizes the show, said it should be entertaining.

The show will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Each year, more than 5,000 people come to the show, Melia said. This year, he said, they'll find all kinds of home improvement items and area businesses with products and services on display. He said there will be programs both days presented by members of the Master Garden-

ers volunteer program through the Sunflower Extension District.

The show has been going for more than 30 years, he said, but it has something new every year. This will be the 21st year it has been held in the Max Jones. It started at the Elks building, Melia said.

"This is an area show," he said. "We get people from all over the area, both exhibitors and attendees."

The women's cancer and health conference on Saturday will include six 30-minute sessions from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., covering uterine, ovarian, lung, colorectal, cervical and breast cancer.

Presenters will include Jana

Eisenbart, a nurse practitioner and oncology nurse at Goodland Regional Medical Center, and Jackie Jorgensen, nurse practitioner at Goodland Family Health Center. Door prizes and goodie bags will be given away at each session.

The hospital's booth at the show will feature booklets, including "Protect and Detect: What Women Should Know about Cancer" produced by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, as well as information on where women can turn for help.

Booths registered so far for the home show include Cal Spas, the Framing Place, Goodell's Green-

house, Salad Master, The Goodland Star-News, Sears, Smitty's Sports, Wal-Mart, the hospital, Cochran Farm Supply, Valentine Comfort Shoes, Platte Valley Home Safety, Reliv, Scotco Insulation, Witzel and Rhea, Electrolux, Wolf Creek Accents, Northwest Kansas Technical College, Eagle Cable Television and Internet, Creative Curbing, Herl Chevrolet and Fitzgibbons Inc.

Melia said the station started the show to give businesses a way to show off products to people in the area and to attract new business.

"People can see that everything they need is right here in our area," he said.

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