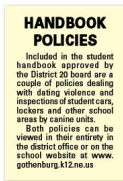


Fork over more money for school lunch

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

Thursday, 15 July 2010 21:59 -



School lunch prices are on the rise.

Because of increased food, equipment and labor costs, District 20 board members at their Monday meeting approved an increase in all offerings except for ala carte items.

Lunch for elementary students will go up 15 cents to \$1.40 a meal while junior and senior high students will pay 10 cents more for a \$1.60 daily meal.

Other prices were set at 65 cents for breakfast/brunch and 30 cents for milk.

Superintendent Mike Teahon pointed out that lunch costs have not increased since the early 1990s.

With a negative balance of about \$75,000 projected the end of August, school officials decided to raise the lunch budget to be cost neutral at the end of the upcoming school year.

On another matter, the board decided not to boost pay for substitute teachers at Gothenburg Public Schools.

Wages will remain at \$100 per day while long-term subs will receive \$130 daily.

Short-term substitute salaries were increased \$10 last year.

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With the exception of Lexington Public Schools, Teahon said the pay was comparable to neighboring districts.

In other action, board members reviewed money—approximately \$17,000—collected from fees charged to students for academic and athletic supplies and materials.

School districts by law must track collection of fees for such things as student activity cards, driver's education and some classroom supplies.

Following a public hearing at the Aug. 9 board meeting, the student fees policy will be voted on.

Members also approved student handbooks for Dudley Elementary, the junior-senior high, faculty, coaches and non-certificated employees.

They are available in the district office and on the school website at www.gothenburg.k12.ne.us

New policies were approved as well as revisions to existing ones.

They include contracting for services, prohibiting use of handheld wireless devices while driving buses, providing a public record of settled claims more than \$50,000, moving kindergarten enrollment eligibility from Oct. 15 to July 31 in 2012, changing residency laws and writing a policy dealing with excessive truism, changing health inspections, adopting new academic content standards and revising a policy dealing with board member vacancies.

In other business, the board:

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approved the enrollment of 11th grader Alyssa Boller into the district from Eustis-Farnam and a request from senior Clinton Furrow to option enroll into the Brady district.

adopted a non-certificated employment agreement, an employee evaluation instrument and an administrator's evaluation instrument.

decided to authorize the painting of angled spaces in the east parking lot this summer which means the loss of eight parking spaces.

acknowledged that the district has been accredited by the Nebraska Board of Education which means the school can fulfill the state's compulsory education law, promote students and obtain and spend tax funds.

learned that 31 students have signed up for Jump Start, a school-offered summer preschool, and that 60 are registered for summer school. Both programs will be offered at the school this month.

heard that 60 students have pre-registered for kindergarten. District officials expect 65-70 on the first day of school on Aug. 17.

were informed that teachers will learn more about assessments and data collection before school starts and will listen to a guest speech about legal issues—including social networking—on Aug. 13.

were notified that Teahon was approved to serve on the Nebraska Rural Development Commission.

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