

School board chooses new member

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

The empty seat on the Goodland School Board was filled by Andrew House on Monday.

Two candidates, House and John Hendrich, came before the board to answer questions about what they would do if appointed.

"They both would be assets to this board," said member Dick Short after hearing their answers.

Member Fritz Doke noted that both have children in the school system, the best reason to get involved.

Hendrich and his wife Kelly have four children in kindergarten, second, fourth and sixth grades in Goodland schools.

House has two children, in second and fourth grade.

"I think either one would be a good choice," said board member LeAnn Friedrichs.

House, however, was chosen because he came in fourth in the general election in April.

He was only 61 votes behind Short.

"On the basis of the election," said board member Marty Melia, "I would go with Andy."

He added that he thought Hendrich would be a great board member, but he was not on the ballot in April.

The questioning started at 6 p.m. with Hendrich. He sat in front of the board as members fired off prepared questions.

Why do you want to be on the board?

"I just want to be involved in the decision-making process," Hendrich replied. "I just want to be part of the team."

How much involvement should the board have in preparation of



Andrew House answered questions posed by the Goodland School Board at a meeting Monday. He was chosen to fill the empty board seat.
Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

budget priorities?

"A very large majority," he said. "The board is made up of community members with a good feel for the economics of the area."

What is the biggest challenge facing the school district today?

"The conditions of the economy," Hendrich answered, adding that declining enrollment is another

problem.

If you had no budget restrictions, what would you do?

"Build new facilities," he said, adding that the new buildings would be energy efficient and air conditioned.

What is your opinion of the school district as a whole?

"My kids, I think, are doing

great," Hendrich said. "I think you guys are doing a good job. I think the teachers are doing a good job."

Melia asked why Hendrich didn't run in the election.

He said he had been considering the race but decided his job on the board at Calgary Gospel Church, one he has since resigned, took precedence.

Superintendent Marvin Selby told Hendrich that if he wasn't chosen, he should consider running in the next election.

Next the board interviewed House.

Why do you want to be on the board?

"Because I have two children in elementary school," House said.

What role should the board have in supervising curriculum and instruction?

House said the board's job is to supervise. He said problems or suggestions start with teachers and move through administrators to the district office to the board, where a decision is made.

What is the greatest challenge to the school district today?

"Enrollment," he said, "declining population."

If you had no budget restrictions, what would you do?

House said he would build new schools and update the computers. He would like to enclose the football stadium and attach it to the school, too.

Who is ultimately responsible for the quality of education?

"The parents and the teachers," he said.

Those two sets of people, House said, spend the most amount of time with the students and should have the most influence over them.

After the candidates left, board members discussed their thoughts.

"I think we're very fortunate to have two young men very interested," Friedrichs said.

"I think the answers were great," Melia said. "It's kind of a coin toss, I think."

Doke recommended House for the position because of the results of the election.

Board members agreed the decision would be harder if Hendrich had run in April.

Short made a motion to appoint House, which was seconded by Melia. The appointment was agreed on unanimously. House will serve on the board until June 30, 2007, when members elected that spring take their seats.

City Commission plans hearing on Eagle Cable television franchise

The City Commission will hold a public hearing on the renewal of the Eagle Cable television franchise at 5 p.m. on Monday as part of its regular meeting.

Eagle is asking for a five-year extension; after the hearing, the commission will consider an ordinance to approve the renewal.

Other items on the commission agenda include:

- Approve a grant contract with the state on the downtown intersection project.
- Approval of the Sherman County Economic Development

Policy, which establishes a set of incentives for business tax abatement within the county. The policy was developed by the Sherman County Economic Development Council and has been approved by the Sherman County commissioners. The policy sets up a process and a sliding scale for businesses to request tax abatement over 10 years.

- Approve a bid for a brush chipper for the electric department to get rid of limbs cut out of the power lines.
- Hear a request from the Sherman County Master Gardeners

about the flowerbed at Gulick Park.

• Consider a resolution establishing the National Incident Management System in the city.

City Manager Wayne Hill will report on the meeting with Sunflower Electric and give the commission an update on the engineering and cost estimates for the power line to the energy center west of town.

The city commission meets upstairs at the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th. Press the button on the west wall inside the main front doors to enter.

Record-keeping class today

An introduction to record keeping class will be offered at 2 p.m. today at Howard Johnson Motel, the first part of a basic business training program being sponsored by the Small Business Development Center of Hays and the Sherman County Economic Development Council.

Kay Younger of the Sherman County Economic Development office said she has mailed information about the class to businesses and the schedule for classes to be held this fall.

This series includes the Basics of Record Keeping, Marketing, Office Management and "how to get more customers who spend more money, more often."

Susan Nickerson, director of the Small Business Development Center, said the series of workshops will provide an overview of the basics and "best prac-

tices" in each of the critical areas for business success. The seminars provide a refresher on techniques and trends in each area. She said the classes have space limits.

The record keeping class is being offered in Goodland as a beginning of the workshop schedule, and the class will be repeated in Colby from 9-11 a.m. on Oct. 11, at the Thomas County office complex.

The "how to get more customers" class will be held in Colby from 9-11 a.m. on Oct. 20. The office management class will be in Colby from 3-5 p.m. on Oct. 26. The marketing class will be held in Colby from 3-5 p.m. on Nov. 8.

For information, stop by the Economic Development office 1208 Main or call 899-3743. The Small Business Development Center can be reached at 785-628-6786 or by e-mail sbdc@fhsu.edu.

Warm weather makes school days uncomfortable for Goodland students

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

As the mercury hit the mid 90s last week, some parents worried their kids are stuck in stuffy classrooms in the Goodland School District.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said calling and not calling heat days is one of the hardest parts of his job.

"You can't ever do what's right," he said. "It's not an easy job."

Fortunately for everyone, it cooled off some this week.

Selby said his criteria for putting

classes on the heat schedule usually is a forecast for highs above 95 degrees. If the forecast calls for temperatures that high, he said, the plan is to let school out at 1 p.m. for the entire week.

He said it's best to decide in advance because many parents work and have to leave early to pick up their children. If heat days are necessary, he wants to allow some time for parents to plan ahead.

Selby said teachers adjust to the heat days by shortening afternoon

classes. This works best, he said, if teachers have time to plan ahead.

He said hourly school employees aren't paid for the time off, either.

Temperatures last week climbed into the low 90s, but never reached the 95-degree mark.

So far, Selby said, he has gotten reports from teacher Patty Thompson's room at West school. He said it was 82 degrees inside the room last Thursday, the hottest day of last week.

"I can see that that's probably not an ideal learning system," he said,

adding that sending kids home early isn't very educational, either.

Selby said the school board has looked into air conditioning for West and North Elementary schools. This spring plans came in too late to get the air conditioning running before school started. He said the board probably will solicit bids in March.

When it was first introduced, he said, many people were against adding air conditioning, saying the schools weren't cooled when they

attended them. He said others felt it was necessary with classes starting in mid-August.

Right now, Selby said, only the offices in the three grade schools are cooled. The office and the computer rooms in Grant Junior high are air conditioned. The remodeled science rooms, several classrooms, and the computer room are all cooled at the high school.

In the meantime, the superintendent said, teachers are advised to take breaks and let students outside

for fresh air. He said the students are advised to dress in shorts and cool clothes. Students are given cool water regularly, too.

"It's not a fun thing," Selby said, "but you've got to go to school."

How hot is it? The National Weather Service in Goodland placed last week's temperatures 10 to 12 degrees higher than normal during the day and 10 degrees above at night.

This week was cooler and temperatures should stay in the lower 80s for next week, forecasters say.

correction

An article "People help Katrina victims" on the front page of the Tuesday, Sept. 13, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* reported that donations to the Red Cross could be sent to the agency's street address. Donations should be addressed to Box 321, Goodland, Kan. 67735. The report said Red Cross hours were from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but the office will take donations only until 1 p.m. These mistakes were due

to incorrect information given to the newspaper.

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The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunder-

standing in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and ap-

preciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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