

Student improvement added to teacher evaluation

Faced with the requirements of President Bush's new No Child Left Behind Act, the Goodland School Board voted last Monday to seek to add student performance and achievement to teacher evaluation standards.

"How students do in your class will be a part of your evaluation," said Superintendent Marvin Selby, adding that the exact language will have to be negotiated with the teacher union.

"None of the teachers will be very excited about this," he said, "because they don't get to choose their kids. But neither do we."

Selby added that it's improvement, not ranking, that the government wants to measure, so even

teachers with lower classes should be able to show progress.

Board members nodded their heads.

"No Child Left Behind is the law," said President Dick Short.

The board voted 7-0 to approve the recommendation and turn it over to the negotiating committee.

In other business, the board:

- Gave a 25-year certificate to Donna Whitmore, a third-grade teacher at Central Elementary, from the University of Kansas School of Education.

- Presented the Phi Delta Kappa Outstanding Educator of the Year award to Susan Jensen, also a third-grade teacher at Central. Both said

they had come to Goodland "for just one year," but for Jensen, it's been 38.

- Introduced new board members Danny Whalen and Fritz Doke, who were observing the meeting. They were elected this month and take office in July.

- Passed out certificates of accreditation renewal for the high school and junior high from the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges. The accreditation is a higher level than the required state accreditation, and calls for extra work from the schools' staffs.

- Heard that the Northwest Kansas League had named it's first all-academic teams.

- Approved paying dues of \$6,574 to the Kansas Association of School Boards and \$900 for it's legal fund.

- Held a 20-minute closed session for student matters. Scheduled sessions for negotiations and personnel were not held.

- Approve payment of bills totaling \$92,030 for the month and transfers of \$3,590 to the bilingual fund and \$3,765 to the technology fund.

- Set the next meeting for 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 29, at West School. The meeting is being held on a Tuesday because there are Kansas Association of School Boards meetings that day in Colby and Oakley.

School board at a glance

At it's meeting last Monday, the Goodland School Board:

- Heard a proposal from a Hutchinson school co-operative to take over and expand the district's STEP Lab program for dropouts and at-risk students. Story on Page 1.

- Talked with new Activities Director Steve Raymer about possible changes in school policies, including rules about kids getting rides to and from school events and how far a team can travel. Story to come.

- Agreed to add student progress to teachers' evaluation standards, subject to negotiation with the

teacher union. Story at left.

- Heard that the district faces possible cuts up to \$410,000 next year because of shrinking enrollment, which means less state aid, and soaring insurance costs. Story was in Friday's paper.

- Listened to complaints from the parents of a student who was suspended for a year for having two handguns in his car in the high school parking lot. Story in Friday's paper.

- Approved a plan to shift summer school from a month in June to an intensive three-week "Jump Start" in August. Story was in Friday's paper.

Women of Faith having brunch, fling

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Women will meet for brunch, fellowship, praise and worship from 9:30-11:30 Saturday at the First Baptist Church, Fifth and Center.

The Goodland Women of Faith are having a Spring Fling pot luck breakfast/brunch at the church and will have a speaker travel in from Pueblo, Colo.

Marilyn Hefner and Mary Ellen Coumerihl, organizers for the group, said they enjoy fellowship with like-minded women.

The Spring Fling and other group activities are open to women of all religions, Coumerihl said, and even to women who don't attend church.

"We have a blast," she said. "No matter what church background we have, the common denominator is Jesus Christ."

The group is not church sponsored, Hefner said, and women from almost all of the churches in Goodland have attended at one time or another.

The Women of Faith will bring coffee and juice to the Spring Fling, Coumerihl said, and each woman should bring her favorite breakfast or brunch dish.

Bringing a dish isn't required. The women said they don't want anyone to feel obligated to bring something. There's always plenty of food, Coumerihl said, but it would be good for everyone to bring something if they can.

The group had a salad lunch last year, and chose breakfast this year to do something different.

Child care is free, Coumerihl said, although the group will accept donations for it and for the guest speaker.

The speaker will be Shawn Spencer, who was born and raised in Texas and was the captain of her high school and college debate teams. At age 26, Spencer said, she gave her life to the Lord at the Four-square Church in Odessa, Texas.

In 2001, she and her family moved to Pueblo. She is on the ministerial staff at Pueblo's Living Faith Four-square Church.

Spencer said her faith has been strengthened because of the trials the Lord has brought her through, and that message is incorporated into her ministry. She has a passion to see people come to know Jesus as their personal Savior.

She married Richard "Trey"

Spencer in 1997 and they have three children, Ashlyn, 8; Christopher, 5; and Adrian, 4.

Hefner said she attended a Women of Faith conference in Topeka eight years ago, and her love for the group started then. She said she started with her friends and people from her church to start the Goodland group, and it has grown.

Two years ago, she said, the group chartered a bus to go to a conference in Denver. Fifty women from Goodland, Colby, Brewster, Edson and Burlington rode the bus, she said, and 30 others drove themselves to the conference.

This year, she said, the conference is Friday and Saturday, July 25 and 26, at the Pepsi Center in Denver. The deadline to register is May 15, since there aren't many women able to help plan the trip.

Marilyn has always organized the trip, Coumerihl said; she's the clearinghouse for the tickets, arranges a place to stay and the information person.

The conference will have several speakers, Hefner said. Some are funny, she said, but there is a serious side to the event.

"We cry, we sing," Hefner said, "and there are powerful dramas."

The dramatist is usually a hoot, Hefner said, but last year, she portrayed a woman just diagnosed with breast cancer.

There will be about 17,000 women in Denver for the conference, Hefner said.

The Goodland group has three members on the organizational team, Coumerihl said, including herself, Hefner and Daylene O'Harah.

O'Harah's a key person, Coumerihl said, because she has good ideas and a heart for encouraging women.

If there are women who have time to help, the women said, they are welcome to join the team. The Women of Faith honor the Lord and learn about him, Coumerihl said, and can be as involved or not involved as they have time for. It's a comfortable, casual atmosphere, Hefner said.

Stopping to refuel



Two National Guard C-23 Sherpa planes landed at Goodland to refuel on their way to Florida. Chief Warrant Officer Duke Martini, crew chief on one of the planes, said they were carrying a unit of Green Berets and their equipment from Oregon and Washington to Florida for training. One of the planes was from

Salem, Ore., and it carried the men. The second plane, from Fort Lewis, Wash., carried their parachutes and equipment. The C-23 is used by the Army to drop paratroopers and crates of supplies. The next stop on the trip was to be in Wichita.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Good Sam hopes to replace windows

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

The Sherman County Good Samaritan Center hopes to replace windows to satisfy a state inspector.

Phil Samuelson, director of the center, said they have two bids for replacing windows, and there's a possibility of Good Samaritan getting a national contract with Marvin

Windows and Doors or Andersen Corp.

The bids are for \$43,000 with Rasure Lumber Do-It Center and \$35,000 from Dependable Glass. If the national contract goes through, Samuelson said, the center may still use a local supplier and a local contractor to install them.

The administrator said he's holding off on the final decision to see if the national contract goes through

but doesn't want to wait too long. The center was surveyed by a state inspector in September, and the state was unhappy with the condition of some of the windows, the carpet and the flooring in the kitchen.

The county approved \$15,000 last fall to help with the flooring and may help pay for the windows as well.

"I think they will be happy with what we've done," he said. "The floors are looking good."

Commissioners Mitch Tiede and Chuck Thomas encouraged Samuelson to be sure of what is being provided with each bid.

The center's census is down, Samuelson said, from 60 to between 52 and 49 the last couple of months, but has lost no jobs.

"I think that it's a win-win situation for us," he said. "I think that it would flat meet our needs."

He suggested the board study the proposal and make a decision at its next meeting. One question from the board was how well the centers serve Hispanics, who Selby said had not fared too well at the STEP Lab.

"They'll stay for a while and then they drop out," he said.

Walker said the center needs a key person to work with Hispanics.

"It won't cost anything," he said. "I won't cost you a nickel, really."

Study lab may move to downtown location

SCHOOL, from Page 1

he said, adding that the centers are used for community programs also.

If the agency sets up a center here, he said, students would be enrolled in Goodland High School and draw state aid the same as any other student. The co-operative would charge the district the state per-pupil base of \$3,860 per year, and the district would keep any extra state aid.

Walker said the Colby program has a count of 35 full-time-equivalent students this year, up from

seven the first year. The first year, he added, he expects to take a loss on the program.

The co-operative will hire certified teachers to run the program and work with students, he said, and it charges students \$90 per half credit. Regular students in high school don't have to pay, he added, but a senior who needs a credit to graduate would.

Tammy Freeman, at at-risk tutor at the lab, told the board she had toured the Colby facility and liked it.

Once the program is up and run-

ning, Walker said, the agency would form a partnership with the school district and split any profit. He said he expected the operation to work here.

"I haven't closed any yet," he said. "I hate to talk about dollars. They have been pretty profitable. But the main thin we're after is to help these people."

He told the board he'd need to have a contract by late July to get things going this year.

Superintendent Marvin Shelby said he recommends trying the program

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Date: Saturday, April 26, 2003

Time: 10:00 am CST (doors open at 8:00 am day of sale)
Auction Location: National Guard Armory, Colby, Kan.
Preview sale items between 5 - 7 p.m. CST Friday, April 25, 2003

- Antiques/Collectibles
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