

School board awards bid to replace gym floor

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

Thursday, 14 March 2013 13:30 -

MESSERSMITH ACCEPTS LEX JOB
Dudley Elementary principal and special education director Teresa Messersmith will be the new special education director for Lexington Public Schools. District 20 board members accepted Messersmith's resignation Monday night. Messersmith has been in the district eight years, initially as a special education teacher. She added special education direc-

tor and K-2 elementary principal duties in 2008. She was the spearhead of the district's summer JumpStart program for preschoolers entering kindergarten, which is in its third year. The board also accepted the resignation of first-grade teacher Blake Erickson who has accepted a teaching position in the York school system.

School calendar will have different look

A Lincoln firm will replace District 20's north gymnasium floor this summer.

School board members Monday accepted an \$81,257 bid from Midwest Floor Covering, Inc. The company was the sole bidder for the project.

The gym floor in the Community Building was damaged by rain last summer when the building received a new roof.

For several months, the board discussed whether to repair or replace the floor and opted for replacement.

Maintenance director Jay Holmes said the new floor will be anchored for stability instead of floated which doesn't hold up as well if leaks occur.

"Once they're done, I think it might be better than the south gym (floor)," Holmes said.

The replacement process will begin as soon as graduation is over on May 12, he said, and hopefully be completed by the end of July.

Asked whether the old floor is salvageable, Holmes said it's not because of how the surface will have to be scraped to remove nails.

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The district will receive \$25,000 in insurance money from Weathercraft Roofing Co. who installed the roof.

In other action, board members adopted the 2013-14 school calendar which is a combination of two different calendars considered at a previous meeting.

The new calendar has seven early outs, for staff to collaborate, and two full days without students to analyze student test data.

Students and staff will receive two weeks of Christmas/New Year's break with graduation occurring a week later than usual because of the Nebraska State Schools Activities Association calendar which rolls back six days every five years.

Graduation in 2014 is set for May 18 and school will begin on Aug. 15.

The public can view the calendar by visiting the school website at www.gothenburg.k12.ne.us.

Holmes brought the board up to date on finished and planned projects.

Carpeting at elementary and high school entrances was completed during spring break.

Outside lighting is finished in the bus barn/concession area with more scheduled for Dudley Elementary.

Left to do this spring and summer is north football bleacher replacement, intercom and security updates, renovation of K-1 bathrooms and south elementary playground improvements.

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The board entered into a closed session for about 15 minutes to discuss a potential real estate purchase and took no action upon reconvening.

In other business, the board

extended contracts to 70 teachers on staff for the 2013-14 school year. Renewal contracts were recommended by principals.

The district is seeking applicants for a special education teacher with the resignation of Judy Jensen at the end of the school year.

accepted an enrollment request from Amaiya Carlson of Arnold, who will be a kindergartner, to attend the district.

approved a mission statement for Gothenburg Public Schools that states: "The mission of Gothenburg Public Schools, in conjunction with the entire community, is to prepare all students within a positive, innovative learning environment to be lifelong learners for the 21st century."

learned that the nutrition services will offer an after-school snack bar with Powerade, juice, granola bars and fresh fruit beginning Monday.

heard that standardized testing begins this month and continues through the first week of May.

were told spring sport participation numbers—40 girls and 42 boys for track and 19 for golf—and heard the Swedes are in third place in SWC activity cup standings.

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reviewed an updated 2012-2013 School Improvement Profile manual.

were informed of results of a survey from 128 parents of students. The responses were favorable for the district.

listened to elementary principal Jim Widdifield give a presentation on a method of research-based instructional practice that the district is using.

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