



STATE SEN. TIM HUELSKAMP met with reporters and talked with voters last Tuesday at the Frontier Restaurant in Oberlin. Here, he chatted with (from left) Leona Hilker, Sharon Johnson, Lyle Hilker and Alvin Johnson. Mr. Huelskamp is a Republican candidate for Congress in the 1st District. — Herald staff photo by Steve Haynes

School board OKs minimal changes in its handbooks

The Oberlin School Board approved and talked about handbooks for both schools and for the faculty during its meeting last Monday.

The board approved minimal changes to the Oberlin Elementary School handbook. Changes include the year, faculty and staff, new immunization requirements, the schedule of activities and an updated index.

The board also approved the faculty handbook for the grade school, which included changes in the year, clip art for the front, the school term and vacation rules, faculty and staff changes, where the kids sit for activities in the grade school gym, moving the pre-school and kindergarten to the bottom rows instead of on the floor, and where the students go for tornado drills.

There were several changes made to the student handbook for the junior/senior high school, which the board approved.

Principal Charlie Haag went over the changes, including a rule that the student won't be able to have their cell phones with them during class hours, from 8 a.m. to 3:40 p.m.

"Saturday school" will be held from 8 a.m. to noon about 20 Saturdays a year for students who have unexcused absences or those who have missed more than seven days. Students will use that time to work on homework they missed, he said.

Students who violate the dress code will be told to report to the principal's office, said Mr. Haag, where they will receive a shirt to wear.

The board agreed to include listing the ACT college admissions test and registration dates on the calendar.

Graduating classes only have three years to request any money

School Roundup

At its meeting last Monday, the Oberlin School Board:

- Approved and talked about the handbooks for both schools and for faculty. Story at left.
- Ratified the negotiated agreement with the teachers, which includes going from a seven-period day to eight at the high school. Story to come.
- Got ready for the new school year by electing a president and vice president, as well as talking about several other issues. Story to come.

Candidate says people not happy today

By **STEVE HAYNES**
s.haynes@nwkansas.com

As he travels the 69-county 1st Congressional District, says state Sen. Tim Huelskamp, one of six Republicans running for the seat being vacated by Rep. Jerry Moran, he finds that people are not happy with the way things are going.

"I've served in the state Senate for 17 years," he said, "and I've never seen people this upset by the direction of the country."

And while he jokes that he still hasn't found anyone who'll admit to having voted for President Barack Obama, at a campaign stop last Tuesday in Oberlin, he acknowledged that there's plenty of blame to go around. Republicans, too, have contributed to the country's big spending, big debt and big

government.

"People have to remember that this wasn't all invented by Mr. Obama," he said. "Plenty of Republicans share the blame."

The Fowler Republican harkens back to his "favorite president," Ronald Reagan, to find a good example.

He said Mr. Reagan signed a bill granting amnesty to 2 million illegal immigrants, and that was supposed to be it.

"The problem with illegal immigration is — it's illegal," he said. "I really believe becoming a citizen should not be easy."

He said the U.S. needs to beef up security and let employers use existing systems to screen out illegals when hiring.

But he had no answer when asked,

twice, what we could do to make the legal immigration system work to let needed workers come into the country more easily.

He described himself as pro-life and pro-2nd Amendment, adding: "I actually have a record on these issues." Apparently, that was a jab at four of his opponents who have no experience in elected office.

He said the "Obamacare" bill is unconstitutional and should be repealed and replaced with something that will improve care and cut costs. Changing the rules for Medicaid could save millions and improve care.

"With \$13 trillion in debt, that did not happen overnight," he said. "We added \$1 trillion this year. In 10 years, it could be up to \$23 trillion. I don't think that's sustainable."

The candidate also attacked the proposed "Cap and Trade" bill restricting carbon dioxide emissions and allowing industries to trade their capped allowances. He said it will be devastating to agriculture.

Another threat to farmers like him, he said, is Environmental Protection Agency moves to ban pesticides such as Atrazine.

"Who wants to import their food?" he said. "Farmers can do a good job if the EPA will get out of their way."

He would be an advocate for rural America, Mr. Huelskamp said, noting that there are only about a dozen farmers in Congress today.

"I want to be an advocate for rural America," he said. "I'd show the city congressmen what goes on the farm."

that's left in their account. If that money isn't requested, it will be transferred to the student council activity fund, said Mr. Haag.

The principal said that students can only be enrolled as an aide in one period per semester and may not be enrolled in study hall if they are an aide. If an aide has an F in any class, they will be reassigned to the teacher until the grade is brought to passing.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said there is only to be one aide per hour per class.

Students are also only allowed to hold one major office, which includes all club and class presidencies, said Mr. Haag.

Board member Dan Nedland asked why physical science is required in high school, when it's the same class that is taken in junior high.

Mr. Haag said that's something that needs to be talked about with the science teachers. The board could overrule them, he said, but state assessments cover physical science at the freshman level.

It's the same course the students take in junior high, said Mr. Nedland, and that's really odd.

The board approved the handbook, but decided to wait to approve the faculty handbook for the high school at the August meeting.

County hears request to continue with recycling program

The Decatur County Commissioners received a request to continue supporting the regional recycling program from two county residents.

During the commissioners' meeting last Tuesday, board members Marilyn Horn and Jack Benton asked the men to continue the recycling program next year. The county now pays \$15,000 a year for the program. The commissioners didn't make a decision, but said they would consider it.

Mr. Benton said the electronic waste grant is almost up, so the county might have to start charging residents to leave old computers and other equipment. At the first electronic waste pick up at the old county shop, the school and others brought in lots of items, he said.

What can people do if they feel it's important to continue the recycling program? asked Commissioner Gene Gallentine. Any ideas on how to charge people for the program?

Mrs. Horn said all that could be done is special assessments or taxes. In St. Francis, she said, the city runs

the recycling program and the fee is added onto the utility bill.

How much would that increase utility bills for the city? asked Mr. Gallentine. Would the people in the city be willing to pay more?

Quite a few people recycle, said Mr. Benton, but there are some who

will quit if it is too expensive and will toss everything because they are paying for trash service. Cheyenne County also gives money to the city in St. Francis, said Mrs. Horn.

The commissioners re-appointed

Mrs. Horn to the recycling board for northwest Kansas.

In other business, the commissioners mentioned that someone is needed to serve on the Health Foundation board.

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