

School lunch, activity card costs to rise

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Friday, 13 July 2012 13:54 -

Food increase because of federal mandate

Brady school superintendent Bill Porter said the board has no choice but to raise school lunch prices a nickel for the 2012-13 school year.

At their regular meeting Monday night, the Brady school board passed a measure on first reading that increases lunch prices.

It's a done deal, Porter said, although formal action—planned at the Aug. 13 meeting—will raises prices K-6, from \$2.05 to \$2.10, and grades 7-12, from \$2.25 to \$2.30.

Milk and juice will rise from 30 to 35 cents and adult lunch will remain the same at \$3.

Schools participating in the National School Lunch program must provide the same level of support for paid student lunches as they do for lunches served to students eligible for free and reduced lunch-priced meals.

“It's a state mandate through the federal government,” Porter said.

Because of the increasing cost to offer activities, the board decided—on first reading—to raise admission prices.

Student activity tickets will go up from \$25 to \$26. The adult rate will be \$42 compared to \$40.

Family tickets will rise \$5—from \$80 to \$85.

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In other action, the board approved a proposal to buy 40 iPads for junior high students and teachers.

Unlike high school students who receive an individual laptop computer, Porter said the iPads will be available on carts and used only in the school.

The reason for the \$23,180 purchase, he said, is because iPads are less expensive and junior high students don't need to do as much on the computer as high school students.

Whether or not the district will invest in more iPads depends on how things go this time, Porter said.

On another matter, the board decided to give substitute teachers a \$5 pay raise.

The board approved a measure that increases pay from \$85 to \$90.

Porter said contracts are worked out with long-term substitute teachers.

On a related issue, the superintendent said board members discussed, but took no action, on a raise for non-certified staff.

However he did say members were considering a 25-cent across the board increase.

The board also decided to offer volleyball and football to junior highers, as was done last year, but not basketball because of space limitations, Porter said.

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In other business, the board:

decided to wait on a window replacement project. Porter said they received a bid of \$187,750 to do the project but it wouldn't be finished by the time school starts in August.

"We'll look at it again after school is out next year," Porter said.

elected to put the 2012-13 school calendar online and send paper copies only to those families who don't have computers.

Porter said it's a way to become more electronic and it saves paper and postage.

chose to have hearings about parental involvement and student fees at 6:45 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 13, the date of the next board meeting.

transferred \$1,000 from the general fund to the employee benefit fund to help pay health deductibles. The board also transferred \$72,749 from the general fund to the building fund to help pay off a loan from a bond issue, Porter said.

formally approved 2012-13 teacher contracts and addendums based on action taken at the last board meeting in which certified staff members received a 3.6% raise.

okayed a substitute teaching certificate for a North Platte woman who wants to teach in the Brady school system. The certificate now needs state approval.

heard a report from teachers who attended a Nebraska Educational Technology Association

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(NETA) conference where they learned more about technology use.

ebarrett@gothenburgtimes.com

308-537-3636