

## Window open for early retirement

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

Friday, 17 January 2014 15:44 -

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### Policy offered for 12 days

Teachers wanting to retire early have until mid February to let administrators know they plan to retire early.

At their meeting Monday night, the District 20 school board passed a temporary early retirement incentive policy that will be in effect from Feb. 3-15.

A staff member asked the board to consider offering the policy, last active in 2007, to offer insurance incentives or an equivalent to assist employees considering long-term early retirement and to reduce costs to the district.

Maximum-salaried employees would be replaced with those making less money, said personnel board chair Nate Wyatt.

Employees must be at least 55 years old with at least 10 years of service to the district.

In other action, the board accepted the resignation of Bailey Koch who has taught special education, entrepreneurship and Spanish in the district for six years.

On another matter, the board extended Teahon's superintendent contract through June 30, 2017.

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Board members also discussed the 2014-15 school calendar which they'll approve at the Feb. 10 meeting.

School is proposed to start Aug. 14 and end May 17 with the last day determined by dismissals during the year for snowstorms or tournaments.

Early dismissals for staff to collaborate would begin at 2 p.m. instead of 1:30 p.m.

At the end of the meeting, the board went into closed session, for about 10 minutes, to discuss a real estate purchase, a student and a personnel issue and campus safety and security.

No action was taken.

In other business, the board:

learned that school officials are considering a design/build approach for a north gymnasium rooftop project.

were informed that the city can proceed with application for a Safe Routes to School grant.

discovered that students, staff and a board member attended a digital citizen conference in Kearney to learn about technology and changes to social media.

were apprised that student detentions are higher for fall semester compared to last year—223 to 163— and that the number of kids having to attend Saturday school is about the same.

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were told that kindergarten and first grade will celebrate 100 days of school on Jan. 24 and that JumpStart, a preschool program for incoming kindergartners, is tentatively set for July 14-Aug. 1.

listened to a presentation by reading intervention specialist Claudine Kennicutt about a corrective reading program she's implemented for junior high and some elementary students.

heard an update on FFA activities by vice-president Courtney Brown and sentinel Carson Messersmith. Board members learned that the organization sold \$37,000 worth of fruit during the holiday season.

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