

Board votes to keep wrestling coach

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

About 50 people jammed a Goodland School Board on Monday night, most hoping to head off an apparent move to dump Cowboy wrestling coach Eddie Clark.

The attempt apparently centered around a dispute involving board member Ron Schilling, who lost a re-election bid this month and will be going off the board, over treatment of his son by the coach. He was the only one to make any comments about Clark, and voted against rehiring him.

After hearing both sides, the board voted 4-2 with one abstention to re-hire Clark as the head coach for the next

year. The Cowboys capped a successful season this year with a third-place showing at state, having 12 wrestlers in the tournament.

Nothing was said in the meeting about what had prompted the move to get rid of Coach Clark, but team members indicated part of the problem had to do with comments Clark made to Cash Schilling, son of board member Ron Schilling, following the state wrestling tournament. They said Clark had been "putting him down" on the trip home.

The younger Schilling posted a 28-7 record wrestling at 215 pounds. He won his first round at the state tournament, but did not place.

"I think there were a lot of small indiscretions that by themselves were not serious, but combined together they became more of a problem," board member Duell said after the meeting.

The crowd of parents, coaches and students packed a first-grade classroom at West Elementary as the board approved teacher rehiring recommendations and supplemental contracts, such as coaches, for the next school year.

Board President Dick Short told the audience that the board had received a letter about the wrestling coach and that it had been referred to Dick Lies, high school athletic director, and Principal Harvey Swager. Short said some people asked to speak on the issue, and

the board would make a decision.

"We have four people who want to talk to the board, but we will keep those short," he said. "The board will rely on the information from the administrators in making their decision."

Mike Johnson, Goodland High football and track coach and an assistant wrestling coach, told the board he had enjoyed working with Coach Clark. He said he felt Clark was an excellent person, willing to work with the kids in the weight room. Johnson said he had to speak out of loyalty to Clark, and wanted to express his support.

Rob Wurtz said he wanted the board to know that he supported Clark, especially for the coach's efforts to work

with Tuomo Piironen, a Finnish exchange student. Wurtz said Clark had been willing to work with Tuomo, and had taken him under his wing.

"If Tuomo could speak, he would tell you how much he appreciated the efforts of Coach Clark and the other wrestling coaches in encouraging him to participate in the wrestling programs, which is something not offered in Finland," Wurtz said.

"I don't have a student in high school," Dustin Bedore said, "he is in seventh grade, but he looks up to Coach Clark and Johnson. I want to thank Clark for the things he has done for my

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weather report

67°

at noon



Today

Sunset, 7:35 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 5:52 a.m.

Sunset, 7:36 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 48 degrees
- Humidity 44 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds NW at 10 mph
- Barometer 29.91 inches and falling
- Record High 90° (1953)
- Record Low 23° (1924)

Yesterday's Data

High 63°
Low 36°
Precipitation .16 of an inch

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear with a low in the 40s. Winds south 5-15. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, high 70, winds southeast 10-20.

Extended Forecast

Wednesday night through Saturday, chance of thunderstorms each day. Highs about 60, lows about 40.

(National Weather Service)

For 24-hour weather information, tune scanner to 162.400 MHz.

local markets

Noon

- Wheat — \$2.18 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$2.16
 - Loan deficiency payment — 29¢
 - Corn — \$1.78 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$1.84
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — 15¢
 - Milo — \$2.65 hundredweight
 - Soybeans — \$3.84 bushel
 - Posted county price — \$4.07
 - Loan deficiency payment — 82¢
 - Millet — \$4.00 hundredweight
 - Sunflowers
 - Oil current crop — \$8.60 cwt.
 - Loan deficiency pmt. — \$1.35
 - Oil new crop — \$8.90 cwt.
 - Confection current — \$17/\$10 cwt.
 - Pinto beans — \$13 (new crop)
- (Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Graves fears road bill dead

TOPEKA — Gov. Bill Graves isn't exactly giving up on passing a transportation plan this year, but he's ready for the possibility that the Legislature may not be able to agree on anything.

Graves told reporters Monday that legislative leaders should determine by the end of the week whether enough support exists for a plan he outlined, or one similar to it. If not, he said, he will not push the issue and the Legislature should not let it delay adjournment.

Graves' newest proposal would increase gasoline and diesel fuel taxes by 4 cents a gallon over five years. It contains no increases in vehicle registration fees, but it would allow the state to issue \$995 million in bonds.

The Legislature convenes its wrap-up session Wednesday.



"Rock 'n' Roll Band," a poem by Shel Silverstein, was presented at a Goodland School Board meeting Monday by West Elementary second graders (above, from left) Drew Raile, Vance Johnson, Greg Farris, Kayla Long, Mikael Hicks, Britton Williams and Danielle Pettibone. Clay Schilling

(below) presented a demonstration on the many uses of beef, and Alexis Schields (bottom) demonstrated the "confederate flag" as part of a presentation on the history of the yo-yo.

Photos by Tom Betz / Goodland Daily News

West students show literary skills to board, read poems and stories

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

Students at West Elementary read stories, poems and gave demonstrations for the Goodland School Board meeting Monday night.

First grade students from Janet Davis and Marlene Eddleman's classes read stories they have written during the "exciting writing" program. Davis told the board the students work on ideas and then write a story on anything they wish as long as it revolves around the main theme. The stories are then edited and finally presented at an "author's chair" program where the parents are invited to come listen to the stories.

The topics for the first two weeks were "popcorn" and "bubble gum."

Kyle Stefan read his story "A Piece of Popcorn," in which he described the short life of a piece of popcorn which gets stepped on and swept up. Loren Strait's story was "Popcorn War," in which he describes a boy defeating an army of popcorn kernels.

Landon Brenner's story about bubble gum was called "Yikes," and the final story was "The Cheetah's Spots" by Zachary Gibson.

Poems by Shel Silverstein and Jack Prelutsky were read by the students of Susan McCall's second grade class. Heather West, Charli Lawson and Ryan Taylor presented Prelutsky's "I'd Never Eat a Beet," while "Rock 'n Roll Band," by Silverstein was presented by Drew Raile, Vance Johnson, Greg Farris, Kayla Long, Mikael Hicks, Britton Williams and Danielle Pettibone.

Erika Gonzales and Jessica Bauman read "I Did Not Eat Your Ice Cream," by Prelutsky. "I Wish My Father Wouldn't Try to Fix Things Anymore," by Prelutsky was presented by Raile and Williams. Silverstein's "Smart," was read by

Raile and Johnson and Taylor, and "God's Wheel," was done by Susan McCall and Raile.

McCall said the students really enjoyed doing the poems and the class will be presenting them to the others at West as well as possibly going to the nursing home and Central School.

Students from Linda Lucas' and Pat Pickett's classes recently attended a program at Colby, and Alexis Schields and Clay Schilling gave demonstrations they have developed. Schields' was on the history of the yo-yo, and she included several expert examples of yo-yoing including "around the world," "walk the dog," "rock the baby" and "confederate flag."

Schilling's presentation was on "Do You Use Beef?" He said Kansas was No. 2 in beef production and that 99 percent of the animal is used in products, including baseballs, gloves, footballs, pharmaceuticals, candles and a large list of other products.

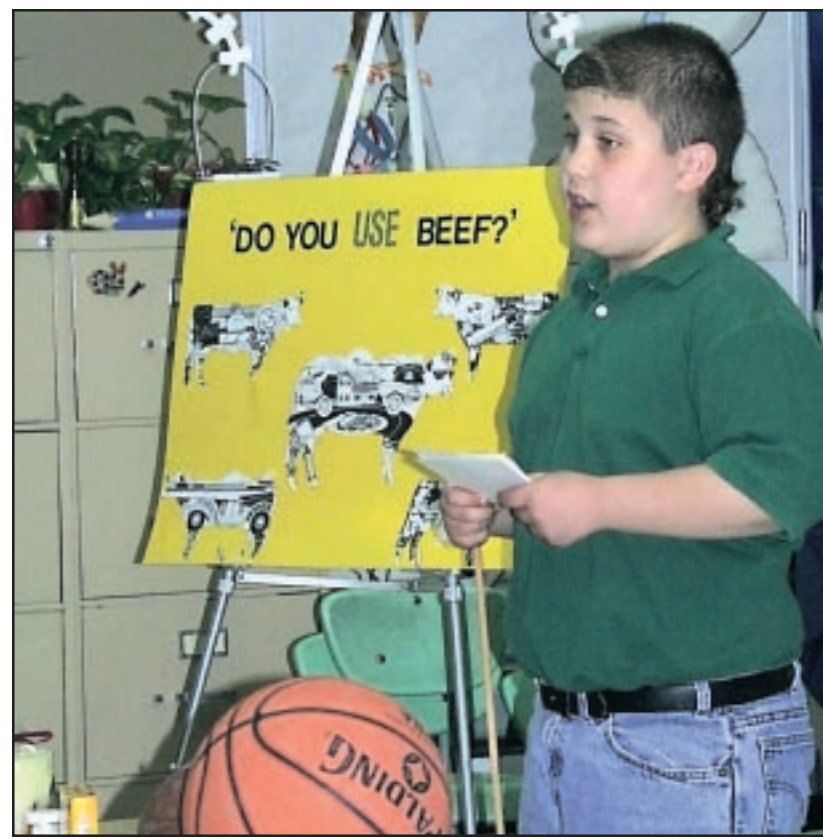
West Principal Jerry Burkett thanked everyone for attending, and said these were small examples of the great students and work being done at the school.

In other business, the board: Presented teacher Sharon Palmquist with a special certificate for being named the Phi Delta Kappa Outstanding Educator of the Year for the High Plains Chapter.

Approved allowing the Goodland Activity Center the use of the North School as a site for the British Challenge Soccer Camp this summer.

Approved a recommendation from Superintendent Marvin Selby to contribute \$1,000, to a summer program the Goodland Arts Council is hosting.

Rhonda Williams reported on a recent trip to Colorado Springs to look at alternative schools. She and Principals Harvey Swager and Jim Mull visited



three, Aspen Valley, EOP School of District 11 and West Valley, which handles students from six or more school districts.

Williams said the first two are schools of choice, meaning the students can choose to attend rather than their "home" school, but the third is more of a "referred by the school district" setting.

All three are designed to handle "at risk" students, or non-traditional students who do not seem to do well in the standard setting.

Approved, at a budget hearing, held earlier at the district office, an amended budget and the division of additional state money between the vocational education programs and the new restrooms at the track.

Accepted the resignations of Miranda Heinrich, a paraprofessional working with at-risk students, and Barb Bedore, assistant volleyball coach at the high school, and approved the hiring of Gunner Whorton as the high school science teacher for the next school year.

The next school board meeting will be 7 p.m. Monday, May 10, at the district office, 1312 Main.



Girlfriend questioned in gun buy

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP)—The 18-year-old girlfriend of Columbine High School gunman Dylan Klebold apparently bought at least two of the weapons used in the attack at a Denver-area gun show, authorities said.

Investigators also were checking a report from a Colorado Springs gun dealer that the other gunman, Eric Harris, was among five teens who tried to buy a machine gun and another weapon last month.

The Denver Post reported today that investigators believe the girlfriend, Robyn K. Anderson, bought three weapons not long after her 18th birthday in November. The Denver Rocky Mountain News said she was believed to have bought two guns.

Harris, 18, and Klebold, 17, committed suicide after bursting into Columbine High School with guns and bombs a week ago today, killing 12 fellow students and one teacher. Four guns were found in the school.

Ms. Anderson was questioned Monday and authorities describe her as a witness, not a suspect. District Attorney Dave Thomas said she was cooperating with investigators.

Prosecutors said the weapons may have been purchased legally.

"We think three of them were provided by the girlfriend of Klebold," Mark Paulter, a Jefferson County chief district attorney, told the Post. "She bought them because she was older. She was 18 at the time. She bought them in November or December."

"We're not sure she committed a crime under Colorado statute. If you provide a handgun to a person under 18, that's a violation of the statute. If you provide a shotgun or a rifle, that's not a violation."

The operator of the Tanner Gun Show, which holds shows in the Denver area several times a year, said the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms asked on Monday for a list of all of the show's exhibitors.

Prosecutors think Ms. Anderson bought two shotguns and a rifle. District Attorney Dave Thomas said prosecutors are not sure what knowledge she had about how the guns would be used. But Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone acknowledged it was possible that she did know how Klebold and Harris to plan to use the guns.

"She's not going to use those for pheasant hunting," Stone told the News.

A man who was at Ms. Anderson home declined to comment, saying the family was terrorized by reporters, The Post said.

Meanwhile, Mel Bernstein, owner of Dragon Arms, a gun shop in Colorado Springs, told investigators that four teen-age boys dressed in trench coats — including Harris — and a young woman came to his store in early March. They tried to buy an M-60 machine gun and a pistol equipped with a silencer. He said he declined to sell the guns to Harris because he was too young. When the young woman in the group tried to buy the guns, saying she was 18, he escorted them from the store.

Bernstein said the incident was captured on a surveillance videotape that he turned over to federal authorities.

"They were real mopey, like punk kids with the makeup on, like punk

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