

Two more teachers hired for District 20

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Thursday, 17 April 2014 14:24 -

DISTRICT WILL GET LESS STATE AID
District 20 will receive \$2,296,636 in state aid in 2014-15. Superintendent Dr. Mike Teahon described the allocation as nothing less than a reduction he expected which, at one time, was around a million dollars. The amount is \$395,633 less than this year's and is about at the same level as what the district received in 2009-10. What helped cushion the reduction, Teahon said, was an increase in formula needs of students, the number of teachers with advanced degrees and instructional time. In 2013-14, the district received \$2,692,470 in state aid.

School board also approves telecommuting policy

A second-grade position and a vacancy in special education were filled Monday night when the District 20 board hired two new teachers.

Gothenburg resident Melissa Bell, who has been teaching in Cozad for nine years, will serve special education students on the elementary level.

Before hiring Bell, the board accepted the resignation of Erica Johnson who will take a special education coordinator position in North Platte.

Johnson had taught special education students for 11 years.

With the move of second-grade teacher Ann Foster to a Title I position, the board hired Hilary Lengel of McCook to fill the position.

Lengel graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in December after completing her student teaching in McCook.

The hires bring the total number of new teachers next year to 10.

In other action, the board approved a telecommuting policy and application which will allow staff without direct contact with students to work at home or at off-site locations.

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Superintendent Dr. Mike Teahon will determine when telecommuting is appropriate.

Unfamiliar people wearing bright coats and hanging around the perimeter of the school campus showed up at Monday's night.

They represent the Benesch & Company of Lincoln and Omaha that is conducting a traffic study.

Employees are counting students and traffic volume, looking at traffic control devices, loading and unloading procedures, reviewing crash data and identifying areas of improvement.

Once data is collected and examined, project manager Jim Jussel said the company will make recommendations for a safer environment.

Jussel asked the board questions about what members saw as problem areas. All but one school board member have school-aged children and have concerns about safety.

The study is part of a "Safe Routes to School" initiative that seeks ways to get students to and from school safely.

On another matter, the board considered and approved revisions to the language arts curriculum and course offerings that are in response to the district's revision process.

English teachers Pat Zwink and Roxanne Whiting described the changes as better meeting the needs of 21st century students with more class choices.

In other business, the board:

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accepted enrollment options requests from 10th graders Jewel Gonzalez and Jorje Trevino and kindergartner Cinch Sanger, all from Brady, into District 20.

The requests of fifth-grader Aidan Mullen, eighth-grader Cassidy Mullen and 10th-grader Trace Mullen into the Brady school district were also accepted.

heard an update on school projects and learned that a under-the-stadium passageway will be finished by Thursday and that school officials are seriously considering an on-site greenhouse. Old bleachers near the track, which are being replaced, will be used in such places as near track field events.

were informed that the district is in the middle of NeSA testing and has not had the technical problems with the student assessment process as have some schools.

were told that the school will host five track meets.

learned that the junior-senior high prom is Saturday and graduation is May 18. The last day for seniors will be May 14 and students will be dismissed May 20.

Teachers will have three days of inservice following dismissal for summer break.

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