

# Steering committee wants to use available money

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they have come to us and we liked the project," he said.  
 Asked how much money the county had budgeted for economic development, Frankenfeld said they have budgeted \$50,000 in each of the last two years, but have not spent that much. County Clerk Janet Rumpel said so

far this year, about \$6,900 has been spent as the county's share of the six-county enterprise facilitation consortium.  
 Randy Toppliff, steering committee member, asked how much one mill of property tax would raise and Rumpel said currently it is about \$56,000. Toppliff suggested the economic development program could cost

\$100,000 to \$150,000 a year, and that he was willing to help raise money.  
 "I have my check for \$1,000," he said "I know there are enough who support this effort, and I know taxes aren't going to go down. I believe we can pay now or pay later."  
 Pete Whalen, a steering committee member, suggested the county coordinate the program with the state Department of Commerce and Housing. He said the new program would be under the thumb of the county and would be accountable. Whalen said he would be willing to help with the legal needs of setting up the organization.  
 Steve West, committee member, said the group is planning to hire a full-time director. He said not having such a person has been a failure in the past.

(Currently, economic development is under the Chamber, which has a full-time director responsible for Chamber, economic development and tourism programs, plus two assistants.)  
 The consensus of the steering committee members was not to seek a property tax in the first year, but try to use available money to get the program running and hopefully be able to demonstrate some success before asking for more taxes.  
 "We want a change," West said, "and this is the best way we can move forward."  
 "I think this is a good start," said commissioner Mitch Tiede.  
 The steering committee members said they would come to the next meeting with a plan.

Kim Lawson, co-chairperson of the Central Elementary site council, said the group listened to presentations on teaching and education from Sharon Gregory, Central principal, and others.  
 Michael Nelson, a member of the North Elementary council, said the group talked about recruiting new members and listened to a presentation by Principal Steve Raymer about school finance.  
 Jim Mull, Grant Junior High principal and a member of the school's site council, said the group discussed ways to help students meet state standards and organized a chili feed as a tribute to local heroes.  
 Profits were given to firefighters and the Genesis food bank.

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 Jolly said the council learned more about the tests students take and programs for students and teachers.

# Site council leaders report on activities during school year

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News Site Council leaders told the Goodland School Board on Monday that this year their groups had learned how the district spends state money, discussed whether to make some classes count more than others and helped plan student activities.  
 Heads of site councils from Goodland's five schools gave end-of-the-year reports to the board, saying parents were more involved this year,

learning things about education that they never knew and providing ideas on how to improve the schools.  
 After the meeting, Superintendent Marvin Selby said state law requires each school to have a site council made up of parents, teachers, administrators and anyone else who is interested in education.  
 He said the councils have a hand in setting or changing policy.  
 Jeff Mason, president of the high school council, said the group met al-

most every month this year and had the best participation from parents he's seen in at least three years.  
 One reason for that, he said, is because the council talked about controversial issues.  
 He said they discussed whether valedictorians and salutatorians should be required to have followed the state's college-prep curriculum, whether tougher classes should be "weighted" so they count more towards a student's grade point average, whether the grad-

ing system should include pluses and minuses and whether the high school's block class schedule should be changed.  
 Mason said people had different opinions and the group never reached an agreement on any of the topics, but the council will continue to talk next year and may make some recommendations to the board.  
 Board member Mike Campbell said the board needs to discuss implementing the weighted grade system and

Regents curriculum and moved to have the council make recommendations on those topics within a year. The motion wasn't voted on because no board member seconded it.  
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# Summer constuction projects include sidewalks, windows

The Goodland School Board on Monday gave Superintendent Marvin Selby permission to spend \$80,000 on summer construction projects and asked him to look into replacing the roof on the high school.  
 Selby gave members a list of repairs and items that need to be replaced at each school totaling about \$277,000. He said the district has about \$225,000

a year for repairs, but needs to spend \$130,000 of that to pay off the remodeling on the second floor of the high school.  
 The superintendent said the most critical repair is the roof on the high school, which is old and leaky.  
 He said crews patched part of the roof when they did the remodeling project this year, but the rest of it is

prettly much shot.  
 He estimated it will cost \$200,000 to replace the roof, but said the district probably won't be able to afford to do it this year since the state will likely give schools less money.  
 The board asked Selby to talk to an architect about replacing the roof and look into having specifications made, so the project can be done later.

Summer projects include replacing the pole vault runway at the track, repairing sidewalks around Max Jones Fieldhouse and the schools, replacing windows and the ceiling tile and lights in the gym at Grant Junior High, a new dishwasher for Central Elementary School and repairs at the high school suggested by the state fire marshal.  
 Selby said if state aid for education

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# Should some classes be worth more credit?

School board member Mike Campbell thinks the board should encourage students to take tough classes by making tougher subjects count more in grade point averages.  
 Campbell made his comments after Jeff Mason, president of the high school site council, reported the group had talked about implementing a "weighted" grade system and requiring valedictorians and salutatorians to

follow the college-preparatory curriculum recommended by the state Board of Regents.  
 Campbell said it's important for tough classes to count more and for students to follow the Regents curriculum to make sure the valedictorian and salutatorian have earned good grades in tough classes, not easy ones. Some students take easier classes to keep their grade point average up, he said,

adding that an "A" in physical education shouldn't count as much as an "A" in calculus.  
 Campbell moved to require the high school site council to make a recommendation to the board on those topics within a year, but the motion never came to a vote because no member seconded it.  
 Rich Schwasinger, a council member who was at the meeting, said most

districts with a weighted grade system are larger and offer advanced placement courses.  
 He said Goodland High School doesn't have advanced placement classes and most Class 4A schools like Goodland aren't using a weighted grade system.  
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