# School board begins strategic planning process

#### By Pat Schiefen

pjschiefen@nwkansas.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 Southwest 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

focus. Ultimately the district want to and staff moral. improve student improvement.

asked how a board would maintain trict has positive attributes as well a plan with members of the board changing.

Dr. Gillespie said the plan is usually for five years and with the focus ment in staff, personnel and the on the plan by everyone there can be community. 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 to further condense the list of chalis facing. They include academic

take the district. It will prioritize re- discipline, 21st Century Skills or sources and provides direction and basically technology, safe schools

Dr. Gillespie said that the board Board member Amy Sederstrom needed to remember that the disas negative ones. She said one of the things the district has a lot of human capital which is the invest-

> 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 lenges the district faces. These are performance, finance and budget, academic performance, 21st Cenathletic travel, communication, tury 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

one school board member would munication group. Amy Sederstrom lead and take notes from the smaller would lead the finance and budget groups. Gennifer House would lead group and Jessica Cole would lead the academic performance group. Mike Cochran and Diane Stiles would lead the 21st Century Skills or be condensed by the larger group. technology group. Gary Slough and of the district's challenges. At least Teresa Sieck would lead the com-

the school climate group.

Information gathered would then said Dr. Gillespie.

part until about 18 months ago when

they had a problem on one site with

area and is afraid it is going to create

more problems where people try to

said, "but if they get caught they

will be subject to a fine of \$500 per

Selby said it was a grey area and

The next step is for the protection

suggested the next thing is to appeal

group board to appoint a hearing of-

ficer and the Sherman County com-

missioners 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

Selby said if Schilling or Sher-

Schneweis said Schilling's situa-

"If they are discovered they have

man County are not satisfied with

the decision the next step would be

tion is not unique and that cesspools

are predominately found in western

to replace the system like they

have asked you," he said. "I deal

with the western counties and they

district court.

Kansas.

the officer will make a decision.

to get it cleared up for everyone.

get around the regulations.

Enfield said he agrees it is a grey

"Yes that might happen," Weber

KDHE.

dav.

## Farmer asks county commission to appeal cesspool decision

#### **COUNTY**, from Page 1

year. She said the money comes from the state and there is no guarantee they will get \$10,000 each year. She said she has had a number of applicants this year beyond the four they can help.

Weber said they understand those situations, and have given some owners as much as a year to allow them to apply for money the next year.

Schilling said he felt there was a big grey area about the situation, and said he was asking the county commissioners, who are a part of the 15-county group, to appeal the

Enfield asked about the make up of the board for the group, and Weber said there was one from each county, and Jean Kosmatka, director of the Sherman County Health Department, is the county representative.

ion about the matter.

"When it is brought to the board's attention we have to follow the law." she said. "It was brought to our attention and then the board has no choice."

"If it had not been pumped it would not be a problem," Enfield said.

"If he had called and said there was a cesspool we would have had to address it, Kosmatka said. "In

1973 all cesspools became illegal. specifically enforcing the cesspool 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.

Water Resources website at www.

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# 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

"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 right now. needs to pursue to reach a happy medium to find a workable solution for both sides.

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

decision.

Enfield asked Kosmatka her opin-

#### are dealt with on the same manner "We opened a big can of crap," about cesspools. You are not being Schilling said. singled out." Skubal said they had not been



The Republican River Compact Compact in 1943. Administration will hold its 51st an-

nual meeting at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Republican River Compact, can content/142 or by contacting Chris Aug. 31, at the Burlington Commu- be found under "Interstate Water Beightel at (785) 296-3830 or chris. nity and Education Center, 340 South Issues" on the Kansas Division of beightel@kda.ks.gov.

Additional information about the ksda.gov/interstate\_water\_issues/

Donald Butler, 803 College Ave., said the only or options.

Garcia said they would table the discussion and ask Gerber to see if he could develop some language related issues and activities within the Republican River basin in Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas. Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas

entered into the Republican River

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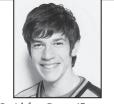
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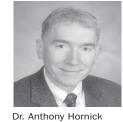




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