

School board begins strategic planning process

By Pat Schiefen
pjschiefen@nwkansan.com
 The Goodland School Board is starting the process to develop a strategic plan for the district for the next five years. The board felt it needed to step back and look at things since there were four new members on the school board and new Superintendent Bill Bierman started in July.

Dr. Kelly Gillespie of the South-west Plains Regional Service Center led the planning session Monday night at the Administration Building.

Dr. Gillespie explained that a strategic plan would allow the district to plan for growth. It communicates with the staff and the community which direction the board wants to

take the district. It will prioritize resources and provides direction and focus. Ultimately the district wants to improve student improvement.

Board member Amy Sederstrom asked how a board would maintain a plan with members of the board changing.

Dr. Gillespie said the plan is usually for five years and with the focus on the plan by everyone there can be continuity.

She said that as a board it has to decide that if a topic is not connected to the strategic plan then the board doesn't deal with it.

The board compiled a list of the current challenges the district is facing. They include academic performance, finance and budget, athletic travel, communication,

discipline, 21st Century Skills or basically technology, safe schools and staff moral.

Dr. Gillespie said that the board needed to remember that the district has positive attributes as well as negative ones. She said one of the things the district has a lot of human capital which is the investment in staff, personnel and the community.

The board decided that it would seek community input from around 40 people including all economic classes, ethnicity, age, educational employees and other groups.

The next thing the board did was to further condense the list of challenges the district faces. These are academic performance, 21st Century skills, communication, finance

and budget and school climate.

The meeting is tentatively planned for Tuesday, Sept. 20, at the West Elementary Library. The larger group would be divided into smaller groups of about five people that would be able to discuss each of the district's challenges. At least

one school board member would lead and take notes from the smaller groups. Gennifer House would lead the academic performance group. Mike Cochran and Diane Stiles would lead the 21st Century Skills or technology group. Gary Slough and Teresa Sieck would lead the com-

munication group. Amy Sederstrom would lead the finance and budget group and Jessica Cole would lead the school climate group.

Information gathered would then be condensed by the larger group, said Dr. Gillespie.

Farmer asks county commission to appeal cesspool decision

COUNTY, from Page 1

1973 all cesspools became illegal. Once identified the system has to be brought up to code."

"If I had known I would do things differently," Schilling said. "I want to know how far to go to find the answers. It is an aggravation that everyone thinks they know what is going on, and I'm not going to pay \$10,000 to put in a new system unless I have to."

Enfield said now people with a cesspool will not call a person unless they have to.

Helen Dobbs, local real estate agent, said she did not find a violation based on the state statute because the cesspool is not a place to gather flies or insects.

From her personal experience Dobbs said she bought a place with a cesspool, and if it fails she will have to put in a new system.

"That is what the realtors have been told, and that is what we are telling people who buy homes," she said. "It came from the health department."

Kosmatka asked if it came from the Sherman County health department.

Dobbs said she thought that was right as 13 years ago she called the health department and a guy from Colby came over to test the water well. She said he told her the cesspool was OK at that time.

"We opened a big can of crap," Schilling said.

Skubal said they had not been

specifically enforcing the cesspool part until about 18 months ago when they had a problem on one site with KDHE.

Enfield said he agrees it is a grey area and is afraid it is going to create more problems where people try to get around the regulations.

"Yes that might happen," Weber said, "but if they get caught they will be subject to a fine of \$500 per day."

Selby said it was a grey area and suggested the next thing is to appeal to get it cleared up for everyone.

The next step is for the protection group board to appoint a hearing officer and the Sherman County commissioners will have to approve. Then a hearing date will be set and others, such as the realtors, will be allowed to ask to provide briefs or testimony. Once the hearing is held the officer will make a decision.

Selby said if Schilling or Sherman County are not satisfied with the decision the next step would be district court.

Schneewis said Schilling's situation is not unique and that cesspools are predominately found in western Kansas.

"If they are discovered they have to replace the system like they have asked you," he said. "I deal with the western counties and they are dealt with on the same manner about cesspools. You are not being singled out."

specifically enforcing the cesspool part until about 18 months ago when they had a problem on one site with KDHE.

Enfield said he agrees it is a grey area and is afraid it is going to create more problems where people try to get around the regulations.

"Yes that might happen," Weber said, "but if they get caught they will be subject to a fine of \$500 per day."

Selby said it was a grey area and suggested the next thing is to appeal to get it cleared up for everyone.

The next step is for the protection group board to appoint a hearing officer and the Sherman County commissioners will have to approve. Then a hearing date will be set and others, such as the realtors, will be allowed to ask to provide briefs or testimony. Once the hearing is held the officer will make a decision.

Selby said if Schilling or Sherman County are not satisfied with the decision the next step would be district court.

Schneewis said Schilling's situation is not unique and that cesspools are predominately found in western Kansas.

"If they are discovered they have to replace the system like they have asked you," he said. "I deal with the western counties and they are dealt with on the same manner about cesspools. You are not being singled out."

Truck parking issue makes for lively city discussion

CITY, from Page 1

Mike Campbell said he brought the issue up because of the noise from his neighbor's truck on a Sunday morning.

"We have zoning codes for residential and commercial," he said. "If I come out on Sunday and the truck is running I cannot enjoy my property."

Campbell said he felt this was a bigger issue than parking trucks in residential areas. He asked if the city has thought about trucks bringing dangerous chemicals or other type of hazardous material in their trucks. He said he has been told a man who carries hazardous material all across the country has been told he can live in Oakley.

"Where do you stop and who and when do you let it happen," he said.

He said he talked to a local tire dealer and asked how many truck accounts he might have. He said he was told hundreds, and the city can find 30 parked in town.

"This is something that needs to be dealt with," he said, "and it is going to take some time. Can we design a truck park. Let the truckers design it. Do it right. Solve this for the community in a positive way. This is not a come and go situation. It is something we have to look at as a bigger issue."

Finley asked if there is a city ordinance about getting a permit to run a business in a residential area.

Gerber said under the zoning code that could be a use by right within a residential area and some home based businesses are in that category. He said others can apply to the planning commission to ask for a use permit or variance.

Garcia asked what the city ordinance says.

Gerber said it is addressed in a number of places, but one is about off street parking and says "parking of trucks is prohibited in residential districts."

"Like a lot of other things on the books we do not go out looking for this," he said.

Garcia said he felt the truck lot is an avenue the city needs to pursue to reach a happy medium to find a workable solution for both sides.

Donald Butler, 803 College Ave., said the only

thing he has is the truck, and did not see the city would have the money to build a big facility to that many trucks. He said he has a shop at his home where he can work on the truck, and that is one reason they bought the property.

"We won't be able to stay in Goodland if we can't keep our truck on our property," said Darla Butler.

Butler said he is not considered commercial because that is his work vehicle.

"I do not have a business there," he said. "I am leased to Heartland."

Garcia said it is obvious it will take some time to find a solution. He said there may be questions about noise in other areas of town, and wants to be fair. He said it would be good to hear more suggestions.

Garcia told Butler he felt he could continue to park his truck on his property until this was resolved.

"What would you like us to do," Gerber asked. "I don't think we got an idea. The language is pretty clear."

"I am frustrated if there is an ordinance in place that we are dealing with this," Finley said. "I feel if we are not going by ordinance we need to change that in the next 60 days. I feel we should be following the ordinance."

Fairbanks said she felt the city could explore the truck parking facility as there appear to be more trucking families moving to town.

"I feel in good judgment the no parking is what the law should be," she said, "but I feel we as a city need to find a way to make it work. We need to do what we can to a point."

"I am not really thinking we can find a happy medium, but we represent the people of Goodland and we need to see if we can find the best answer."

Zimmerman said he agreed with Fairbanks and wondered how long the city was going to take to make a decision.

Finley said he would like to have some time to think about this as it is not something we can solve right now.

Garcia said they would table the discussion and ask Gerber to see if he could develop some language or options.

Republican River Compact meeting to be Aug. 31

The Republican River Compact Administration will hold its 51st annual meeting at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 31, at the Burlington Community and Education Center, 340 South 14th Street in Burlington, Colo.

The engineering committee will meet at the same location at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 30—the day before the annual meeting—for the committee's annual work session.

These public meetings focus on compact compliance and water related issues and activities within the Republican River basin in Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas.

Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas entered into the Republican River

Compact in 1943.

Additional information about the Republican River Compact, can be found under "Interstate Water Issues" on the Kansas Division of

Water Resources website at www.ksda.gov/interstate_water_issues/content/142 or by contacting Chris Beightel at (785) 296-3830 or chris.beightel@kda.ks.gov.

*** SOFFIT * DOOR AND WINDOW REPLACEMENTS ***

REMODELS

From concrete to roofing and everything in between.

Ron Lucke

CUSTOM BUILDING

Burlington, Co. (719) 346-8840
 CELL PHONE (719) 349-8840

*** SIDING * SEAMLESS RAIN GUTTERS * FASCIA ***

NEW CONSTRUCTION

LAND FOR SALE

Kit Carson County-1520± acres dry land. Seibert area. 1,900,000
 North of Seibert. 480± acres dry land. \$600,000
 NEW: 260± acres CRP. Expires 2015. North of Bethune. \$286,000
 South of Ruleton-40 acres. home, shop & other buildings. Reduced \$99,000
 Lincoln County, CO - 3729± acres grass. 25 miles south of Punkin Center.
 Improvements: home & small shop. Good water, good fencing. \$1,062,765
 Burlington, CO-6 Lots: 17th & Rose \$145,000.
 4 Lots: 17th & Rose \$60,000

Dale Stull, Broker
 Cell 719-349-5710
 Toll Free 866-346-5710

The Land Office LLC
www.thelandofficecellc.com

HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT TODAY!
 (for 3, 5 or 10 months)

Patrick from France, 17 yrs.
 Loves the outdoors and playing soccer. Patrick's dream has been to spend time in America learning about our customs and attending American high school.

Elisa from Italy, 16 yrs.
 Likes to play tennis, swim, loves to dance. Elisa hopes to play American softball and learn American 'slang' while in the USA.

Make this year the most exciting, enriching year ever for you and your family. Share your world with a young foreign visitor from abroad. Welcome a high school student, 15-18 years old, from Italy, France, Norway, Denmark, Spain, Germany, Brazil, Thailand or China as part of your family for a school year (or less) and make an overseas friend for life.

For more information or to select your own exchange student please call:

Ginny at (785) 332-3414
 or
 Marcy at 1-800-888-9040 (Toll Free)
 or e-mail us at info@world-heritage.org

www.whhosts.com
 World Heritage is a public benefit, non-profit organization based in Laguna Beach, CA.

Classifieds work!
Call 899-2338.

Check. Check. And Check.

✓ New Wound Treatment

✓ Hyperbaric Oxygen Healing Technology

✓ Experienced Physicians

Finally, everything it takes to heal that stubborn wound.

Welcome to a treatment center with a proven track record in healing wounds. Skilled physicians at HaysMed's Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Center use the latest advances in technology to heal wounds – with proven results.

Wound care is covered by most major insurance plans and Medicare. So, talk to your primary care physician or call 785-623-5602 for more information. Self-referrals accepted.

The HaysMed Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Center – new hope for healing wounds.

Dr. Kirk Potter, Medical Director

Dr. Brandon Cunningham Surgeon

Dr. Alex DeCarvalho Surgeon

Dr. Anthony Hornick Surgeon

Dr. Afaq Zaman Khan Surgeon

Dr. Charles Schultz Surgeon

Dr. Zurab Tsereteli Surgeon

HAYSMED
 WOUND HEALING & HYPERBARIC CENTER

2220 Canterbury Drive – Hays
 785.623.5602
www.haysmed.com/woundcenter