

## Minimal tax increase for school patrons

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

Friday, 13 September 2013 14:55 - Last Updated Friday, 13 September 2013 14:56

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### District 20 board passes budget that increases 8.8%

As in years past, the superintendent gave a quick and thorough review of the school budget and tax request.

As usual, no one from the public spoke about the proposal.

After the half-hour presentation, the District 20 board passed a \$12,283,853 budget that increases 8.8% over last year.

School patrons will pay \$6,273,424 which represents a 1.28% rise in taxes.

Dr. Mike Teahon, the superintendent said he hopes the 12% drop in the levy will mitigate what patrons pay in property taxes because of high ag land valuation.

However the district can expect less state aid money next year because the levy drops below the state-required 94.5-cent minimum and a 13% hike in valuation means the community can support the district.

As a result, Teahon said the district could see \$1 million less in state aid.

In other action, the board joined STANCE (Schools Taking Action for Nebraska's Children's Education).

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Teahon said the organization is a consortium of mid-sized schools who support equitable learning opportunities for children without using lobbyists.

“We talk to senators ourselves,” he said.

District 20 also belongs to the Nebraska Rural School Association and the Greater Nebraska School Association, groups that also discuss state aid solutions and other issues.

Board members also approved Gothenburg State Bank and First State Bank as depositories of district funds for 2013-14.

In other business, the board:

accepted enrollment requests from Kaleb Norris, a second grader, and Jackson Daum, a first grader. Both live in the Cozad district.

approved a clerical revision to a policy around evaluation of student competency when placing a student from a non-accredited school.

learned that the replacement of the north gym floor is almost finished as is the widening and painting of stadium steps and installation of handrails.

were informed that kindergartners transitioned from half to full days on Sept. 3 and that the change has gone smoothly.

were told that school and city officials have met to discuss safety concerns on Avenue G by

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Dudley Elementary.

School officials said they want to slow drivers and have more measures to get people to recognize stop signs in the area.

heard that elementary enrollment is at 500 students which is five more than last year.

were made aware that 49% of the student body participates in fall athletic activities.

Gothenburg will host D1 volleyball and C softball district competitions.

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