

Board debates whether to cancel interactive television program

SCHOOL, from Page 1

monthly payments to the telephone company. The superintendent said the contract ends in January.

Selby said all other participants are hooked up by S&T Telephone, based in Brewster, and that telephone company charges the Goodland district \$400 a month to be involved.

Karla Murray, the district's technology coordinator, told board members that Southwestern Bell will no longer provide the service when the contract ends.

She said the district can continue the program by switching to S&T, which is planning to upgrade the network that connects schools from analog to digital.

The upgrade, she said, will cost more than \$36,000 but will allow students here to take classes from schools in southeastern Kansas. Now students are confined to taking classes taught at the 14 participating schools.

Superintendent Selby outlined the pros and cons of continuing the program and signing on with S&T.

He said the district has rarely used the program in the past because of conflicting class schedules and time difference, but could find it more useful with access to larger schools in the south-

east.

Goodland High students, Selby said, are on a block-class schedule — where class schedules differ from day to day — that many schools don't have. He said that and the time difference (Goodland is an hour behind in the Mountain Time Zone) make it hard to teach or take classes with other schools.

Selby the district wants students to take classes not taught in Goodland, such as French, but no one in the program offers those classes.

Three people from St. Francis, he said, use the equipment to tune into a course at Fort Hays State University and a woman from Goodland teaches Spanish to students outside Sherman County.

Besides that, Selby said, no one from Goodland benefits from the program.

He said the program could be good if the district can tap into a larger school with diverse classes, but the time and class conflicts could still get in the way. Selby added that the program may never be used enough to warrant spending more than \$20,000 a year on it.

S&T is asking the district, he said, to sign a 10-year agreement that says the district will pay \$1,500 a month for the



The Goodland School Board had its annual board picture taken at Monday's meeting, inviting students to snap a shot for their yearbooks. Whitney Archer, a sixth grader, took a picture for North Elementary School. The board and administrators (from left to right, front to back)

service.

"I hate to give it up," he said, "but for \$24,000 a year, it doesn't make a lot of sense."

Murray said students could still use the equipment — televisions and overhead projectors — if the program ends. She said the program is antiquated, as many institutions, such as Fort Hays,

are turning to the Internet to transmit or receive classes.

Board members said they didn't want to lose a program that has potential and decided to gather more information before moving forward.

"It's a gamble," member Mike Campbell said, "but I'd really hate not to have us have an ITV program.

are board secretary Pat Juhl, Kathy Russell, Jane Philbrick, Mike Campbell, board president Dick Short, Eric Gray, Superintendent Marvin Selby, Ben Duell and Gerald Franklin.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Goodland is a leading community in northwest Kansas and a leading district."

Selby said the Northwest Kansas Technical School has interactive television capabilities and is one of the schools using S&T Telephone.

Board members asked if the two schools could collaborate on the pro-

gram.

"It's ridiculous to have two in the same community," Selby said.

Campbell said he wants to ask officials at Fort Hays and Kansas State University — which use the Internet to teach classes — whether they would stay with the television program or move on.

Board may hire counselor for elementary schools

COUNSELOR, from Page 1

Selby said after the meeting that the student was a sophomore whose actions were disturbing, violent and disruptive in the classroom. He said the student wasn't able to communicate with teachers or peers.

It's the district's responsibility to

educate all students under 18, Selby said, and the board budgeted money in the event the boy had to be removed from the high school and taken to an institution. Selby said the boy's family moved this month.

The superintendent said the district needs a counselor for the district's three elementary schools.

He said Rhonda Williams and Nancy Farris are counselors at the high school, and Sally Bruce is a counselor at Grant Junior High, but there is no counselor at West, North and Central elementary schools.

In other business, the board: • Heard from Selby that the last payment of \$132,000 has been made on the

Max Jones Fieldhouse addition.

- Paid \$212,337 in bills, including the final payment on the fieldhouse.
- Approved a report from the Professional Development Council, which tracks the credits teachers earn for attending educational conferences or in-service training and using what they learned in the classroom.

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