

Dist. 20 board accepts bid for rural school

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Friday, 12 August 2011 13:42 -

Blocks buy 100R for personal use.

After opening the only two bids submitted for the former District 100R building four miles north of town, school board members agreed to sell to Wesley and Brandon Block.

The Blocks bid \$60,500.

During a Monday meeting, District 20 school board members also considered a \$55,501 bid from Trevor and Danette Anderson.

On Tuesday, Brandon Block said he and his father bought the building for personal use.

School officials had hoped to utilize the building when classes ended there in 2008.

The city school district took over the country school in 2006 when state legislation forced Class I schools to merge with K-12 districts.

Elementary classes met there for two more years until high maintenance costs and duplication of services made it difficult to continue.

Unless the property could be used in some way, school officials felt it would fall into disrepair.

Following two public hearings, in which no one from the public spoke, the board re-affirmed the district's policies on student fees and parental involvement.

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The student fees policy outlines maximum fees that may be charged to students and the kinds of supplies and materials they are expected to provide.

Parental involvement defines the process parents must follow when reviewing textbooks and curriculum, visiting classrooms, issuing complaints, etc.

Both policies can be found on the school's website at www.gothenburg.k12.ne.us

On another matter, the board decided to transfer \$500,000 into the depreciation fund and \$15,000 in the activities fund from the general fund.

Superintendent Mike Teahon said money in the depreciation fund is reserved to spend on such things as vehicles, roofs or instructional equipment.

Teahon recommended the transfer of more money to the fund to give the district more flexibility if money becomes tighter.

Swede Teacher Academy, a staff-development program for new teachers, will be extended to include all teachers.

The board approved the change so all teachers have a chance to benefit from strategies and interventions taught throughout the year and because numbers of first-year teachers, and those in the district three years or less, are down this year.

Instructors receive stipends. Board member Nate Wyatt suggested that first-year teachers also be paid for signing up for three of the 10 sessions offered.

Other teachers will receive a contract day off for attending the academy.

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In other business, the board:

raised school lunch prices a dime because of National School Lunch Program requirements. Prices are elementary, \$1.45; junior/senior high, \$1.75 and adult \$2.25. The federal recommendation for all meals is \$2.46.

gave the go ahead for technology coordinator Jo Wiggins to buy \$13,232 of technology equipment, including computers.

approved requests for the following students to option out of the district—senior David Gomez, seventh-grader Jessica Gomez, junior Laura Gomez, sixth grader Twyla Gomez, all of Cozad; seventh- grader Samantha Schutz of Brady; kindergartner Dustin Sellers of North Platte; eighth-grader Mallory Headley, first-grader Dash Headley and sixth-grader Shelby Headley, all of Eustis-Farnam. The following students were approved to option into the district—kindergartner Aubrey O'Hare, third-grader Bella Rickertsen, seventh-grader Anna Rickertsen, all of Cozad; and ninth-grader Sydney Pride of Brady.

designated Teahon to serve as district representative for federal and state programs during 2011-12.

acknowledged accreditation status from the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE).

heard that data from NeSA tests taken the past year will be released from the NDE to schools this Monday and to the public on Aug. 29. The state-of-the-schools report will be released on Oct. 19.

learned that concussion testing for football, volleyball and softball athletes continues this year and that Gothenburg will host one-act plays for Southwest Conference.

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were told that the district was invited, as one of 15 schools, to be part of a pilot program in which districts share information with each other to improve student learning.

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