

School looks at program cuts again

Written by Deb Egenberger

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Uncertain state aid forces board to RIF consideration

Nothing is set in stone but five Brady teachers have been told once again that their programs and work hours may have to be cut next school year due to budget constraints.

The same situation arose last spring when state aid to schools was uncertain.

The district was able to retain all programs without cuts in the 2011-12 year because funding was available.

With the Legislature still in session and the state budget not yet finalized, superintendent Bill Porter told school board members Monday night they should be prepared for similar cuts approved last year.

Teachers and programs involved include Patty Cordell, family and consumer science; Kelley Dachtler, art; David Jacobs, industrial arts; Andy Seamann, physical education; and Valerie Pohlman, band.

No action was taken at Monday's regular meeting.

Porter said he only wanted to give the board advance notice in case reduction in force action is necessary next month.

"Officials from the Nebraska Association of School Administrators keep telling me we will know more by the end of March," Porter said. "Hopefully we won't have to do anything with this."

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In other action, board members approved architect plans and a projected cost estimate for replacing windows in the old portion of the school building.

C&G Architects of North Platte estimates the cost to upgrade the windows will be \$211,000. Payment will come from the building fund, which currently has \$224,000.

The next step in the process will be letting bids for construction work. No timeline has been set.

Board members also discussed three proposed school calendars for the 2012-13 year.

One offered a straight four-day schedule and the other two were a combination of four- and five-day weeks.

The board eliminated the four-day schedule by consensus because it would force school to begin Aug. 1 and run through May 31.

The calendar will be considered for approval in April.

In other business, the school board:

listened to a proposal for property and liability insurance from Joe Bob Atkins of Arnold Insurance but later voted to keep ALICAP as the district's insurance agent.

discussed a proposal to host two awards banquets in May for junior high and high school students, one to recognize participants in activities and another for academic honors.

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Rational for separate events is that one banquet for both is too long and academic awards tend to drop in importance. Porter told the board he would like to highlight academic achievements more.

As of now, the activities banquet is planned May 10 but scheduling for the academic awards is not final. Elementary honors will be presented prior to field day activities.

scheduled a board retreat at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday to discuss the board's self-evaluation.

accepted resignations from 7-12 science teacher Erin Duncan and technology teacher/coordinator Robbi McKenney, effective at the end of the school year. Interviews for replacements will begin immediately.