

School lunch prices to rise

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Thursday, 13 June 2013 13:33 -



Dist. 20 board approves increase.

Lunch for local high schoolers and junior highers will cost a nickel more when school begins again in August.

Parents or guardians of Dudley Elementary children will pay an extra 15 cents.

District 20 school members raised prices at a noon meeting Monday to bring more money into the program which operates at a loss each year.

Superintendent Dr. Mike Teahon said prices will also be more in line with what other Southwest Conference schools charge (see box, pg. A3).

Teahon noted that none of the SWC schools in the lunch price comparison offer more than two lunch entrees while Gothenburg offers eight different entrees daily.

The lunch program is supplemented by general, state and federal funds.

In other action, board members offered an interim, one-year contract to a Gothenburg High School graduate.

Nicole (Saum) Rubenthaler will teach a section of fourth grade previously taught by Claudine Kennicutt.

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Kennicutt will take on new responsibilities as a reading intervention specialist grades K-12.

School officials said an external visitation team recommended that the district adopt a more research-based instructional model and the district has chosen to target reading.

“If kids can’t read, they don’t do well in any subject,” said data coordinator and junior high principal Ryan Groene.

Teahon described the new position as a shift since a special education teaching vacancy was not filled.

Rubenthaler received a bachelor of science degree in education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2011 and student taught at Dudley Elementary.

Teahon said the reading specialist position will be evaluated in a year.

The board also heard that asbestos was discovered in old tiles and glue when workers tore up the Community Building gymnasium floor for replacement.

School officials are waiting for an abatement permit from state officials so a company can remove the asbestos before replacement work continues.

Cost of the abatement is estimated at \$25,000.

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LUNCH PRICE COMPARISONS			
	2012-13	2013-14	Change
Adult.....	\$3.00	\$3.00	None
High school.....	\$2.20	\$2.25	\$0.05
Junior high.....	\$2.20	\$2.25	\$0.05
Elementary.....	\$1.75	\$1.80	\$0.05
Breakfast.....	\$1.00	\$1.00	None

[REDACTED]