

Two generous donations accepted to enhance high school football field

Amanda Miller
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Two generous gift offers were accepted at the St. Francis Community School Board meeting Thursday evening. The Bill and Cindy Keller family have offered a donation of all lights and lighting materials for the new football field lights from Stanion Electric. To further enhance the football field, a \$10,000 donation toward the new football field scoreboard was given from the Keller Ranch and the Ed and Rachael Keller family.

The board meeting agenda was full, with a busy consent calendar and the election and appointment of board officers for 2014-2015.

Election of board officers

Cory Busse was nominated and elected to serve as president of the school board again, for his second year. There will be a new vice president this year, Mila Bandel was elected.

Following a brief discussion, the rest of the officers were appointed. Traci Neitzel will serve as clerk of the board, Marilyn Raile as treasurer of the board, and Kite and Day will be the law firm to represent the board.

New club available at high school

Jackie Cole, the high school English teacher, asked the board for permission to implement a Scholars' Bowl team at the high school. Mrs. Cole said that last year, students approached her and asked if she would sponsor/coach a Scholars' Bowl team.

Board member Dr. Mary Beth Miller said that to be able to offer an outlet that is not athletics for students is a wonderful thing. Not all students are into athletics, and the school needs more outlets like this.

The Scholars' Bowl team is open to any interested student, freshman - senior, who maintains a 3.0 grade point average, has passed at least five core classes in the previous school year, and who is not on any kind of behavioral suspension.

The students will participate in meets against other schools in which there is a quiz game that tests players on academic subjects. The competitions go to the state level, where there is a champion.

Mrs. Cole agreed with Dr. Miller and said that she believed the high school needs a Scholars' Bowl Team to offer a more academic outlet for students for whom sports is not a main interest.

Principal David Morrow said that the high school also has a chess club and a model UN club, which are both student-led groups, for students interested in academic outlets.

Consent calendar

The upcoming school year brings with it many appointments and designations for the board. Each year these approvals are required, and many are administrative.

The board agreed to notify the Kansas State Department of Education that they will be declaring a 1,116 hour school year, as they have done for the past number of years. With this they will make every reasonable effort to attend the total

numbers of days that are scheduled.

The official depositories of the district funds for 2014-2015 will be BankWest, First National Bank and Western State Bank, all of St. Francis. The official district newspaper will remain the St. Francis Herald.

Principal Morrow will serve as the USD 297 homeless liaison, as well as the attendance officer for this school year.

Superintendent Rob Schiltz will be the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System, or KPERS, designated agent and the hearing officer for national school lunch applications. He along with head cooks Barb Holzwarth and Loretta Ford are the food service representatives.

The board approved the "Memorandum of Understanding" with Head Start, and the program will continue to be held in the grade school. The board also approved the participation with the state worker's compensation fund.

School board meetings 2014-2015

After a brief discussion, board members adopted a resolution specifying that the regular meetings of the St. Francis Community School Board will be held in the administration office at 100 S College St. on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. year-round. The only exception will be in October, when the meeting will be held on the third Thursday due to conflicting school scheduling.

New Business

The board considered joining the Kansas Association of School Boards and the association's "legal

assistance fund." There was some discussion of the association and what they provide to the board. Dr. Miller said that the board could not underestimate the power of a good lobbyist. The dues remained the same this year, and the board agreed that the lobbyist in Topeka had a wealth of information that is useful to them. The board agreed to pay the dues, a total of \$6,156.

The school board agreed to accept all the out-of-district students that requested to attend St. Francis Community schools.

Kirby Elliott agreed to serve another four-year term on the St. Francis Recreation Commission. The board appointed Dr. Miller to serve as the representative to the Kansas Association of School Board's governmental relations network and to serve as a representative on the Northwest Kansas Educational Services Center Board. Dr. Miller served as representative last year as well.

The board approved the fee schedule and meal prices for the 2014-2015 school year. Fees will remain the same. The meals will increase by 10 cents per breakfast and lunch, which was required by law.

Next meetings

A special breakfast board meeting will be held Friday, July 25 at 7:30 a.m. in the administration office to study the proposed budget.

The next regular school board meeting will be held Thursday, Aug. 14 at 7 p.m. in the administration office at 100 S. College St.



DAWSON ROSE rides his bicycle, all decked out in red white and blue, in the Fourth of July parade held in St. Francis.

Herald staff photo by Douglas Sloper

Regional college names local man for academic support and outreach

Rep. Ward Cassidy of St. Francis has been named assistant vice president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College, with responsibilities in academic support and outreach.

"I really like to work with kids so it's going to be a lot of fun for me," the retiring representative said.

Cassidy will head up the outreach program for the college, bringing high school students to the college and helping them take college courses before they graduate high school. This includes technical education courses, involving a number of high school students.

Not everyone goes to college,

Cassidy said, and taking these courses will help these kids earn more money later on in life.

He described the position as a part-time job which "will help with my ability to watch my grandkids play sports."

Cassidy said he would be running for re-election if he had not promised to stop missing his grandkids' games. He has represented the six northwest Kansas counties in House District 120 since November 2010 and announced earlier this year that he would not run for re-election. During that time, Cassidy said, he talked with the junior colleges in his district many times, trying to get

them more money from the state.

He holds a Specialist in Education degree from Fort Hays State University, and a master's in counseling and administration and a Bachelor of Science from Northwest Oklahoma State University in Alva.

Cassidy was a secondary principal, counselor, social-studies teacher and basketball coach for many years. He has served on the advisory board for the Kansas State High School Activities Association, a member of the association's Hall of Fame selection committee and as a board member of the Kansas

Secondary School Principals Association. He was Kansas Secondary Principal of the Year in 1989.

"We couldn't be more pleased that Rep. Cassidy is joining the leadership team at Northwest Tech," said college President Ed Mills. "He brings an incredibly rich educational background to the campus that will be, first and foremost, great for our students. I know he will make a great many wonderful contributions to the quality of our programs, outreach initiatives and to the future of this great college."

Haigler Happenings

By LaNeta Carlock
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Last Monday night's thunder-lightning-hail-wind-rain storm that rolled into southwest Nebraska about midnight continues to have damages reported. The Haigler White House guest cottage took a direct lightning hit and caused considerable damage. Fortunately, the electrical breakers shut off and prevented the house from catching on fire and burning.

Rick and Leslie Starks are extending an invitation to come to the Cornerstone Center for Community Service on Sunday, July 20, 4 p.m. and join them for a Taiji Fitness demonstration, participation, and complimentary wine/cheese/friendship time. Attendees may park in the back of the Center building to enter the studio.

Haigler will once again host the 13th annual Bluegrass Music Festival in the Haigler Park on Sunday, Aug. 10.

Opening Ribbon Cutting — Cowgirl Creations & Design

Cowgirl Creations & Design ribbon cutting was held Friday at the shop at 220 E. Webster St., St. Francis. Pictured (l to r) are Helen Dobbs, director of Cheyenne County Development Corporation; Ty Faulkender-Bankwest; Tammy Grice, Allison Grice, owner; Kary Zwegyardt and Dennis Weeden, Cheyenne County Development board; and Troy Hilt-Western State Bank.

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