

Solutions sought for roomier parking spaces at local school

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Thursday, 14 June 2012 14:04 -



District 20 school officials and the board are trying to figure out ways for motorists to get in and out of parking spaces easier.

And without losing too many stalls in the high school parking lot.

After discussion at the noon school board meeting Monday, the board decided to ask an engineering firm to design angled parking stalls 11 to 12 feet wide and angled parking on Avenue I in front of the school.

Estimated costs will also be obtained.

Parking spaces in the school lot, that number about 228 stalls, are now nine feet wide and straight compared to angled parking downtown with stalls 12 feet wide, according to superintendent Mike Teahon.

Widening spaces 11 to 12 feet and angling them would mean a loss of up to 67 stalls.

Teahon said he had visited with city administrator Bruce Clymer, who has experience with downtown parking issues. He said Clymer suggested angled parking on Avenue I as an option which could add about 35-40 stalls.

The school facilities committee also met to talk about solutions.

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About six feet of the school's green space , along Avenue I, would be removed to accommodate the extra spaces and a sidewalk.

Then, more stalls would be gained than would be lost if wider, angled spaces are created in the parking lot.

Parking in the lot by the city pool across the street is also available. Maintenance director Jay Holmes said students and faculty park there now and it's cleared of snow by the school.



Board president Scott France said he thinks Gothenburg has the best parking situation in the Southwest Conference.

"I'm impressed with cutting into the curb," he said about the Avenue I suggestion.

Holmes said he'll hold off on re-stripping the parking lot this year as the board pursues possible changes.

Board members plan to revisit the issue at the July 9 meeting.

On another facilities matter, the board decided to move ahead with additional patio space by Dudley Elementary for parents and children to wait for students.

Half of the berm between the west doors of the elementary will be replaced with concrete for a cost of about \$19,000 as estimated by Paulsen Inc.

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Teahon said teachers suggested the change which isn't on the board's long-term plan.

"Ideas like this typically have to make it onto the plan but this would have a very positive immediate impact," he said.

In other action, the board approved a revision to board policy dealing with attendance requirements, particularly students who want to drop out of school.

A legislative law that requires exit interviews for such students prompted the changes although officials said they already do exit interviews.

Members also introduced a policy dealing with child abuse and neglect reporting, stemming from allegations of sexual molestation at Penn State.

Under District 20's proposed policy, school employees or others with reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect or observes such behavior must report the incident to a proper law enforcement agency or to a toll-free child abuse hotline.

School employees must also follow up the report by notifying the building administrator that a report has been made.

Because of the Fourth of July holiday, the board will meet on July 16 at noon in the high school media center.

In other business, the board:

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okayed the following new extra-duty assignments. They are: head girls basketball, Chris Lecher; assistant boys basketball, Kent Koehn; assistant cross country, Claudine Kennicutt; head seventh-grade volleyball, Angela Piper; and assistant junior high football, Blake Erickson.

Athletic director Seth Ryker said he is still looking for an assistant speech coach and an assistant track coach.

approved the requests of three students to enroll in the Brady school district. They are sixth-grader Hunter Brimm and ninth-graders Deric Lunkwitz and Danyel Westermann.

introduced handbook changes for junior-senior high and elementary students, faculty, certificated, non-certificated staff and coaches and administrator and superintendent evaluation instruments.

received and talked about a professional development manual created by administrators after a recommendation by a quality assurance review team.

The manual that spells out information about systemic, research-based professional development opportunities focused on evidenced-based instructional practice and strategies.

Curriculum director and junior-high principal Ryan Groene also shared an assessment and data manual that gives information about assessments students take and how the school uses the data to improve instruction.

heard 42 students had registered for the school's pre-kindergarten summer program Jump Start and that 54 are taking summer school.

learned that the board negotiations committee will meet with Gothenburg Education Association officials on July 16.

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were informed that Teahon was selected as president elect for the Nebraska Association of School Administrators in a statewide election.

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