

New buses, audit okayed by school board

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Thursday, 11 November 2010 14:26 -

Dist. 20 now on rotation schedule with replacement of vehicles.

Adding two busses to the district fleet and approval of the district's audit were the two top items of business for the District 20 board Monday night.

Board members voted to buy a Thomas Saf-T-Liner route bus for \$77,890 from Omaha Truck Center.

The other bid was for \$73,500 from Nebraska Central Equipment.

Transportation committee chair Bruce Clark said they recommended the higher bid because members wanted safety features like heated side windows and air brakes.

The board also approved a 14-passenger Micro Bird Minibus with a wheelchair lift for students with handicaps for \$53,818.

Clark said they considered a \$54,579 bid for a 14-passenger bus but liked the fact that the Micro Bird bus had the ability to accommodate three wheelchairs instead of one.

"We're on a rotational schedule now to replace a route bus every four years," he said.

Superintendent Mike Teahon said the board has been budgeting for several years to buy replacement busses.

Teahon said they are replacing the district's four 15-passenger vans which, because of safety concerns, they are required by state law to do.

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The most recent purchase means two of the four vans have been replaced.

In other action, the board approved an audit for the district for the fiscal year that ended Aug. 31.

The audit was prepared by McDermott & Miller certified public accountants.

Since representatives of the firm couldn't attend, Teahon presented some highlights.

An improvement suggested in the audit was to try and segregate financial duties whenever possible.

Teahon said that's difficult because of the district's small size.

"We segregate duties as we are able," he explained. "We also utilize a random invoice selection process on a monthly basis."

During the superintendent's report, Teahon said staff members have been working on

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