

# School fails some areas of preliminary progress test

**By Pat Schiefen**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
In a preliminary report, the Goodland School District as a whole did not meet the "annual yearly progress" goals set under federal law this year, Sharon Gregory, Central Elementary principal, told the school board.

If the schools do not meet the "annual yearly progress" goals for two years, she said, the district would be put "on improvement" for another two years. If the goal is not met after that, she said, the district could lose federal aid money. The district did not meet the proficiency levels in reading or math, Gregory told the board at its meeting Monday, Sept. 11, but did in other measures, such as graduation and attendance rates. She said students in several "at risk" groups were falling behind goals under the

federal No Child Left Behind law. Groups that did not meet the reading indicators, she said, were students eligible for free and reduced-price lunches, students with disabilities, English as a second language students and Hispanics.

Groups that did not meet the math indicators were the students with disabilities and English as a second language.

The "indicators" for math and reading are the scores on annual tests that the state feels makes students proficient in reading and math.

"The administrative team was very aware of the problems for at-risk students," Superintendent Shelly Angelos told the board.

The high school met both the reading and math indicators and the annual yearly progress goals, Gregory said, but the high school did not have any subgroups.

To have subgroups, she said, there has to be at least 30 students in a group, such as English as a second language, or economic "at risk." By the time the students reach high school, she said, most no longer need extra help with their English.

Principal Harvey Swager said that pretesting at the high school had helped students to know what to expect on the tests.

He said Algebra I classes starting meeting every day (most classes at the high school meet every other day under the "block" schedule) two years ago. This helps math scores because it gives the teachers more time to introduce the material and identify where students are having problems, Swager said.

The high school started a mentoring program, where a teacher helps a student who is having

trouble, he said.

The junior high did not meet the math indicators and therefore the annual yearly progress goal, Gregory said.

Junior high Principal Steve Raymer, new to the job this year, said they are trying to identify students who have problems earlier so the kids can get help. Grant Junior High has a free and reduced-price lunch subgroup which did not meet the math indicators, he said.

North Elementary School met the math and reading indicators and met annual yearly progress goals, Gregory said. North has the free and reduced-price lunch subgroup.

Central Elementary did not meet the math indicators or annual yearly progress goals, but all students met the reading indicators. The free and reduced-price lunch group did not meet the math indicators, Gregory said.

She said that they have changed their program so that students will get math every day. They also are using educational games.

Last year was the first year third graders were tested, she said. Younger students are not tested.

New West Elementary Principal Verna Milnes said they are making sure English as second language students, Title I reading and at-risk students are getting extra help.

Under the law, every student is expected to be 100 percent proficient for all grades every year by 2014, Gregory said. The Kansas state Board of Education has questioned whether that's even possible.

"Most educators agree that despite continued improvement in student achievement in Kansas, 100 percent proficiency at every grade every year is impossible," the state board said in a statement.

To make things more complicated, the state board adopted new reading and math tests last year as well as expanding the testing from one grade in elementary, middle and high school to every grade from third to eighth and high school. A school has subgroups if the school has 30 or more students who get free and reduced-price lunches, with disabilities, learning English as a second language, African-Americans, Hispanics and whites. Students who get free or reduced-price lunches are considered "at-risk" because of their economic status, but that is not the only reason a student may be considered at-risk, Gregory said.

Rules for counting special education students were changed, so some students with disabilities had to take tests far above their abilities, the state claims.

## Dogs need sweaters for Flatlander



Data and Kia wore double sweaters on Saturday to stay warm sitting in Kevin Harrison's lap. The dogs owned by Kevin and Stephanie who brought their car to the show from Dighton.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

## Libertarians visit Goodland

The Libertarian candidates for Kansas insurance commissioner and secretary of state stopped in Goodland on Wednesday morning.

Rob Hodgkinson, the candidate for secretary of state, said he and Patrick Wilbur, candidate for insurance commissioner, had been to the state fair in Hutchinson last weekend, then toured western Kansas, stopping Monday around Dodge City, on Tuesday in Garden City and Wednesday in Goodland before heading home.

Hodgkinson, who lives in Johnson County, said he has a business that works with computer and network technologies. He said he feels he can represent the whole state because of his family ties, especially in western Kansas.

"Small business drives the state economy," he said, adding that he

would like to encourage that as much as possible. Hodgkinson said he favors eliminating franchise fees and taxes.

As secretary of state, he said, he would lobby to make changes in the rules that his office enforces.

Wilbur, who lives in Lawrence, said he would like to get government out of the health-care business.

"I would like to make health-care savings accounts more efficient and encourage their use," he said, adding that the incumbent insurance commissioner, Republican Sandy Praeger, started the savings accounts for people who choose not to participate in the health insurance offered at their jobs.

He said the insurance commissioner's office is consumer oriented.

Wilbur said the federal Ameri-

cans With Disabilities Act is hindering small business because the act is so broad. A small business might have to build a wheel-chair ramp whether or not they have any customers who will use it, he said.

Hodgkinson said the Libertarian Party believes in both economic and social freedom. He said the Libertarians are trying to file better candidates for office and expand the support for the party.

Libertarians believe in smaller government and fewer taxes, the men said. Like conservatives, they believe government should stay out of business, but like liberals they also believe a person's social life should not be interfered with. And the candidates say they believe they can make a difference.

Hodgkinson said of the party, "We're here for the people of Kansas."

## School district down 19 students

**By Pat Schiefen**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

Superintendent Shelly Angelos told the Goodland School Board on Friday that the district's head count on Wednesday, the state's official count day, was 988 with a full-time equivalency figure of 925.2 students.

That was up from the start of school, but still down from last year, with losses at the high school and a gain at the elementary level.

Both numbers were 19 students less than last year's head count of 1,007 and full time equivalency 944, Angelos said. Part-time students and kindergartners are not counted as full-time students, and most kindergartners count as half a student for the state even though they go to class all day in Goodland.

At the beginning of the term, the high school was down 45 students from last year.

The high school ended up with 279 students on Wednesday, the superintendent said, compared to 312 last year, losing 33. The elementary schools gained students, she said.

In her report, Angelos said she thought the maintenance crew would meet her goal of having the school's technology department moved into its new home by the first part of October.

West Elementary School Principal Verna Milnes reported that the school had started a reading rotation in groups of nine. Each grade level is getting phonics and writing, she said. The first meeting for the site council was Tuesday, Sept. 12.

A puppeteer was to visit the school on Friday as a kickoff for Boxtops for Education, she said. They had had a lot of short-term flu.

Central Elementary School Principal Sharon Gregory said the school had started its first year of reading rotations. The third and fourth grades each had three teachers besides their regular teacher. The students are not grouped by grade but by reading level, she said, and there has been a good response from students and parents. Reading rotations have different teachers for

phonics, writing and spelling.

On Monday, Oct. 2, Stan Slaughter, an environmental educator, will give a program on ecology and solid waste.

North Elementary Principal Jim Mull said the sixth grade was not enthused about learning songs about solid waste, so he made a deal to learn to sing it also. The at-risk program is new to North, he said. Karen Stone, a kindergarten teacher, had an article published in "Mailbox," a magazine for teachers.

The kindergartners will check out the library on Friday, Sept. 15. Mull said the kindergartners got on the right busses two days in a row. He said it seemed like the school nurse was there every day, once for a broken collar bone.

Principal Steve Raymer said Grant Junior High issued its first down list the first week of September. He said they were trying to watch for students who needed help to stay off the list.

On Wednesday, Oct. 4, Miss Kansas, Michelle Walther, will visit Grant, he said.

Raymer said every Friday they are going to have a guest reading the "Pledge of Allegiance" over the in-

tercom. Karl Friedrichs, a soldier and son of school board member LeAnn Friedrichs, is going to arrange for some soldiers fighting overseas to do the pledge for the students.

High School Principal Harvey Swager said his survival Spanish was not going so well in the focus group for teachers that he is attending. On the first down list for the high school, he said, eight kids were affected by the new eligibility requirements. A student can not participate in extracurricular activities if he does not pass six classes.

Activities Director Don Smith told the board that 38 percent of the students of the high school had gone out for athletics and 30 percent had gone out for band and vocal music. Smith said at the Northwest Kansas League meeting, he learned there is a shortage of officials for basketball.

In other business, the board • Hired Courtney Lopez as a kindergarten aide at North Elementary School and Karla Jimenez as volleyball coach for the junior high.

• Accepted the resignation of Tanya Gray as assistant volleyball coach in the junior high as of Sunday, Oct. 1.

## corrections

A story in the Friday, Sept. 22, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* reported incorrectly that the Grant Junior High Mustangs seventh-grade football team lost 8-0 to Atwood on Thursday, Sept. 14. The seventh grade won the game 8-0. The mistake was due to incorrect information given to the newspaper.

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In the photo caption under the Elks K-18 team photo printed on Page 8 of the Tuesday, Sept. 29 edition of *The Goodland Star-News* it reported the team had not been to the state tournament in 15 years. That was incorrect because the K-18 team placed fourth in the 1997 state tournament. That was a reporting error.

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A story about the Goodland High golf team in the Friday, Sept. 22, issue of *The Goodland Star-News* omitted Amber Webster from the results of a tournament in Russell Monday, Sept. 18. She shot 63 on the par-36 course. This was due to incomplete information given to the newspaper.

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The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding 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 appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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