

Floor in gym on the list to get repaired

The Oberlin School Board approved a quote from a Hays contractor to replace the junior high gym floor, which was damaged during a thunderstorm last June.

At the meeting on Monday, Jan. 12, Superintendent Pat Cullen said money for the repair came from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but the district will have to pay for 10 percent of the project. Dr. Cullen said the district already has the federal money.

The bid is for \$59,500 from Von Lintel's Refinishing.

"The district received \$61,687 from the agency," he said. "The district received an additional \$2,400 to clean up the water on the floor. There weren't any other bids."

Von Lintel also will be replacing the stage floor that was damaged when a steam return line leaked last year. It will be done at the same time as the gym floor.

"While Von Lintel has people here working," said Dr. Cullen, "it might be a good time to get them to apply a maintenance coat to the high school gym floor like the district does every year. That normally costs \$2,500 to \$3,000," he said.

The board approved the work with Von Lintel.

Member Dan Nedland went through part of the I section of the district's policy book. Since the beginning of the school year, the board members have taken turns looking through parts of the policy book and presenting items that need to be changed.

"In the I section," said Mr. Nedland, "it talks about the building site councils, which the board is supposed to receive reports four times a year. That may be an area of weakness, since I've been on the board a year and half and have never seen a report."

Both of the principals said the councils, made up of staff and parents, are meeting.

"Those meetings fall under the open meeting act and notice has to be provided and minutes," said Mr. Nedland.

Also included in the section is getting the information on the remedial reading and math programs out.

"Maybe the district could put it in the enrollment packets for the parents," said Mr. Nedland. "Part of the information is already printed in

the handbooks."

The board approved the first reading of the policy section. It will be reviewed again at the meeting next month.

Activities Director Joe Dreher talked briefly about options for replacing the Northwest Kansas League.

"Both Goodland and Colby have announced that they are pulling out," he said. "All of the athletic directors from the smaller districts agreed to go to their school boards and see how they feel about joining the MidContinent League."

Has there been any talk about some schools going to eight-man football and others staying with 11-man football? Mr. Nedland asked. Mr. Dreher said there's been some talk about doing big schools and little schools.

"The change in leagues isn't a new discussion," said Principal Charlie Haag. "It's something that's been going on for four or five years as schools are having to travel farther and farther to play."

"It will be different," said Mr. Dreher, "and some people don't want to change the league name, but it's something that's coming."

President Dwayne Jackson said he didn't think it was something the board could take action on at the time, but he didn't think anyone was opposed to the change.

In other business, the board members:

- Approved the second reading of the district's policy from GBH to HAN, which was reviewed at the December meeting.

- Held a five-minute closed session for nonelected personnel with Principal Duane Dorshorst before voting unanimously to name him as the grade school principal and superintendent starting July 1.

- Held 20-minute, 10-minute and 5-minute closed sessions for personnel with Mr. Dorshorst, Mr. Haag and outgoing Superintendent Pat Cullen present. There was no action taken.

- Received a \$1,098 check from the Nex-Tech Wireless school rebate program.

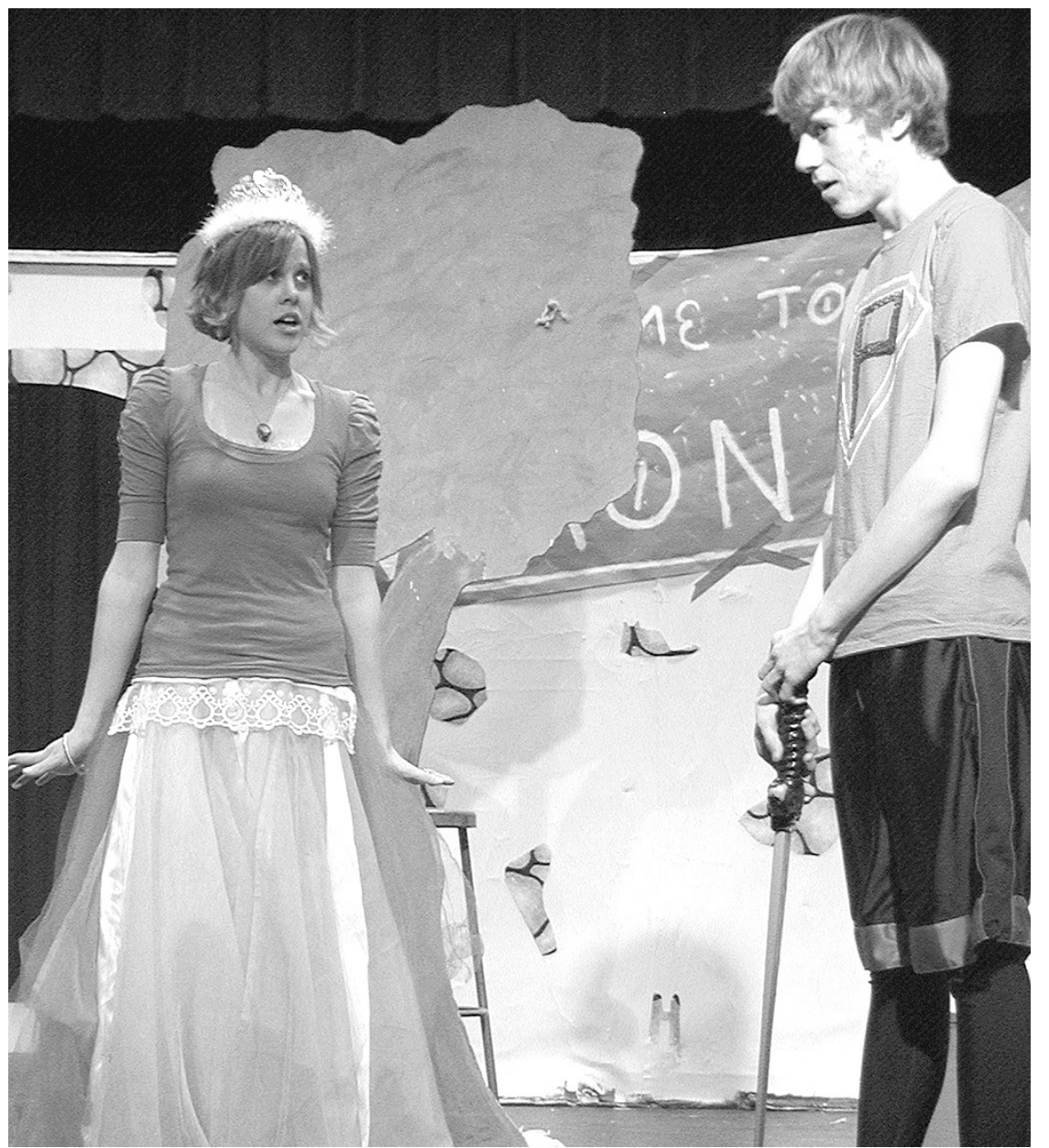
- Held a 10-minute and 5-minute closed session for negotiations with Dr. Cullen and Mr. Dorshorst present. No action was taken afterward.



Practice makes perfect

JOE HIRSCH (above) sat on top of a large box on the set of the "Invisible Dragon," which he is a part of with fellow Drama Club members Amanda Marshall and Nolan Henningson (right.) For performance details See Page 6B.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Supervisors discuss maintenance ideas

Both the indoor and outdoor maintenance supervisors talked with the Oberlin School Board about projects, including an irrigation well on the practice field and lights inside the grade school.

At the meeting on Monday, Jan. 12, Terry Ream, grounds and maintenance supervisor, said he has been working on the Suburbans for the transportation supervisor and now has a working engine from a Suburban that might work to run the irrigation well on the practice field east of the high school.

"That would cut down some on costs," he said, "as the district wouldn't have to buy a motor."

Member Dan Grafel said he might have a stand for the motor with a switch on it. Mr. Ream said he would give him a call.

Some details would still need to be ironed out to make the well run with the motor, he said.

"As far as equipment goes," said Mr. Ream, "everything is getting older, although I've been able to stay on top of things and keep it all running."

"Sidewalks, especially at the grade school, need to be repaired," he said. "The sidewalk outside the kitchen, where the buses load and unload, needs to be replaced."

He said he talked with someone about sealing the parking lot at the high school. It's a three-step process, he said, and all, some or none of it can be done.

"The work could include having the cracks blown out and sealed, and then a chip seal on the top. It's the same company that seals the city streets, so if the district decided to do the project, it could be good to have it done at the same time. It's been a while since there's been maintenance on the parking lots," he added.

Kenny Black, indoor facilities supervisor, said he's been pricing lights for the grade school. In the gym, he said, it looks like it will cost \$115 to replace each fixture.

"Have you worked out the logistics of putting lights up in the gyms?" asked Mr. Grafel.

"In the grade school and high school gym, it wouldn't be hard," said Mr. Black. "The junior high gym might be harder, because there is no easy way to get a lift in it."

Mr. Black said the crew could get the lights in, but they would probably need to hire an electrician to do the wiring.

The board didn't make any decisions on the reports.

Churches plan benefit to help Oberlin family

Area churches will join forces the first Tuesday in February to help raise money for a local family.

Members of the churches will serve soup and dessert from 5 to 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria

to raise money for the Gary Juenemann family.

The benefit is scheduled before the basketball game that night between the Red Devil boys team and the Grinnell/Wheatland team.

Newer buses needed for district fleet

The transportation supervisor talked with the Oberlin School Board about the idea of doing a lease purchase instead of buying a new bus outright, although no decisions were made.

Supervisor Brian Simonsson said at the meeting on Monday, Jan. 12, a lease purchase could be a good idea because of the district's finances. The district wouldn't have to come up with \$50,000 right away, although it would cost more in the long run.

The district needs newer buses, he said.

This is the last year for the handicap bus to run, said Mr. Simonsson. There isn't a student this year who

needs it. There's been some discussion about whether the district should replace it or wait and get one when it's needed. The district could lease a handicap bus if it's needed in the future, he said.

He said he did talk with a dealer about used buses, but they didn't have anything. He said the food service van is a 1987 model, and it's hard to say how long it will go.

"You think we need one more bus?" asked board member Dan Nedland.

"Yes, said Mr. Simonsson. "The routes can be run now, but if something happens, they'd need another bus. And, he added, the fleet is getting older. I think the district should

have been buying a bus every other year."

"Is there anything that can be traded in?" asked member Dan Grafel.

"Yes," said Mr. Simonsson, "the handicap bus, but it's too old to use, because it doesn't meet state safety standards. The lift does still work."

Chili cook-off scheduled

There's still time to register for the chili cook-off at the Oberlin American Legion scheduled for Sunday.

Anyone wanting to enter the contest must be 21 or older and provide a five quart crock pot of chili. All chili has to be at the American Legion by 2 p.m. on Sunday in time

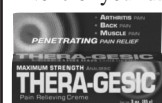
for judging.

Prizes will be given in the three categories with \$50 for first place, \$25 for second and a prize for third.

Anyone who wants to enter has to pick up and fill out an entry form from the American Legion.

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