

# School board approves changes in Grant, high school attendance

By Pat Schiefen  
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Goodland High School Principal Mike Hubka and Grant Junior High Principal Steve Raymer presented proposed changes to the attendance policy for students in Grant and the high school.

Hubka presented the changes. At the present time he said there is no limit to the amount of excused absences a student can have. Hubka said for example he has one student who has missed 20 days out of 76 days of first semester. With pressure on teachers and administrators to have everyone meet minimum requirements having students miss excessive amounts of school makes it hard for students to pass classes or meet requirements.

The new policy limits students to a maximum of 10 days per semester for the junior high and the high school. This includes days that the parents or guardians have called in to have a student excused.

Hubka said that he wants to create an atmosphere where the students know that regular attendance is expected.

The policy was not extended to the grade

school as those students are not old enough to really make the decision to go to school without an adult getting them there. Hubka said there will be exceptions such as if a student is severely ill.

After 10 days the student will be expected to attend Saturday school from 8 a.m. to noon. Hubka said a special teacher will be hired and the students will be expected to bring enough school work to keep them occupied. The morning will be divided into 55 minute sessions with a five minute break before the next session. The teacher can give the students extra work if they do not have enough work to keep them busy.

Students are not allowed to be tardy. If they are tardy they may be sent home and will not receive credit for that day.

Students will not be able to bring in food or drinks. They won't be allowed to talk or move around the room or sleep.

If a student has to be absent the parents or guardians must contact the administration the following Monday before 8 a.m.

If the student doesn't show up for an assigned Saturday school they will get one day of in school suspension as well as having to attend the next Saturday school. A second unexcused absence

will result in a three day in school suspension with expected attendance at the next Saturday school. A third unexcused absence will result in a three day out of school suspension. The next unexcused absence results in a five day out of school suspension. Complete refusal to attend Saturday school may result in expulsion.

Raymer and Hubka said the change in the policy should affect a very small number of students.

Board member Amy Sederstrom moved to accept the policy and Gennifer House seconded and the motion passed 7-0. The policy will go into effect Monday, Jan. 2, the first day of the second semester.

Board president Gary Slough asked the board be updated to how things are going after nine weeks.

In other business the new technology coordinator hired will be Ben Coumerihl. Coumerihl has been working at Northwest Tech getting their Ipad initiative going.

The district has been moving toward using Ipads. Last Friday at a teacher inservice day all teachers in the district received Ipads.

# Refinancing bonds could save county \$1 million interest

COUNTY, from Page 1

her budget if that was okay with the commissioners. She said she went to similar training last week in Colby for one step above the dispatchers and suggested she get a personal emergency package together.

"So you need three," Strnad said.

Livengood said that was correct, and the commissioners said they did not have a problem with her spending the money out of the central dispatch budget.

Enfield asked how much money was in the 911 fund.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said there is \$39,000 in 911 and \$87,000 in the wireless 911 fund.

Enfield asked about central dispatch and radios.

Livengood said she will have to get a radio or two for dispatch, and the sheriff will get it hooked up.

• Heard an update from Cheyenne George, Good Samaritan Society director, about conditions and future needs at the Sherman County facility. George said Neil Starr has talked to Plains Heating about the boiler system, and said they did not do a lot of the work last time.

George said she has started remodeling and has pulled down the old wallpaper in one hall and painting. She said the state has cited the facility for having wooden handrails because they are hard to disinfect. She asked if Sherman County could help pay for new handrails.

She said the Good Samaritan person was to be in to measure, but with the weather she said it will probably

be the first of next year. She said the estimate for the handrails is about \$30,000.

"I want to make it look nice," George said, "so people want to come there instead of being a place they have to go."

Strnad told George to bring the figures in and the commissioners will see what the county can do.

George said the facility is on a state hold as of Dec. 6, and the inspector is to be back on Jan. 18.

She said the facility is down seven beds.

Strnad asked about the staffing.

George said it was better than when she first got to Goodland in October.

Strnad suggested George talk to Karen Hooker at Goodland Regional Medical Center about some training help.

The Kansas Advocates for Better Care released a list of nursing homes with poor inspection reports, and Sherman County Good Samaritan is on the list as having 18 violations.

George said the survey was done in June, and the facility did not pass inspection. She said the facility did pass before she took over.

Asked about the 18 violations George said she felt that was down about half, and is not good by her standards. She said things like the wooden handrails and peeling wallpaper were two of the violations found in the survey.

The commissioners last meeting of the year will be at 8 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 30. The courthouse will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26 and on Monday, Jan. 2.

# City notified state awards two airport projects

CITY, from Page 1

said he had seen where the city made the first loan payment to the state for \$170,250 in August, and that the next was scheduled for February.

Gerber said the city had made the first payment while trying to get the final figures on the project. He said the final figures were received about Nov. 18, and the plan is to write a check for the full loan amount in February.

The gross loan amount for the water central supply and treatment plant was \$5,711,606. Of that \$2,876,646 was from the federal America Recovery and Reinvestment Act and \$2,820,682 from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. A total of \$1,606,206 of the federal money was forgiven leaving a balance of \$4,105,401 to be paid off over 20 years.

The city commission has approved using existing city reserves to pay the loan off to save Goodland taxpayers about \$1,600,000 in interest and service fees. The city will

write a check to the state for about \$3,968,000.

Gerber said the city budget includes money to begin repaying the city reserve to replace the money being sent to the state for the water project.

In other business the commissioners:

- Approved an amendment to the city budget for the Economic Development department for this year. A hearing on the economic development budget was held at the beginning of the meeting, but no one was present to object. The only comment in the hearing was that Michael Solomon, economic development director, was doing a good job as he nears his first year.

Gerber said the city has to adopt the budget to comply with state budgeting laws. He said the estimated budget was \$148,000 and included the \$50,000 contributed from Sherman County and there will be a carryover of more than \$50,000 from the money that was transferred to the city by the county

with the disbandment of the Economic Development Council at the end of last year.

- Approved preliminary renewal of the city health insurance plan with Blue Cross and Blue Shield with a slight decrease in cost. Gerber said Charles Krull, regional Blue Cross representative had planned to be at the meeting, but the weather had changed the plans.

He said the insurance cost is going down, and I think that is good news. The city continues to buck the statewide trend.

"We have managed to have minimal increases or the past two years, and we have had decreases," he said. "The credit goes to the employees who know it is a good benefit and use it wisely."

Mayor Garcia said he wanted to accent what Gerber said about the city employees being conscientious and wanted to thank the employees for that.

- Received a new draft of an agreement with the Sherman County Rural Fire Board about the com-

bination of the city and rural department. Gerber said he had received the document after the agenda had been sent out.

He said he felt it would be good to give the draft to the commissioners to review and have in on the agenda for the first meeting in January for discussion.

The city offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26, and on Monday, Jan. 2. The next commission meeting will be 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

**Have a safe, and fun Christmas.**  
*The Goodland Star-News will be closed on Monday.*  
**Newspapers will be delivered on Wednesday.**

## January Consultant Schedule

ALLERGIST**	Jeffrey Rumblyrt, M.D.	January 16
CARDIOLOGIST	Barry Smith, M.D.	January 11 & 25
CARDIOLOGIST	Vijay Subbarao, M.D.	January 12
CARDIOLOGIST**	Christine Fisher, M.D.	January 9
COUNSELING SERVICES		Thursdays by Appointment
DIETITIAN	Sarah Linton, RD, LD, CDE	Tuesdays by Appointment
EARS, NOSE, THROAT	Alfred N. Carr, M.D.	January 12, 13 & 27
ENDOCRINOLOGIST	Gerald Poticha, M.D.	TBA
GASTROENTEROLOGIST	Jeffrey D. Huston, M.D.	January 3, 23 & 24
GENERAL SURGEON	David D. Beck, M.D.	January 5 & 19
GENERAL SURGEON	Jeffrey Cross, M.D.	January 12 & 26
GYNECOLOGY	Laura Rokosz, M.D.	January 11 & 18
NEUROLOGIST	Steven J. Gulevich, M.D.	January 4, 11 & 25
OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY	David Forschner, M.D.	January 18
ONCOLOGY	Prakash Neupane, M.D.	January 6, 13, 20 & 27
ONCOLOGY/HEMATOLOGY	Martin Rubinowitz, M.D.	January 3 & 31
OPHTHALMOLOGIST	Brian Joondeph, M.D.	January 18 & 30
OPHTHALMOLOGIST	Ronald Wise, M.D.	January 6 & 20
OPHTHALMOLOGIST**	Eric Fry, M.D.	January 12
OPHTHALMOLOGIST	Robert Fante, M.D.	January 25
ORTHOPEDIST	Tim Birney, M.D.	January 9
ORTHOPEDIST	Armond Hatzidakis, M.D.	January 30
ORTHOPEDIST	James Holmes, M.D.	January 31
ORTHOPEDIST	Edward Parks, M.D.	January 23
ORTHOPEDIST	Raj Bazaz, M.D.	January 9
ORTHOPEDIST	Kevin Nagamani, M.D.	January 4
ORTHOPEDIST	Gareth Shemesh, M.D.	January 26 & 27
PATHOLOGIST	Pathology Services P.C.	Call for Availability
PODIATRIST	Erik Ouderkirk, D.P.M.	January 11
PODIATRIST	Daniel Mallett, D.P.M.	January 25
PULMONOLOGIST	Ken Weisiger, M.D.	January 19 & 26
RADIOLOGISTS	Professional Radiology Services	WEEK DAYS
SPEECH THERAPY	Crystal Schultz	Monday - Thursday
UROLOGIST**	Kevin McDonald M.D.	January 10
UROLOGIST**	Wallace Curry, M.D.	January 24

For an appointment please call 785-890-6030

\*\*For an appointment with the Allergist please call 1-888-849-8424

\*\*For an appointment with Dr. Fry please call 1-800-526-3937

\*\*For an appointment with Dr. Fisher please call 1-888-625-4699

\*\*For an appointment with Dr. McDonald or Dr. Curry please call 1-877-312-1619

Goodland Family Health Center, 106 Willow Road • (785) 890-6075

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Walk-in Clinic M-F 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m./Saturday Clinic 9-11 a.m.

Dr. Mohamedine Shafei (Out of office on Monday)

Dr. Travis Daise (Out of office on Wednesday)

Dr. David Younger (Out of office on Thursday)

Dr. Lisa M. Unruh - Pediatrician (Out of office on Tuesday)

Jackie Jorgensen, ARNP

Kathy Wiley, APRN

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## Happy Holidays from Black Hills Energy

We're privileged to be your natural gas provider. Best Wishes for the New Year from your friends at Black Hills Energy.

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