

France to continue as Dist. 20 president

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Saturday, 16 January 2010 17:04 -

Hecox, Clark also re-elected to office during Monday night meeting.

Scott France was elected to another four-year term as president of District 20 school board.

The action took place at the board's monthly meeting Monday night.

Also re-elected were Pat Hecox as vice president and Bruce Clark as secretary.

Others re-appointed to positions were district business manager Kay Streeter as board secretary and Randy Waskowiak of First State Bank as treasurer.

Tabled until the Feb. 8 meeting were appointments to the board's standing committees of negotiations, curriculum, Americanism and staff relations, transportation and facilities, finance and policy.

Board members also reviewed but made no decision on a 2010-2011 school calendar.

The proposed calendar starts school on Aug. 17 and ends classes May 20 with the last day determined by dismissals during the year for snowstorms or tournaments.

The final draft has not been presented to staff.

Special education co-director and K-2 principal Theresa Messersmith said an advisory committee continues to meet to discuss a preschool program for children at risk.

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Letters have also been sent to businesses to serve as partners in the program through monetary, volunteer, material or other means.

The action is necessary, she said, to apply for a grant that would support such a program.

Messersmith also presented a report about the district's special education program which serves 129 students which is 12.6% of the student population.

Statewide, the average is 15.2%.

There are seven full-time and one part-time special ed teachers in the district, she said.

The largest category of service is students with specific learning disabilities.

During reports, the board heard an axle broke on a school bus while students were on a trip to a leadership event in Curtis Jan. 6.

Maintenance director Jay Holmes said another bus was sent to pick up students.

Holmes said they were fortunate it happened in Curtis and not at the bottom of a canyon where cell phone communication would be difficult.

Holmes said he is also putting together a list of summer projects for the board to review during an upcoming retreat.

In other business, the board:

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- extended the contract of superintendent Mike Teahon for another three years. The contract now expires on July 31, 2013.
- approved an option-out enrollment request for sophomore Chyler Stephen and senior Chase Stephen into the Cozad Public School district.
- heard that Gothenburg is sixth out of 50 schools in Class C classification by the Nebraska State Activities Association. Activities director Seth Ryker said the Swedes show 216 students involved in activities, noting that all members in the Southwest Conference are in Class C according to the 2010-11 enrollment figure.
- were told that school is planned Monday, Feb. 15, because of school cancellations for snow first semester. The day had been marked on the school calendar as a tentative in-service day for teachers.

ebarrett@gothenburgtimes.com 308-537-3636